

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LÖK SABHA

Thursday, March 18, 1999/Phalgun 27, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : We wish you a Happy New Year, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Happy Ugadi to you, Sir, I have given a notice to suspend the Question Hour on the issue of reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which was raised yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Buta Singh, I would allow you after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it relates to S.C. and S.T.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, what happened in the case of reservation ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur) : The Prime Minister had promised yesterday that he would make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Shinde, I would allow you after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, please suspend the Question Hour and give your ruling on that issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 321, Mr. Ravindra Kumar Pandey.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a doubt in the minds of the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes that new Government is implementing and not withdrawing the anti-reservation law. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have submitted a notice for Zero Hour and it is mentioned therein that the President's Rule imposed in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Mr. Pandey. Please take your seat. I am not allowing you now. You may raise it after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it's a very important matter. He is saying that the statement given by him at that time in papers ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunath Singh ji, raise this Question later on and not now.

...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Prabhunath Singh, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Today is also the 81st birthday of the father of our House, Mr. Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : Sir, we wish him happy returns of the day.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Let him live for 100 years.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Import of Railway Parts

*321. ⁺ SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on import of railway spare parts, coaches locomotives and other related materials during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the volume of orders placed on the Public Sector Manufacturing Units in the country during the said period;

(c) whether the volumes of orders placed on Public Sector Manufacturing Units is coming down over the years; and

(d) if so, the facts and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The details are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

	1997-98	1998-99 upto Jan'1999 & provisional
(i) Amount spent on Imports of railway spares parts, coaches locomotive and other related materials.	291.23	426.37*
(ii) Volume of orders placed on Public Sector Undertakings	1692.00	1533.00

(c) The volume of purchases from PSUs as percentage of the total purchases was 18% in 1996-97 and 21% in 1997-98 i.e. the purchases from PSUs went up in 1997-98. Railways continue to follow the policy of purchase preference to PSUs as laid down by the Government from time to time.

(d) Does not arise.

* The increase is mainly on account of :

- (i) Import for upgradation of technology of rolling stock totalling to Rs. 149 crores, for which orders had been placed in earlier years, and
- (ii) Unfavourable fluctuation of US\$ vis-a-vis Indian Rupee.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the honourable minister through you whether the Central Public Sector Undertakings are deprived of acquiring orders of the concerned items due to not getting price preference ? If so, the year-wise details of the companies during the last five years which didn't get price preference? Whether the problem of lay off or financial deficit has emerged due to less orders acquired by Public Sector companies for non-availability of price preference? If so, the names of such companies and details thereof?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The Ministry of Railways does not keep any dates regarding the loss being incurred by the companies of the Public Sector Undertakings. He should ask this question from the concerned Ministry.

So far as the question of P.S.U.'s in Railways is concerned, the Railways make ample purchases from the P.S.U.'s and some figures have also been provided in this regard. As he had asked details of 1997-98 and 1998-99 have been provided with the answers to the main question. If we look at our total purchases, they possess major share. For example out of the total purchases made by the Railways in 1996-97, as much as 18 per cent was from the P.S.U.'s.

It has increased upto 21 per cent in 1997-98. As far as preference of purchase is concerned, preference is being provided to them as per the orders of the department of Public Enterprises of the Government of India. Earlier they used to get price preference but it has been lifted six-seven years back. After that purchase—preference was provided, but when it was restored in 1997 then it was implemented with some restrictions and a provision is made therein that it will be applicable on those P.S.U.'s which will make more than 20 per cent value addition on the purchase of more than Rs. 5 crore. In 1997 this restriction has been imposed on such preference purchases which is still continued .

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : The hon'ble Minister has stated that we also give orders to the Public Sector Undertakings and the purchase preference has been restored. Goods worth Rs. 291.23 crore have been imported by the Railways during the year 1997-98. In 1998-99 import worth Rs. 426.37 crore was made. It means the import of goods worth Rs. 135.14 crore has been made excess in 1998-99 in comparison to the import made during 1997-98 and 1998-99. However, the orders placed to the Public Undertakings were Rs. 1692.00 crore in 1997-98 and Rs. 1500.00 crore in 1998-99. A Deficit of Rs. 169 crores was stated in the next year. Why does the Government not place orders to

those factories of the country where instruments of the Railways are manufactured. Such as—C.L.W., where Electric Locomotives are manufactured, D.L.W., where Diesel Locomotives are manufactured, R.C.F., A coach factory is there in Kapurthala, where Coaches are manufactured and why does the Government not place the orders to those factories?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the figures of 1998-99 are provisional and provisional figures of only upto Jan. 1999 have been given. According to that till January orders worth Rs.1533 crores have been placed on the Public Sector Undertakings. After the completion of the current year, there is no question of any downfall in it in comparison to the previous year, rather this figure may go up. So far as import is concerned, it is shown in the statement of the main answer that the increased amount of Rs.149 crore is directly related to the value of Rupee in comparison to Dollar as it is related to the value of dollar and the value of Rupee has come down, that is why the increase is being witnessed. The second reason is that Rs. 149 crore are increased due to the import made by us for technology upgradation. These are particularly those items which are doing A.B.B. Loco assembling here and first indigenous Locomotive has been manufactured and released from here in which indigenously made mechanical components are fitted. Secondly we have brought eight complete sets. These orders were placed in December 1996 which have been materialised now. Similarly the orders for cases was also placed earlier which has been materialised now.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day three MPs met the hon. Minister and made certain requests in regard to increasing the orders on the PSUs and small units. There were some discussions. I would like to know, through you, without going into the details, as to whether the hon. Minister is taking any steps at all in regard to the discussions we had with him so that they can get more orders.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Orders are placed as per the requirement. So far as the procurement of wagons is concerned, the cuts made in January have been restored.

[English]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the amenities provided to the passengers travelling in various trains.

The Ministry is spending a lot of money; the Ministry is importing certain parts worth crores of rupees. The Ministry is carrying out all these things, you are also aware that the amenities provided to the passengers are coming down day by day and year by year. How the Minister is going to meet the requirement of the travelling public?

MR. SPEAKER : The question is in regard to the import of railway parts.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The basic question is of import. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : For replying this question, no supplementary and no information is necessary, I think, the hon. Minister is capable of answering this question.

MR. SPEAKER : No.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This is the question of spare parts and not of amenities.

[English]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Last year, the Ministry has imported railway parts worth about Rs. 426 crore, which includes providing various amenities to the passengers, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the amenities provided to the passengers, is there any plan to at least maintain the facilities to the travelling public, which were there earlier?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Several items are imported, such as Locomotives, Wagons and some Coaches are also imported.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is that it is not much.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If he has any question relating to amenities, he can ask separately.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Railways through you that you have very intelligently diverted the original

question. The question was that out of the total items purchased by the Railways during the last two years, what is the percentage of the Public Undertakings Share in it. He has stated in his reply that he has purchased 18 per cent in 1996-97 and purchased 21 percent in 1997-98. I would like to know, through you, from the hon'ble Minister of Railways that the Standing Committee on Railways has recommended in it's report that to keep Public Undertakings alive the Railways should purchase, at least 50 percent from them whatever it purchases whether it is small component or Railway Coach or anything else. Why did you not purchase the stock in accordance to that, what is the reason thereof?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Whatever is purchased that is purchased as per the policy of the Government of India. The price preference of the public sector has been discontinued by your Government.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : The Government is not of any particular party. Any party can not always be in power.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You please listen the whole thing. It is not a matter of Railways only. The purchase policy is always a policy of the Government. Orders regarding P.S.U.'s have been issued from time to time but the price preference has been discontinued. The purchase preference has also been lapsed in March, 1997. Again, it was so started afresh with some restrictions in october 1997 which has been mentioned by me.

A circular according to the declared policy in relation to purchase preference was issued by the Government in 1997. According to that, preference would be given to the Public Sectors for the purchase of more than Rs. five crore, and when value addition for any product is done for more than 20 per cent, only then preference would be available. This is the policy. You were supporting the then Government.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Sir, Jamalpur workshop is the oldest workshop of the Railways which supplies petty components of the Railways. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how many parts are manufactured at the Jamalpur Workshop and how much the Government procure therefrom? The charge is that spare parts are purchased from the market, while it can supply the cheap and best stock; why it is not purchased from it?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, Jamalpur factory of the Railways is a workshop. If you want to know any specific point in relation to that, I can tell you. This question is related to import in overall purchases and PSU's. Jamalpur is the Railways own workshop. According to the

requirement a lot of work has been given to Jamalpur Workshop. I have also visited the workshop.

[English]

SHRI PARASNATH YADAV : Sir, Maduadeeh Diesel Locomotive in Uttar Pradesh was set up in 1959 and the first Diesel Locomotive was rolled out in 1965. This factory is considered to be the best Diesel Engine factory of Asia. Technicians and Engineers of this factory have become competent enough and since 1970-71 they can themselves manufacture the parts which are required for Diesel Engine. In spite of that for earning commissions the officers/employees there import the components of the engine from abroad. I would like to know from the hon'ble minister the reasons thereof and whether he will make inquiry into this scandal and stop it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, diesel locomotive works is the workshop of Railways where Diesel Engines are manufactured. A decision for bringing new technology for Diesel Engines has already been taken.

SHRI PARASNATH YADAV : When this workshop has already become competent, what is the need to procure the parts from abroad?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : New locomotives are being imported for freight and passenger trains along with the transfer of technology. Keeping in view the transfer of technology the Cabinet have approved the proposal of expansion for Diesel Locomotive Works. Now, new and developed Diesel engines would be manufactured there.

Tourism Projects from States

*322. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the tourism projects submitted by the various State Governments to the Union Government during 1998, State-wise; and

(b) the projects approved by the Union Government along with financial assistance given, State/Project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Each year Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Govts. prioritize projects for Central financial assistance. The state wise details of projects prioritised, received and sanctioned during 1998-99 are given in the annexure.

The funds for the projects are sanctioned on receipt of detailed project proposals as per the guidelines.

ANNEXURE

State-wise details of projects prioritised, received and sanctioned during 1998-99

Sl. No	State	No. of Project prioritised	Amount Prioritised (In lakhs)	No. of Projects received	No. of projects sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14	367.08	13	10	274.08
2.	Assam	16	527.00	13	8	267.03
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	432.00	4	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Bihar	15	325.00	13	5	84.00
5.	Goa	17	411.00	18	10	201.50
6.	Gurarat	15	400.00	12	6	110.89
7.	Haryana	12	312.00	11	5	154.63
8.	Himachal Prdesh	12	532.00	11	8	305.00
9.	J&K	21	710.00	16	2	70.00
10.	Karnataka	16	495.30	15	9	299.82
11.	Kerala	15	467.00	13	6	169.01
12.	Madhya Pradesh	17	421.00	11	1	69.75
13.	Maharashtra	15	364.00	14	8	210.05
14.	Manipur	13	220.00	8	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	15	180.00	13	6	61.82
16.	Mizoram	8	165.00	8	5	114.47
17.	Nagaland	10	200.00	8	7	170.00
18.	Orissa	7	368.00	5	3	129.60
19.	Punjab	8	402.34	8	6	239.29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Rajasthan	25	431.00	22	13	136.55
21.	Sikkim	23	302.00	22	4	29.35
22.	Tamil Nadu	20	435.00	19	13	187.81
23.	Tripura	10	310.00	9	3	21.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	35	740.00	27	8	151.32
25.	West Bengal	20	350.00	15	2	90.00
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	6	200.00	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	8	113.00	5	2	47.91
28.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	5	82.00	5	1	10.00
29.	Delhi	19	350.00	13	11	132.23
30.	Daman	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	3	31.00	1	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	11	189.00	4	—	—
Total		435	10831.72	354	162	3737.11

(1) Projects referred back to State Governments for clarifications—40

(2) Projects under process—152

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the reply of the Minister, out of five projects submitted by the State Government of Orissa, three projects have been sanctioned. But the Minister has not mentioned as to what are the projects which were submitted and what are the projects which were sanctioned. He may see that the question asked was not with regard to the number of projects; rather I had asked about the name of the projects and project-wise financial assistance.

Sir, there is a lot of tourism potential in the State of Orissa and it needs development to attract the tourists. One such project is the Buddhist Circuit in Orissa, that is, from Dhaulagiri to Ratnagiri, Lalitgiri and Udayagiri. A very good museum has come into existence in Ratnagiri which needs expansion. After excavation it is understood that Pushpa Vihar, a university was there and a famous edict of Ashoka was there on the bank of Gaya in Dhaulagiri. During the tenure of the previous Government, the project of the Buddhist Circuit of Orissa was to be taken up for development with the assistance of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund for which a Japanese Delegation had come and there were two rounds of discussions.

Besides this, the Planning Commission had recommended to provide funds for initial infrastructural development for this Buddhist Circuit. I would also like to know about the Japanese Inn came as far back as in 1980 in Lumbini, Vaishali and Dhaulagiri. Still nothing has been done for Dhaulagiri.

So, I would like to know the fate of the Buddhist Circuit in Orissa. Will the Government pursue the matter for its approval and take it up with the Ministry of Finance for special allocation?

SHRI OMAK APANG : During my last visit, Madam, along with me, you also did participate in the Seminar. With her initiative, and with the initiatives of previous Chief Ministers, we had prioritised Tourist Reception Centre, Rourkela, Tourist Reception Centre Parlakimidi, Tourist Reception Centre, Dhankanal, and as far as other projects are concerned, they are under process.

Last time, we did celebrate a big Buddhist Mahotsava, Yesterday, we had a meeting. I remember during my visit to Orissa the matter regarding excavation activities which took place there came to me, I had a meeting with the OECF and submitted a paper to them on behalf of her State Government. OECF is not going to approve this project. But I am going to take it up next time along with the cases of Ajanta and Ellora. Now, we are going to include it in the second phase of Buddhist Mahotsava programme which we are going to have next month.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : The Union Government has been adopting strategies to develop tourism. I would like to know whether the suggestion by the State Government to implement the Special Tourism Programme for special tourism area is being considered and whether the State Government had identified an area of about 3500 acres of land towards South of Puri for this purpose. Why had not the Government taken keen interest, specially, on the five pockets which had been identified in this country?

SHRI OMAK APANG : Sir, Orissa has been doing very well. During the previous Government's time, they had identified 3600 acres of land near Puri and Chilika. The day before yesterday also, I had a meeting with a group of NRIs from Germany who are very keen to develop that area, especially the Dolphin and the nearby areas. This Government had given an amount to the tune of Rs. 25 lakh for the Master Plan. After their initiative, the Government would like to do it on a turn-key basis. We are following it. We will give you the details.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Thank you very much for the opportunity given to me. It is mentioned in the statement that the funds for the projects will be sanctioned on the receipt of detailed project proposals as per the guidelines. I want to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of guidelines proposed by the Tourism Department, and whether they are sufficient and relevant. Without taking into consideration the different levels of socio-economic development of the States like Kerala, they are suggesting construction of *Yatri Niwas*. They are suggesting construction of way side amenities. They are not allowing the projects beyond Rs. 50 lakh. They are not allowing even purchase of lands. This is a conservative approach. This will not help development of tourism in Kerala which has attained a special position as far as the social and economic lives are concerned.

That is why he has allowed only a meagre amount to Bakelim Tourism Project. This is the most important tourism project of Kerala and not only that but it helped India to figure in the world tourism map also. So, I would request the hon. Minister to reevaluate and to consider the change of priorities or the modalities or the guidelines proposed for tourism development.

SHRI OMAK APANG: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. member for his suggestions. Kerala and Rajasthan are the leaders of tourism in this country today. The Kerala system of including the local Governments of the district council, as a member has said, is very remarkable, we have certain plans in Varkallai and other places. Especially it is a concern to me and my Tourism Ministry. We would like to give an assistance to the people of

Kerala especially to those who are facing the CRZ coastal problem because all the places are so close to the sea.

With regard to the land procurement and also the LOC, we had requested the Government and we are going to omit that condition.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ADITYANATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has told about the proposals received from the various states. The Union Government has received 27 proposals from Uttar Pradesh and out of them 8 have been approved. I would like to know, through you, from the hon'ble Minister about the progress regarding the proposal of the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh for the development of the Bandh Paripaths sent to the Union Government?

[*English*]

SHRI OMAK APANG : There was a very big festival with the present Government's initiative and it was an International *Bodh Mahotsav* which we had declared last year and which had given a very good message to the world across, especially to the Buddhist countries and the western world for the peace movement by India. It was done on the initiative of the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Yesterday, we had a meeting on the *Bodh Mahotsav*. Some of the projects come late because of the initiative from the States concerned. The financial assistance system is 30:50:20. This time, what we are thinking is that we will be developing more of an integrated system not only in the Bodh circuits, but the villages which are near to the Buddhist areas. We will be adopting that area into a rural tourism circuit.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the given statement 14 tourism projects of Maharashtra have been given preference. Out of them 8 have been approved and 6 are yet to be approved. I belong to the state of Konkan and most of the projects of tourism development belong to it. I would like to know through you, from the hon'ble Minister as to which are the 6 projects which have not been approved till now and by which time approval would be given to them?

[*English*]

SHRI OMAK APANG : I will give details about that to the hon. Member. But I would like to inform the House

that we have declared Sindhudurg in Maharashtra as a special area for that.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, I would like to ask the following questions to the hon. Minister. As the hon. Minister has already said, Kerala and Rajasthan are prime in the tourist map of not only India but all over the world. Kerala is blessed with the sea on the one side and western ghats on the other side. Lushed with greenery and backwaters, it has great potential for tourism development. One speciality about Kerala is that all districts are having District Tourism Councils which are specially sponsoring, developing and encouraging these activities.

My question is, the District Tourism Council of Kozhikod is celebrating the Malabar Mahotsavam, especially to sponsor and encourage tourism activities in the Malabar Region.

Will the Government of India consider giving special sponsorship to this festival in which artists from all over India are invited to perform various cultural programmes, which is actually a symbol of cultural unity and integrity?

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, what is your supplementary? There are a number of Members who want to put their question.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, here in the statement it is seen that out of thirteen projects, only six are cleared and only a little more than one-fourth of the total outlay is sanctioned. I would like to ask the Minister, through you, Sir, which are the projects which are not yet sanctioned, that is, pending sanction in Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER : Her question is with regard to Kerala.

SHRI OMAK APANG : Madam, Water Sports Complex, Ashtamudi, Backwater Signages, Yatri Nivas, Thirunelly, Renovation of Park View Heritage Building, Purchase of House boats for Malabar, Trekking & Rock climbing equipment for Thenmala—these are the projects which are cleared. The projects which are not cleared are: Flood lighting of Bolghatty Palace, Tourist Complex at Kalady, Tourist Reception Centres—Computerisation of Tourist reservation Systems.

Well, we will be giving assistance for certain projects about which we have discussed now. We will keep it in mind. We will really like to promote India's culture and the rich heritage of this country.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, would the hon'ble Minister like to state whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent any project relating to Bikaner to the Union Government? If not, would he himself take a note that Bikaner is an old city and it was also the capital of the Bikaner state. There are lot of places worth looking. A lot of tourists would come to see these places. I had requested the Minister of Tourism and also sent him in writing that arrangement be made there for Air services so that people may be able to visit it. The people there are fully cut off. In this regard I had also requested to Nitish ji but he did not listen. I had told him for constructing the broad gauge and for connecting it to the Rail. He has made it everywhere but why he is avoiding us? All the three Ministers are sitting here. I want to urge to the 'Trimurti' that whether they would consider it and do something for the development of the tourism? If other two Ministers have not done anything then would you like to work for it's development?

[English]

SHRI OMAK APANG : Sir, the hon. Minister's suggestion has been taken note of. He know about the potential of Bikaner and really Rajasthan needs assistance of the Civil Aviation and Railways also; from my Ministry and people of the trade, I would really request for their assistance, which they are giving.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Sir, the Garhwal Mandal of Uttaranchal Pradesh have got a unique distinction of having a variety of tourism potential. I think, it is unique in the world. Not only it has got a religious potential such as Badrinath, Kedamath, Hemkunt Sahib but it has also got the finest scope for mountaineering adventurism, adventure tourism, hiking and holidaying.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has any plans to develop this unique potential of not only Indian but international potential of tourism by combining all these different types of tourism which are available there so that people can come from all over the world and benefit this area.

SHRI OMAK APANG : Sir, I thank the hon. Member for bringing the importance of tourism to the notice of the people.

With the Government's initiative, this year we have declared "Explore India". The Uttar Pradesh Government has come out with "Explore UP and experience India". Definitely we know about the potential of Garhwal and a lot of initiatives have taken place in UP and we will come back to you.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, both the hon. Cabinet Minister and the Minister of State are very smart and young. From the statement submitted by them, I am surprised to know that six projects pertaining to Tamil

Nadu have not yet been cleared. I would like to know why those projects have not yet been cleared; when they are going to clear them; and what is the strategy played by this Government to promote new entrepreneurs in the tourism sector.

SHRI OMAK APANG : There is a provision for giving assistance up to three per cent of one project, to a three-star hotel and subsidy is also given up to five per cent to difficult areas and hilly terrains. In Tamil Nadu due to some problems in the State we have not been able to give that money.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : What are those projects?

SHRI OMAK APANG : We have received the projects late. We will get back to the hon. Member and give all the details.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : If one sees the list of the projects which were sanctioned during 1988 and 1989, there are some States like the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh where not a single project has been sanctioned all these years. There is a tremendous potential. There are beautiful sea beaches or mountains and tourism is one of the important businesses in that area. Will the Government pay special attention to the States like Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which have already submitted the proposals and not a single proposal has been cleared?

SHRI OMAK APANG : I would like to inform the House and the people here that some of the projects which have not been cleared, because many of them were brought in at the last minute. I think it is not fair and they should bring the projects in time. Some of the projects have been received late and we have given special initiatives to the North-Eastern region and difficult areas like Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. We have mentioned it during our meeting the hon. Member from Andaman & Nicobar Islands is also here—that we had certain constraints specially in areas like Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Kerala which I think have been debated here. We would request the hon. Minister for Environment and Forests here to look into some problems like CRZ problems about which I think the hon. Member from Andaman and Nicobar Islands also knows very well.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gujarat has been the land of the brave, the saints and the national dignitaries. In Gujarat, there is Somnath temple, Jain temple and the temple of the God Swaminarayan. The birth place of the father of nation Mahatma Gandhi and the Iron man Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel is also in Gujarat. Moreover, the Kandla Port is in Gujarat. Many people come to Gujarat. The Government

of Gujarat have sent 15 schemes of tourism to the Centre out of which 12 schemes have been approved and 6 schemes sanctioned. I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you that by what time will these 6 schemes of the Government of Gujarat be given recognition? The Government have sanctioned only rupees 110 lacs for these schemes whereas it should have been more than this. The people of Gujarat always go on tour to all parts of India. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know through you that by when the Government is likely to complete the remaining schemes so that people of other states can also enjoy the tourist places of Gujarat.

[*English*]

SHRI OMAK APANG : The hon. Member's suggestion has been well taken. We will get back to him in due course. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : How can I accommodate all the hon. Members in one question? Please understand. You have to understand the difficulty of the Chair also. How can I accommodate all the hon. Members? There are many hon. Members who want to ask questions.

PROF. RITA VERMA : I want to ask a question concerning Tourism. Please give me an opportunity.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Please allow an Half-an-Hour Discussion.

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : Tourism is a very big subject. ...(*Interruptions*) I thank the entire House for having evinced so much of interest in the development of Tourism in the country. We are the second biggest foreign exchange earner for the country, earning Rs.12,000 crore of foreign exchange.

It is amply clear right from the Leader of the Opposition of this House, from the Senior Member like Shri Balram Jakhar that everybody is evincing interest in tourism development.

Therefore, I myself request you to allocate time for an half-an-hour discussion so that we also will participate in this.

MR. SPEAKER : If the Government has no objection, we can have an half-an-hour discussion.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, I invite your attention to the question. He has made a general statement. The question is : projects allotted State-wise and project-wise. ...(*Interruptions*) . Sir, you kindly look into the question. We want your protection. ...(*Interruptions*). The Ministers are making general statements. ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chacko, you can have a discussion State-wise with regard to tourism in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : That is not the point. My point is that the answer is incomplete.

MR. SPEAKER : You can have a State-wise discussion about the tourism in the House in the half-an-hour discussion.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : My point is that this is a pointed question raised by the Member. He wanted a project-wise list. They can give a project-wise list. They have not given that ...(*Interruptions*). It is an incomplete reply.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I am asking you, Can you send a State-wise project list to the hon. Members.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Yes, Sir. We can.

MR. SPEAKER : Then, we can have an half-an-hour discussion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to give a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : During question hour, no notice can be given. This is not a zero hour

[*English*]

Diversion of EPF or Pension Fund to the Capital Market

*323. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to divert the amount of Employees' Provident Fund or Pension Fund to the Capital Market for its better utilisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether concurrence of the Central Board of Trustees of the EPF organisation has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Sir, the hon. Minister has given in his reply all the negatives. you can see that the money which is coming under the Provident Fund and Pensions is the money which has to be spent by the worker during his critical time particularly during his sickness and crisis. Under such circumstances, it has to be diverted without any risk.

I understand that the Government has already formed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S.A. Dave and this Committee has already studied the issue of investment of Provident Fund and Pensions. They have given some views to the people as to how it is to be invested, in what category it should be invested and what benefits to be earned by investment and so on.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this Committee has submitted its report, which was expected to be submitted in the month of February, and if so, what are the recommendations, whether the hon. Minister is going to apply his mind for these recommendations or not and, if not, when this report is expected to be submitted.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member had asked the original question, whether any diversion has taken place? It was certain that there was no diversion. Then, he asked whether Dave Committee has submitted its reports and what is the opinion of the Government on that.

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has submitted this report in February, 1999. There is a committee to consider all these matters as well as about the investment, after getting suggestions from the committee, the investment will be made on the basis of the suggestion.

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Sir, in the men time, the government has notified some pattern for the Provident Fund investment. They are supposed to invest to the extent of ten per cent of the incremental amount that is coming forth. I would like to know whether under this notification the Government has taken any steps to invest such amount in equity or in some other private sector fund or in the share capital of the public sector units. If so, what is the position of that investment?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said that the suggestion regarding the amount of investment therein, is invariably considered by the Central Trustee Council. On the basis of the suggestions of this Council, there is no reason to make any compromise in regard to such pension which the workers and the employers keep in deposit along with the Provident Fund. However, nobody invests the amount of the Provident Fund in shares in any form. This decision has been taken by the Central Trustee Council in the basis of this decision, the Central Trustee Council will take such decisions and, then, it will be implemented.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, the Minister has said that the Provident Fund money is not being diverted. If you make a survey, you will see that in every State the Provident Fund money is being diverted for other purposes. So, may I ask the Minister whether it is a fact that on the one hand the employees are not getting their provident fund money in time and on the other, this money is being diverted for other purposes? Especially West Bengal is the highest Provident Fund defaulter State. I would like to know from the Minister what is his reaction in this regard. Will he protect the employees or does he want that this money should be diverted for other purposes?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : As the hon'ble Member has asked about the misutilization of this money, as far as I know, our responsibility towards the Provident Fund is such that there is no reason for the misuse of the Provident Fund money which the Centre keeps in deposit. In case anyone misutilizes this money and a complaint is lodged against him, then certainly the same can be investigated.

[English]

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Sir, the question is, what should the Government do to get maximum return on the

Employees' Provident Fund and Pension Fund. At present, all these Funds are put in the Government securities which are drawing very little interest. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider utilising these Funds for investment in Mutual Funds of the public sector bodies, such as, UTI's US-64.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Deora, this Question is regarding diversion of the amount of Provident Fund.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : My question is about investment of that Fund, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Diversion is entirely different from investment.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Okay, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Anyway, you can complete your Supplementary.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Sir, I abide by your ruling. The Question says whether the Government propose to divert the amount of Employees' Provident Fund or Pension Fund to the Capital Market. This Pension Fund is not getting the Maximum return, which is not in the interest of the workers. So, I am asking the question whether the Government will consider to invest it in UTI's Funds which will get more return for the workers. That is my question, Sir.

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : In fact, as far as the security fund is concerned, at the most it can be seen that there should be no risk and there is no such proposal under consideration to deposit the same in mutual fund.

[*English*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in many countries this particular Fund has been used for housing and infrastructure sector. Since there is a shortage of resources for infrastructure and housing sector, will the Government consider using this money for these two sectors?

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : As soon as types of proposals are received, the Trustee Council will take a decision on the same.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Today the Leader of the Opposition is more active.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you that the Government has an unclaimed amount of rupees nine thousand crores deposited in the Provident Fund. Are you going to return that amount to the workers? During the regime of the United Front Government, an anti-worker bill had been passed with the support of the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask whether the hon'ble Minister will positively consider to give option to the workers laid down in clause-III of the Provident Fund?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are clear instructions about the pension and the guidelines which have been fixed for pension are being fully complied with.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring it into the notice of the hon. Minister that earlier the option was there which was withdrawn later on. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he will consider to restore that option?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rawale, will you please allow the Minister to reply?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Okay, Sir.

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : As the hon'ble Member is anxious to know, I would like to tell him that there is no such option. As the hon. Member has stated that there are rupees 90 crores for which S.R.F. has been made and we have no such option to deposit such money of the workers from this fund as is not deposited by the employer.

[*English*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a huge amount of Provident Fund money is not deposited with the Provident Fund Commissioner by various companies

in the country. I would like to know how much money deducted from the workers by the companies has not yet been deposited with the Provident Fund Commissioner and what action the Government has taken against such defaulters.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are certain rules, and procedure and E.M.O. method for this, and with the help of the same, action is taken accordingly wherever default is noticed. At the same time, prosecution is initiated and such type of fund has an amount of rupees 453 crores.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has risen from the movements of the workers and is always anxious about the future of the employees. I would like to know from him through you that the Provident Fund of the employees is meant for making the employees happy, but is it also true that the M.P.'s of our ruling party have given several memos against the Employees Provident Fund Commissioner Shri R.S. Kaushik in connection with harassing the Dalit officers and employees, suspending them, chargesheeting and transferring them without any reason. Furthermore, he has created too many problems for a Dalit Assistant Commissioner posted in Calcutta. Has the hon'ble Minister received any representation seeking action against Shri Kaushik? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kawade, you must know first how to ask the supplementary.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what action on the representatives was taken against him? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main question is regarding diversion of the fund. However, it is not proper to discuss about the duties of any officer.

[English]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very serious question. It relates to the functioning of this Department and the hon. Minister must give an assurance to this House that this kind of things will not be allowed to happen ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Buta Singhji, not like this.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Labour took no action against the Commissioner. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Kawade ji, you please sit down.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to add some thing more in the same question as had been asked by the hon. opposition leader that it has been discussed in standing committee of the Parliament and in other places too on many occasions that a lot of money is deposited in the Employees Provident Fund as well as in the Pension Fund and at present, only 12 per cent of interest is paid to the employees on the same. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you whether the Department or the Ministry has held any discussion in this regard with the Ministry of Finance or with the Hon. Minister of Finance as to where this money should be utilized for its proper utilization? I do not ask you to invest the money in Share market. However, you may consider it to invest the money in Unit Trust of India or in mutual fund of the Government Banks, where the money will remain safe and the money of the employees cannot be misutilized; Has the Government considered about such a scheme or constituted a committee or discussed the same with the Ministry of Finance? If it has not been discussed, will you hold discussion on the same?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is certainly a very important suggestion. This type of suggestion ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is this a suggestion.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Yes, Sir.

[*English*]

Battle Tank, Arjun

+
*324. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present position with regard to the production of the indigenous battle tank 'Arjun'; and

(b) the reasons attributed for failure to achieve the objective?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Government have approved the series production of indigenously developed main battle tank Arjun.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the original question which I had asked regarding the 'Sampadan' indigenous battle tank, was raised before the House in such a form and the answer to that question was also given by the hon. Minister in this way. My original question was to when it was presumed to produce the fully indigenous tank in our country and the time by which it was likely to be produced. To my knowledge, Late Smt. Indira Gandhi had made its concept in 1974 and it was aimed that after completion of research etc; its production will be started in 1984 with the investment of rupees fifteen and a half crores but its production did not take place till 1997. I came to know that after spending rupees 307.48 crores in 1995, the Government had decided to discontinue its production. Later, it was decided that bringing with some modification ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Mehta, this time is also very short. You have to ask the question.

[*Translation*]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : I would like to know why such a delay took place in achieving the target of production. If such a delay takes place, what will be the fate of our security?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question raised by the hon. Member, is very important. It is true that this scheme had been approved in 1974 but

from 1974 to 1987 i.e. a period of about 13 years, lapsed to make planning and mobilise the basic and essential equipments for the production of that tank as it took much time to produce or to import the necessary machinery and equipment for the same. In real sense, the work of production of this tank began after 1987. Today, we are in 1999. Though 12 years have passed, it is not true that nothing has been produced so far.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : It has been 25 years and not 12 years.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the work from 1974 to 1987, no production of tank had taken place in India before this period. When it was decided to prepare new model of the indigenous tank, the work had to be started afresh which took much time. When the allocation of money was made for the first time in 1974 it was rupees 15 and a half crores, and later on it was enhanced to rupees 56 crores 55 lacs in 1980 and when we came to the situation of producing tanks after completion of the basic works in 1987, then rupees 280 crores 80 lacs had already been allocated for this. Afterwards, the work commenced and the process of bringing all essential items for it started. In 1993-94, 15 tanks were handed over to the Army which had been produced first. After that it was to be ensured as what were the weaknesses in their use. The trial test of the same was required to be carried out, which began there.

12.00 Hrs.

So, the process of eliminating all the weaknesses of the tanks and producing the same, is on the way now and I am happy that the Army has not only given approval to this tank but also has given orders to the Avadi factory some time back for production of 124 tanks. Therefore, today we find ourselves on such a stage that we are going to start production of the indigenous tanks.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask a pointed supplementary question otherwise, you will not get the reply.

[*Translation*]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the M.B.T. Arjun tank has proved to be better than other good tanks. However, I have come to know that though the work of production of 124 tanks will be taken up, yet it has been planned to import tanks from abroad especially from Russia. Nevertheless, the field test of the imported

tanks has not been carried out so far. What is the intention of the Government behind this? Would you please state the same?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over, the Minister can send the reply in writing.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Impact of Star and Zee TV on Doordarshan

*325. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions for allowing the telecast rights to Star and Zee TV;

(b) the impact of these TV channels on programmes being telecast from various TV centres in the country; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to counter the impact of telecast by Star and Zee TV?

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

(a) There is no law to regulate satellite channels and consequently no restriction on terms and conditions have so far imposed on Zee and Star TV.

(b) No study of the impact of these TV channels on programmes being telecast from various TV centres in the country is undertaken.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed 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 programmes to compete successfully with the programmes telecast by other satellite channels.

[Translation]

Uplinking of Akashwani Kendras with INSAT

*326. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Akashwani Kendras linked with INSAT till 31st December, 1998;

(b) the benefits of this uplinking;

(c) whether the Government propose to uplink all the Akashwani Kendras of the country with INSAT; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) In all, 18 Akashwani Kendras including Akashwani Kendra at Delhi and Kendras at 17 state capitals viz. Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Shimla, Lucknow, Jaipur, Srinagar, Patna, Shillong, Guwahati, Cuttack, Itanagar, Trivandrum, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Bhopal have uplinking facilities to link the radio programmes with INSAT.

(b) (i) The Akashwani Kendras having uplinking facility can beam up their programmes to the satellite which can then be relayed by any Akashwani Kendra through down linking.

(ii) Relay of news/regional programmes by Akashwani Kendras has been possible through this networking.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Budget allocation for Airports in Gujarat and Maharashtra

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

(a) whether the required amount has been allocated in the Budget of the Airports Authority of India for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) whether the airports of Maharashtra and Gujarat have been included under the Development and expansion scheme by the Airports Authority of India in the Budget;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have reviewed the financial performance of the Airports Authority of India for the year 1997-98;

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether any estimate has been made regarding revenue earned and use of manpower; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the Airports Authority of India a viable enterprise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The allocation of Plan funds for Airports Authority of India for the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as below :—

1998-99	Rs.538.12 crores (RE) including budgetary support of Rs. 25 crores.
1999-2000	Rs.697.93 crores(BE) including budgetary support of Rs. 41 crores.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The airports at Ahmedabad, Porbandar, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Vadodra, Jamnagar and Bhuj in Gujarat and Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune and Aurangabad in Maharashtra have been identified for upgradation/expansion in 1999-2000. An amount of Rs. 86.80 crores has been earmarked for airports in Maharashtra and Rs. 23.82 crores for airports in Gujarat in the Annual Plan of Airports Authority of India for the year 1999-2000.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The overall performance of Airports Authority of India for 1997-98 in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding has been rated as 'Good'. During 1997-98, AAI earned a profit of Rs. 316.19 crores against a target of Rs. 324.60 crores.

(f) Airports Authority of India has been making profits since its inception in 1995.

Arrears of Doordarshan

*328. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount is to be paid to Doordarshan by various agencies;

(b) if so, the details of such agencies indicating the amount to be paid and the reasons for such outstanding; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to recover the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) As per the information given by Prasar Bharati, an amount of Rs. 113.67 crores is outstanding against various agencies for the period January, 1976—March, 1998.

(b) The details are given in the Statement. The reasons attributed for accumulation of arrears are the liquidity crunch in the industrial sector and slump in the advertising industry leading to delay in payment by the advertisers to agencies and in turn to Doordarshan.

(c) Prasar Bharati has reported that it is taking recourse to the contractual provisions including encashment of bank guarantee, de-accreditation of the errant agencies, arbitration and legal action etc. for recovering the dues.

Statement**Agency-wise outstanding dues for the period w.e.f. 01-01-1976 to 31-3-98**

S. No	Name of Agency	upto 91-92	Year 92-93	Year 93-94	Year 94-95	Year 95-96	Year 96-97	Year 97-98	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	20th Century	1454	0	0	0	0	0	0	1454
2.	AVI International	17000	0	0	0	0	0	0	17000
3.	Aakariti	0	0	192667	0	0	0	0	192667
4.	ACIL	2368293	0	0	0	0	0	0	2368293
5.	Ad Envoy	542764	0	0	0	0	0	0	542764
6.	Adroit	139400	0	0	0	0	0	0	139400
7.	Adsites	132887	34000	117088	0	0	0	0	283975
8.	Advis	1641407	0	0	0	0	0	0	1641407
9.	Advtg. Avenues	51000	61200	367200	134725	0	0	0	614125
10.	Adwave	0	0	3400	0	0	0	0	3400
11.	Ad Impact	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Adwave Advtg.	11775	4675	0	0	0	0	0	16450
13.	Adwit	17850	0	0	0	0	0	0	17850
14.	Adwell	24907	0	0	0	0	0	0	24907
15.	Ad Maker	0	0	0	0	0	469625	0	469625

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
16.	Adworld Co.	614642	0	0	0	0	0	0	614642
17.	Ad Factor	0	0	0	0	0	494750	255000	749750
18.	Air Ads	223550	332350	222275	0	0	0	0	778175
19.	Alak Advtg.	61200	0	102000	0	0	0	0	163200
20.	Akshar Advtg.	0	47600	289850	115600	0	0	0	439050
21.	Akshara Advt.	178075	138125	0	81600	0	0	0	397800
22.	Alakh Advtg.	0	6800	327250	0	1904000	0	0	2238050
23.	Alliance Advtg.	0	0	358950	0	476000	258400	174250	1267600
24.	Ambiance	125800	9350	743025	462753	204000	0	0	1544928
25.	Anand Advtg.	8500	153000	601800	449850	0	0	0	1212950
26.	Ankur Advtg.	14925	0	73908	62050	524875	0	0	674758
27.	Anthem Comms.	0	71400	357000	0	0	0	0	428400
28.	Anugrah Advtg.	0	281350	0	0	0	0	0	281350
29.	Apex Advtg.	414800	176800	188700	0	0	0	0	780300
30.	Aquinas Pub. Service	59500	0	510000	0	0	0	0	569500
31.	Anes	168300	152150	549100	229500	0	0	0	1099050
32.	Arms Advertising	511368	278800	2384050	492150	0	0	308000	3972368

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
50.	Bidhan Advtg.	571200	346200	960000	125800	145775	0	0	2148975
51.	Balaji Ads.	0	0	0	0	0	0	4301975	4301975
52.	Blaze	550800	0	0	0	0	0	0	550800
53.	British Ind. Corp.	1938000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1938000
54.	C.C.I.	4373	0	0	0	0	0	0	4373
55.	Central	0	0	0	76500	0	0	0	76500
56.	Censor	0	0	0	0	0	42500	0	42500
57.	Chaitali	0	0	0	465900	0	0	0	465900
58.	Chaitra Advtg.	717826	551775	998900	2662035	696500	0	0	5627036
59.	Clanon Advtg.	2116900	134150	0	0	0	63750	2351950	4666750
60.	Clea Advtg.	0	89250	0	0	0	0	0	89250
61.	Coir Board	0	0	0	1530000	0	0	0	1530000
62.	Commercial Ads.	499584	0	0	0	0	0	0	499584
63.	Concept Advtg.	410754	91800	0	0	0	0	2932500	3435054
64.	Contour Advtg.	280931	1275	1202750	428400	0	0	0	1893356
65.	Corum	0	0	0	0	0	823800	912475	1736275
66.	Contract	619525	662150	1062500	17000	773500	631125	479750	4245550

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
67.	Continental	0	0	0	0	0	34000	201875	235875
68.	Counter Point	0	0	879750	2410515	0	0	0	3290625
69.	Crayons	0	0	0	0	0	1843150	0	1843150
70.	Creative Eye	6800	545300	21250	14960	0	0	13266475	13854785
71.	Cinema Vision	0	0	0	0	0	2831950	0	2831950
72.	Creative Unit	1081450	132600	619800	56100	0	0	0	1889950
73.	Cine Vista	0	0	0	0	0	75000	0	75000
74.	Creative Workshop	45900	7650	0	0	0	0	0	63550
75.	Current Advtg.	80323	0	0	0	34000	0	0	114323
76.	Dacunha Asso.	17000	45475	401200	0	0	0	0	463675
77.	DART	0	1461500	0	153000	0	0	0	299150
78.	Dutta Ram	86889	0	293000	127500	0	0	0	507389
79.	DAVP	2355541	37400	0	0	450500	0	0	2943441
80.	Deptt. of Post	0	0	0	0	0	828750	0	828750
81.	Dazzle	2142	0	0	0	0	0	0	2142
82.	Dir. of Inf. Govt. TN	0	0	0	58100	0	0	0	58100
83.	Dir. Tour & P. Council	0	0	8500	0	0	0	0	8500

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
84.	Dishal India	0	0	0	0	11824154	0	0	11824154
85.	Dta. of Adult Edu.	11011	0	0	2760309	0	1224153	0	3966473
86.	Dta. of S. Savings	1017675	0	0	254490	0	0	0	1272165
87.	Edge Comms.	119000	0	0	0	0	0	0	119000
88.	Efficient Pub.	82120	136000	232100	633830	0	0	0	1084150
89.	Elegant Pub.	75643	0	212500	0	0	0	0	288143
90.	Emmess	303343	0	0	0	0	0	0	303343
91.	Energy Mgt.	510000	0	0	0	0	0	0	510000
92.	Enterprise Advtg.	335963	890750	221900	800062	2248675	0	0	4497350
93.	Everest Advtg.	1698275	1706588	176075	854185	972400	229500	0	5637003
94.	FCI	44510	0	0	0	2545750	0	0	2590280
95.	F.D. Steart	220613	0	0	0	0	0	0	220613
96.	F.S. Advtg.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
97.	Fair Film	0	0	0	0	10200	0	0	10200
98.	FAME	0	0	62900	391000	959175	4273375	23774500	29460850
99.	Film Craft	748425	199750	580150	85000	377950	2749900	11052425	15793800
100.	Film Frame	0	0	153000	0	0	0	0	153000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
101.	Fountain Head	0	0	471150	122655	0	663000	0	1256805
102.	Frank Simoes Advtg.	290700	266900	0	0	0	0	0	557600
103.	Friends	539396	0	0	0	0	0	0	539396
104.	Fusion Advtg.	15300	0	0	0	0	0	0	15300
105.	GIC	536	40800	0	0	0	0	0	40336
106.	Gemini Advtg.	1004400	0	0	0	0	0	0	1004400
107.	Gold Video	0	0	0	0	888250	348500	53125	1289875
108.	Goldwire Comms.	0	0	3060000	0	0	0	0	3060000
109.	Gopalaratnam	190400	0	0	0	0	0	0	190400
110.	Govan Advtg.	20400	34425	0	0	0	0	0	54825
111.	Govt. of A.P.	7650	0	0	0	0	0	0	7650
112.	Govt. of Gujarat	327888	159338	0	0	0	0	0	487276
113.	Govt. of Maharashtra	257550	160650	1822400	0	0	0	0	224060
114.	Govt. of W. Bengal	22100	267750	153000	0	0	0	0	442850
115.	Grant	10411	0	0	0	0	0	0	10411
116.	Graphic Art	1607	0	0	0	0	0	0	1607
117.	Gujarat Govt. Inf. Deptt.	0	0	287500	374850	0	0	0	662350

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
135.	Indian Navy	0	7650	0	0	0	0	0	7650
136.	Indian Express	0	0	0	0	0	4136300	1287750	5424050
137.	International Advtg.	50363	0	34000	0	0	0	0	84363
138.	Innovision	24850	0	120000	0	0	0	413100	557750
139.	Insight Advtg.	374350	205700	130475	136000	0	0	0	846524
140.	Inter Vision	0	0	407600	0	0	0	0	407600
141.	Inter Ads	106111	21250	0	332150	0	0	0	959511
142.	Interface Comms.	28050	0	416500	239700	0	0	0	684250
143.	Inter Pub.	28350	53550	564400	720800	0	0	0	1365100
144.	Jaishree Picture	354824	370175	136000	0	0	0	0	860799
145.	Jaiyaar	0	0	0	0	0	0	697000	697000
146.	Jainsons Advtg.	1168797	0	0	0	0	0	0	1168797
147.	Jaiyaar Pub.	0	213776	887225	895828	1496000	0	0	3492829
148.	Jaya Advtg.	234897	0	0	0	0	0	8524650	8759547
149.	Jelitta	125800	67150	154700	75480	0	0	0	423130
150.	Joint Pub.	127500	0	0	0	0	0	0	127500
151.	Joslin	0	0	0	497250	3137500	526050	0	4160800

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
152.	KLI	96407	0	463250	0	0	626720	9496726	10683103
153.	KVIC	69615	0	0	0	0	0	0	69615
154.	Kamred News	101150	122400	890000	0	0	0	0	1113550
155.	Kanara Advtg.	19928	291975	547250	136050	0	0	0	998003
156.	KARE	0	0	266050	0	0	0	0	266050
157.	Kanshna Advtg.	286629	181500	660923	672775	0	0	0	1781827
158.	Kiran Comms.	0	0	0	0	1670250	625760	0	2296000
159.	KOFL	2550	0	0	0	0	0	0	2550
160.	Krishak Bharati	28645	0	0	0	0	0	0	28645
161.	Kinescope	0	0	0	0	0	0	2681058	2681058
162.	Kunal Ads.	73575	134300	523900	221000	0	0	0	952775
163.	LIC	232822	742475	16000	0	0	0	0	991297
164.	L.R. Swamy	161879	314925	48875	108885	0	0	0	634564
165.	Lekha Advtg.	0	17000	0	0	0	0	0	17000
166.	Link World	0	409775	0	336750	0	0	0	746525
167.	Lintas	5719043	2949939	5821525	408018	124455	5546250	0	20589230
168.	MCA	227091	32300	0	0	0	0	0	259391

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
238.	Parichay	0	0	0	0	0	0	38250	38250
239.	Pumima Advtg.	438498	0	966450	0	1530000	3185375	0	6120323
240.	RCF	46435	114750	0	0	0	0	0	161185
241.	R. K. Swamy	2911875	379100	1712075	1931880	318750	214200	0	7467880
242.	RKUMP	177650	0	0	0	0	0	0	177650
243.	RTS	157582	0	0	0	0	0	0	157585
244.	RTVC	74800	0	280800	0	0	0	0	355600
245.	Radius Advtg.	38250	147900	0	197200	0	0	0	383350
246.	Radio TV Advtg.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
247.	Radio Enter.	112625	0	0	0	0	0	0	112625
248.	Radium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
249.	Radio Pub. Ser.	1637111	0	0	0	0	0	0	1637111
250.	Ranjit Sales	9259	85000	0	0	0	0	0	94259
251.	Rashtriya Advtg.	8500	810200	120275	125290	126650	7952000	2252250	9368765
252.	Rasik Pub.	155225	0	366900	0	0	0	0	522125
253.	Ratan Batra	20400	0	80750	0	0	0	0	522125
254.	Redifussion	898673	0	2011100	2584245	0	1360000	0	6655218

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
255.	Reg. General India	0	0	0	0	0	1292000	0	1292000
256.	Renaissance	0	0	0	502023	0	0	0	502023
257.	Renukay Advtg.	101489	0	0	0	55250	0	0	156739
258.	Response India	5100	0	4235975	0	12000	0	0	4253075
259.	Roger Pereira Cons.	0	0	864000	0	0	0	0	864000
260.	Roshan Advtg.	275327	0	0	0	0	0	0	275327
261.	Romesh Films	0	0	0	0	1041250	884000	0	1925250
262.	SAAI Advtg.	248625	141950	0	0	0	0	0	390575
263.	Saraswati Entr.	26775	0	0	0	0	0	0	26775
264.	Sar Video	0	0	0	0	0	0	2040000	2040000
265.	SASI	0	0	154700	0	0	0	0	154700
266.	Saraswati Audio	0	1487500	0	0	7711979	0	0	9199479
267.	Scooter India	236435	0	0	0	0	0	0	236435
268.	Segar	0	87400	0	0	0	0	0	87400
269.	Seasons Advtg.	95200	0	217600	0	0	0	0	312800
270.	Sahara India	0	321300	0	0	0	0	2506575	2827875
271.	Sekari	10200	30113	0	0	0	0	0	311313

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
289.	Steel Auth. of India	689000	0	0	0	0	0	0	689000
290.	Stracon India Ltd.	0	283900	0	0	0	0	4599825	4873725
291.	Sterling	122606	0	0	0	0	0	0	122606
292.	Swar Sudha	46308	0	0	47600	0	221000	0	314908
293.	TSA	1233707	571200	1379725	2099500	1318250	629000	2386800	9618182
294.	T. Sarkar	9350	141525	31450	0	0	0	883175	1065500
295.	TV Brand	0	621350	0	0	0	0	0	621350
296.	The Press Syndicate	0	613700	0	20400	0	0	0	634100
297.	3 Brothers & Fils	222700	0	347600	459850	72250	0	0	1102400
298.	Times & Space	8925	0	0	0	0	0	0	8925
299.	TNE	0	705500	0	0	0	7591800	28328800	36626100
300.	Tracer	0	0	1524000	1030200	17000	0	0	2571200
301.	Trikaya Grey	480800	0	1688825	1819510	0	452625	1364250	5806010
302.	Triton	0	0	524600	1314100	9948225	0	2728800	14515725
303.	Tulika Advtg.	0	0	127500	624920	0	0	0	752420
304.	UTI	51000	0	0	0	0	0	0	51000
305.	UTV	0	0	0	0	0	0	33641092	33641092

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
306.	Ulka Advtg.	6,7757	432825	0	0	382500	0	0	1393082
307.	Uma Advtg.	244038	0	0	0	0	0	0	244038
308.	Universal	0	249900	0	0	0	860500	4479887	5590287
309.	Uptron	71400	385475	0	0	0	0	0	456875
310.	Victa	51000	0	0	0	0	0	0	51000
311.	Vihara Comms.	0	0	0	0	0	0	212500	212500
312.	Vikalp	1785	0	0	0	0	0	0	1785
313.	Vishal	3400	0	0	0	0	0	0	3400
314.	Vikas	797900	0	0	0	3672000	0	0	4469963
315.	Vishesh Advtg.	76500	232475	1634700	243100	0	183600	0	2370375
316.	Vision Advtg.	59351	0	328950	0	0	0	0	368301
317.	Winfield	0	0	0	0	131750	0	0	131750
318.	Western Advtg.	0	0	153000	45900	0	0	0	198900
319.	W.D. Consumer	0	0	0	0	3018350	0	3332425	6350775
320.	World Com. Multi Media	0	0	0	0	0	866132	4580125	5446257
321.	World Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	10005684	1005684
322.	Youth INCA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
323.	Zen Comms.	0	0	0	45900	120700	110500	0	1363400
		71853085	40680545	69312212	49205184	84855467	205744808	615122384	1136773915

*[Translation]***Adverse effects of TV Serial on Children**

*329. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the adverse effects of T.V. serials on children leading them to lose their lives;

(b) whether the Government propose to ban the vulgar advertisements presented through women on Doordarshan;

(c) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that a number of companies are resorting to advertisements in the name of religion;

(d) whether the Government propose to take any steps in regard to the serials as a result of which the children are losing their lives; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The Government as well as the Prasar Bharati have received certain representations in this regard.

(b) to (e) Matters relating to selection, continuation etc. of programmes and advertisements come within the purview of Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous body, and Government do not decide upon these. Prasar Bharati have reported that as per their guidelines, no programmes which promote superstitious beliefs or involve or incite children in any act of violence either as victims or as perpetrators, are telecast on Doordarshan. They have also intimated that their guidelines stipulate that no advertisement shall be permitted which projects a derogatory image of women. Furthermore, these guidelines seek to ensure that the portrayal of female form is tasteful and aesthetic, and is well within established norms of good taste and decency. Prasar Bharati have also reported that no advertisements is telecast on Doordarshan the objects of which are wholly or mainly of a religious nature or which is directed towards any religious end.

*[English]***Setting up of Studio Complexes**

*330. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan propose to set up a number of studio complexes in the next two years;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the time-bound completion of studio complexes?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of 15 (fifteen) studio complexes which are to be set up in the next two years are as follows : Ranchi (Bihar); Rajkot (Gujarat); Nagpur, Mumbai, Pune (Maharashtra); Gwalior, Jagdarpur, Indore (Madhya Pradesh); Delhi, Mathura (U.P.); Trichur (Kerala), Bhawanipatna (Orissa); Patiala (Punjab), Gangtok (Sikkim); Chandigarh.

These studios are to be provided with modern facilities for programme production and outside coverage and would be capable of high quality programme production.

(c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that whereas installation of studio projects at Nagpur (augmentation), Pune, Indore, Jagdarpur and Gwalior has been completed, it is the endeavour of Doordarshan to make all out efforts to complete its projects well in time.

*[Translation]***Ongoing Projects of AIR/Doordarshan**

*331. SHRI SOM MARANDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the ongoing projects of Doordarshan and AIR in the country particularly in Bihar; and

(b) the latest progress of the said projects and the time by which these projects are likely to be completed, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) 115 AIR Projects and 297 different Doordarshan projects of varying capacity, including 4 AIR

projects and 10 Doordarshan projects in Bihar, are presently at different stages of implementation. The state-wise details are given in the statement attached.

Projects presently at different stages of implementation are likely to be completed in phases during the current plan period, subject to availability of timely and, adequate resources and other relevant inputs.

Statement

S. No.	State/U.Ts.	All India Radio	Doordarshan	
			Transmitters	studios
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	7	4	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	6	22	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	7	—
4.	Bihar	4	9	1
5.	Goa	—	1	—
6.	Gujarat	7	11	1
7.	Haryana	1	5	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	11	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	11	—
10.	Karnataka	5	18	—
11.	Kerala	6	9	2

1	2	3	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9	20 3
13.	Maharashtra	7	28 3
14.	Manipur	2	2 —
15.	Meghalaya	5	2 —
16.	Mizoram	4	2 —
17.	Nagaland	4	4 —
18.	Orissa	3	23 1
19.	Punjab	1	1 1
20.	Rajasthan	5	26 1
21.	Sikkim	1	1 1
22.	Tamilnadu	7	14 2
23.	Tripura	3	4 —
24.	Uttar Pradesh	6	31 1
25.	West Bengal	5	9 —
26.	Delhi	5	— 1
27.	A. & N. Islands	1	— —

1	2	3	4
28.	Daman & Diu	—	—
29.	Pondicherry	1	1
30.	Lakshadweep Islands	—	—
31.	Chandigarh	1	1
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—
Total		115	276

[English]

**Meeting of State Nodal Agencies of
Food Processing Sector**

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

(a) whether the meeting of the State nodal agencies dealing with the Food Processing Sector has been held recently;

(b) if so, the decisions taken therein;

(c) whether the Government have planned any strategy to prevent colossal waste of fruits and vegetables;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) to (e) The Government provides financial assistance to establish infrastructure of post-harvest

management as well as cold chain facilities to help in preservation of fruits and vegetables. It also provides financial assistance to set up/expand/modernise fruit and vegetable processing units which also contribute to reduction in wastages.

Statement

The following points emerged from the deliberations of the meeting:

- (i) Financial assistance provided by the Ministry for strengthening of State Nodal Agencies (SNAs) should be increased.
- (ii) Ministry should organise training programmes for SNAs.
- (iii) Assistance given by the Ministry for setting up of Food Parks should be examined for enhancement.
- (iv) Ministry should not insist on bank guarantees alone as security.
- (v) Efforts may be made to identify reasons behind sickness of food processing units, and strategies for their revival.
- (vi) SANs should prepare Project profiles for prospective entrepreneurs for which Ministry may share cost.

- (vii) SNAs should identify good and viable projects for financial assistance of the Ministry under its Plan Schemes.
- (viii) SNAs should do professional scrutiny of the projects before sponsoring them.
- (ix) SNAs would work closely with the Ministry for publicity, preparation of data base, and monitoring of Ministry assisted projects.

Telecast of Commissioned TV Serials

*333. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the T.V. serials and programmes commissioned and actually telecast during each of the last three years alongwith the amount allotted thereto and income earned therefrom;
- (b) the present status of the commissioned T.V. serials/programmes approved but not telecast till today and the date of their pendency; and
- (c) the responsibility fixed, if any, for waste of huge public money on programmes commissioned but not telecast?

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

(a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Shortage of Low Budget Hotels

*334. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the Public Sector low budget hotels in the country, State-wise/location-wise;
- (b) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of low budget hotels for the domestic middle class tourists; and
- (c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) ITDC which is the only Public Sector Undertaking under the control of Ministry of Tourism, provides accommodation ranging from Rs. 500 to 1500 per day (single occupancy basis) to the tourists at the following hotels :

- (i) Ashok Yatri Niwas, New Delhi.
- (ii) Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi.
- (iii) Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi.
- (iv) Hotel Aurangabad Ashok, Maharashtra.
- (v) Hotel Hassan Ashok, Karnataka.
- (vi) Hotel Lake View Ashok, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).
- (vii) Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati (Assam).
- (viii) Hotel Nilachal Ashok, Puri (Orissa).
- (ix) Hotel Ranchi Ashok, Ranchi (Bihar).
- (x) Hotel Pondicherry Ashok, (U.T. of Pondicherry).
- (xi) Hotel Donyi Polo Ashok, Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To encourage low budget hotels, Government of India provides fiscal incentives like tax exemption and interest subsidy on hotel loans sanctioned by financial institutions. The Ministry of Tourism also provides financial assistance to the State Governments for development of tourist infrastructure such as Tourist Complexes, Tourist Lodges and Yatri Niwases.

[*English*]

Appointment Policy in Armed Forces

*335. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the present system and procedure for appointment in Army, Air Force and Navy has come into sharp criticism recently;
- (b) if so, the views of the Government as furnished to the Supreme Court;

(c) the details of changes, if any, proposed to rationalise and refine the selection process for appointments in defence forces; and

(d) the Government's version on the unprecedented decision of dismissal of Navy Chief?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present system of selection and appointments in the Armed Forces has stood the test of time and has been working satisfactorily. Hence, there is no proposal to effect any change in the selection process for appointments in defence forces.

(d) The President, in exercise of powers conferred by Section 15(1) of the Navy Act, 1957 and all other enabling provisions in this behalf, withdrew his pleasure for the continuance of Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat on account of loss of confidence in his fitness to continue as the Chief of the Naval Staff and Admiral Bhagwat was relieved of his services with effect from December 30, 1998. The above decision was taken after giving adequate, careful and serious consideration to the entire matter. It was noted that the officer had been taking a series of actions in defiance of the established system of Cabinet control over the defence forces.

[Translation]

Palekar and Bachawat Wage Boards

*336. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of Palekar and Bachawat Wage Boards set up by the Government for the journalists and non-journalists have not been implemented so far;

(b) if so, the reasons for setting up of the present Wage Board; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Palekar and Bachawat Wage Boards?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) No data is maintained regarding the progress of implementation of recommendations of Palekar

award which was submitted and accepted by the Government in the year 1980. However, regarding Bachawat Award accepted in 1989, out of 1703 newspaper establishments 637 have fully and 26 have partially implemented the recommendations.

Wage Boards for Journalists and Non-Journalist newspaper employees have been set up in the past with a gap of approximately 10 years. The Bachawat Wage Boards were set up in 1985 and as a period of approximately nine years had already elapsed, the Government decided to set up the Manisana Wage Boards in September, 1994.

The responsibility for implementation lies with State Governments. However, the Central Government keeps on impressing upon the State Governments for speedy implementation of the recommendations of Bachawat Award and letters to the State Governments, to this effect, were written periodically at the highest level. Palekar Award became obsolete after the enforcement of the Bachawat Award.

[English]

Development of Unorganised Labourers

*337. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Government for the welfare and improvement in conditions of unorganised labourers in the country during the last three years;

(b) the funds provided to State Governments for the purpose during each of the last three years, State-wise and scheme-wise; and

(c) the number of unorganised labourers benefited thereunder in each State during the above period?

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 and 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 schemes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) etc. for the welfare and improvement of the conditions of rural unorganised labourers in the country.

The details of such measures taken in the last three years are given in the statements-I and II.

Statement-I

Statement showing financial performance under various welfare schemes (State-wise and Year-wise)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State/ U.Ts.	Year	Name of the Scheme				
		IRDP*	EAS	JRY*	TRYSEM*	DWCRA*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	1995-96	8336.41	18187.50	37232.40	684.92	718.75
	1996-97	8336.41	25137.50	17372.39	684.92	718.75
	1997-98	8612.23	20925.00	19410.49	684.92	718.75
Arunachal Pradesh	1995-96	623.43	2323.75	329.58	51.22	44.75
	1996-97	623.43	2126.25	178.30	51.22	44.75
	1997-98	644.07	2362.50	199.22	51.22	44.75
Assam	1995-96	2743.50	10025.00	10820.18	225.40	283.75
	1996-97	2743.50	135.25.00	5718.18	225.40	283.75
	1997-98	2834.27	10740.00	6399.02	225.40	283.75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bihar	1995-96	16218.24	20287.50	78598.18	1274.48	760.50
	1996-97	16218.24	26556.25	34075.58	1274.48	760.50
	1997-98	16754.81	22792.50	38073.25	1274.48	760.50
Goa	1995-96	141.87		356.09	11.66	9.00
	1996-97	141.87	100.00	192.65	11.66	9.00
	1997-98	146.57	175.00	215.25	11.66	9.00
Gujarat	1995-96	3059.22	8712.50	14754.11	251.34	258.25
	1996-97	3059.22	7312.50	6376.25	251.34	258.25
	1997-98	3160.43	5400.00	724.30	251.34	258.25
Haryana	1995-96	735.33	4150.00	3398.28	60.40	146.50
	1996-97	735.33	3350.00	1531.81	60.40	146.50
	1997-98	759.67	3337.50	1711.52	60.40	146.50
Himachal Pradesh	1995-96	239.78	562.50	1149.09	19.80	76.00
	1996-97	239.78	1987.50	612.16	19.80	76.00
	1997-98	247.71	3187.50	683.98	19.80	76.00
Jammu & Kashmir	1995-96	999.09	8425.00	3381.00	140.00	220.00
	1996-97	999.09	4825.00	1243.83	140.00	220.00
	1997-98	1032.15	5950.00	1389.86	140.00	220.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karnatak	1995-96	5594.91	13712.50	24422.41	459.84	387.00
	1996-97	5594.91	14450.00	11665.34	459.84	387.00
	1997-98	5780.01	13250.00	13033.90	459.84	387.00
Kerala	1995-96	2036.15	2312.50	6029.34	167.28	180.00
	1996-97	2036.15	3562.50	4244.16	167.28	180.00
	1997-98	2103.50	4986.25	4742.06	167.28	180.00
Madhya Pradesh	1995-96	10565.39	26675.00	51119.46	867.96	698.75
	1996-97	10565.39	28337.71	22014.51	867.96	698.75
	1997-98	10914.93	26884.81	24597.22	867.96	698.75
Maharashtra	1995-96	9087.73	14325.00	41658.79	746.64	572.00
	1996-97	9087.73	8412.50	18937.55	746.64	572.00
	1997-98	9388.40	14168.14	21159.27	746.64	572.00
Manipur	1995-96	449.59	1125.00	425.45	36.94	61.25
	1996-97	449.59	1350.00	228.53	36.94	61.25
	1997-98	464.47	1012.50	255.34	36.94	61.25
Meghalaya	1995-96	477.57	312.50	496.31	39.24	61.25
	1996-97	477.57	612.50	267.40	39.24	61.25
	1997-98	493.36	275.00	298.77	39.24	61.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mizoram	1995-96	201.82	1500.00	208.04	16.58	17.00
	1996-97	201.82	1500.00	112.65	16.58	17.00
	1997-98	208.50	1000.00	125.87	16.58	17.00
Nagaland	1995-96	335.69	2600.00	526.28	27.58	30.50
	1996-97	335.69	3482.50	286.64	27.58	30.50
	1997-98	346.81	2625.00	320.27	27.58	30.50
Orissa	1995-96	6763.85	14325.00	30642.94	555.72	405.75
	1996-97	6763.85	20534.44	14093.11	555.72	405.75
	1997-98	6987.62	18401.98	15746.49	555.72	405.75
Punjab	1995-96	521.53	—	1969.93	43.00	165.75
	1996-97	521.53	1225.00	1089.39	43.00	165.75
	1997-98	538.77	2300.00	1217.19	43.00	165.75
Rajasthan	1995-96	4388.01	17537.50	20825.10	360.52	309.50
	1996-97	4588.01	12987.50	9146.40	360.52	309.50
	1997-98	4533.18	11581.25	10219.44	360.52	309.50
Sikkim	1995-96	55.95	412.50	341.93	4.60	43.50
	1996-97	55.95	275.00	104.36	4.60	43.50
	1997-98	57.79	275.00	116.61	4.60	43.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tamil Nadu	1995-96	7537.14	10512.50	32634.06	619.24	487.75
	1996-97	7537.14	18406.25	15704.96	619.24	487.75
	1997-98	7786.50	23400.00	17547.44	619.24	487.75
Tripura	1995-96	641.42	1950.00	558.65	52.68	22.50
	1996-97	641.42	2700.00	296.83	52.68	22.50
	1997-98	662.64	1800.00	331.65	52.68	22.50
Uttar Pradesh	1995-96	20316.50	19450.00	87188.55	1669.19	1017.00
	1996-97	20316.50	26630.94	42334.91	1669.19	1017.00
	1997-98	20988.66	39310.08	47301.56	1669.19	1017.00
West Bengal	1995-96	7472.20	11550.00	33287.71	613.84	451.50
	1996-97	7472.20	12712.50	15569.34	613.84	451.50
	1997-98	7719.41	9737.50	17395.91	613.84	451.50
A & N Islands	1995-96	70.94	40.00	154.18	11.74	5.80
	1996-97	70.94	0.00	84.41	11.74	7.25
	1997-98	73.29	80.00	94.31	11.74	7.25
Dadar & N. Haveli	1995-96	14.99	30.00	83.92	2.48	3.20
	1996-97	14.99	60.00	45.81	2.48	4.00
	1997-98	15.49	30.00	51.18	2.48	4.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Daman & Diu	1995-96	27.97	20.00	49.28	4.62	2.80
	1996-97	27.97	20.00	26.99	4.62	3.50
	1997-98	28.90	0.00	30.16	4.62	3.50
Lakshadweep	1995-96	6.99	100.00	76.70	1.16	3.20
	1996-97	6.99	140.00	42.32	1.16	4.00
	1997-98	7.22	0.00	47.28	1.16	4.00
Pondicherry	1995-96	57.95		151.86	5.00	2.20
	1996-97	57.95	60.00	82.64	5.00	4.00
	1997-98	59.87	60.00	92.34	5.00	4.00
All India	1995-96	109721.16	213163.75	484869.71	9025.00	7495.45
	1996-97	109721.16	242379.34	223679.48	9025.00	7500.00
	1997-98	113351.23	246047.50	249921.18	#9025.00	7500.00

*Total allocation.

#Figures under TRYSEM for the year 1997-98 are provisional.

Statement-II*Physical performance under various welfare schemes*

Sl. No.	States/UTs.	JRY			EAS			IRDP		
		Lakh Mandays Generated			Lakh Mandays Generated			Beneficiaries (Nos.)		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70157	329.75	310.98	252.42	437.00	488.26	122863	203135	162117
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.24	2.79	2.88	50.67	39.00	43.66	14381	4956	12799
3.	Assam	179.08	91.54	107.69	181.82	162.00	207.76	59030	23062	39585
4.	Bihar	1197.03	460.02	533.04	254.44	324.00	420.45	265525	241026	196849
5.	Goa	8.38	5.30	2.55		0.00	2.92	1486	1982	897
6.	Gujarat	209.42	105.20	82.81	92.45	123.00	92.71	55686	47545	41822
7.	Haryana	33.50	13.08	11.12	52.11	24.00	18.45	29771	17202	10853
8.	Himachal Pradesh	21.45	10.62	10.11	6.86	13.00	35.65	6806	7990	5548
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	48.23	18.36	24.05	129.96	92.00	132.17	13189	7929	13643
10.	Karnataka	524.89	250.194	265.91	268.73	314.00	349.41	119685	116900	94688
11.	Kerala	127.75	55.45	41.82	32.47	29.00	47.26	43357	48690	44191
12.	Madhya Pradesh	759.46	349.02	347.15	398.02	379.00	447.46	210692	168123	138810
13.	Maharashtra	1014.47	455.08	527.74	293.23	310.00	363.24	181597	161018	147640
14.	Manipur	9.34	3.49	2.16	31.21	17.00	15.38	6077	7256	4258

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15.	Meghalaya	4.86	6.96	4.54	8.30	6.00	7.72	4534	6822	5167
16.	Mizoram	5.20	2.46	1.91	40.91	32.00	17.88	5085	1360	2876
17.	Nagaland	5.76	11.85	7.71	49.00	73.00	73.95	2531	2915	3433
18.	Orissa	678.31	314.19	299.82	311.06	439.00	382.14	120669	91249	75373
19.	Punjab	6.44	7.85	12.83	—	—	4.55	11786	7160	6107
20.	Rajasthan	361.72	168.12	196.14	288.02	213.00	250.06	92818	70304	60819
21.	Sikkim	9.27	2.63	2.65	16.01	4.00	7.41	2843	1483	1792
22.	Tamil Nadu	1089.75	488.60	388.81	211.35	468.00	558.28	183896	152597	180698
23.	Tripura	18.43	10.38	7.31	43.20	45.00	54.46	14657	13725	11668
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1532.66	658.38	599.49	328.23	320.00	522.76	355916	364553	351146
25.	West Bengal	416.75	178.53	154.62	143.08	163.00	138.60	161724	110280	91733
26.	A & N Islands	2.59	0.82	0.15	0.11	0.00	0.14	832	276	628
27.	D & N Haveli	0.64	1.02	0.49	0.23	0.00	0.35	274	168	179
28.	Daman & Diu	1.11	0.50	0.56	0.36	0.00	0.34	310	178	188
29.	Lakshadweep	1.05	0.88	1.46	1.02	2.00	1.46	18	30	27
30.	Pondicherry	3.10	2.91	0.63	—	0.00	0.14	1563	1293	1107
Total		8958.25	4006.32	3919.13	3465.27	4028.00	4685.02	2039400	1661206	1706609

*Members benefitted.

Sl. No.	States/Uts.	DWCRA Group formed			TRYSEM Trained Youths		
		1995-96*	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	246923	17737	7178	19846	19846	20850
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1760	126	154	1277	1277	252
3.	Assam	12842	823	155	10317	10317	7302
4.	Bihar	37570	2415	1667	26287	26287	33337
5.	Goa	540	36	36	3896	3896	1769
6.	Gujarat	14152	1026	1375	10958	10958	7284
7.	Haryana	8562	711	553	3582	3582	1541
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3214	129	283	894	894	857
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8011	705	695	4326	4326	2252
10.	Karnataka	8342	2128	2243	16602	16602	15914
11.	Kerala	8378	962	1355	4860	4860	3486
12.	Madhya Pradesh	15505	1136	2717	60107	60107	14125
13.	Maharashtra	27333	2522	2324	5764	5764	13841
14.	Manipur	3952	265	247	117	117	836

1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17
15.	Meghalaya	2027	360	261	292	292	361
16.	Mizoram	509	66	136	692	692	552
17.	Nagaland	1302	170	18	227	227	0
18.	Orissa	23989	2094	1730	16589	6388	14951
19.	Punjab	7734	482	529	2670	2670	1656
20.	Rajasthan	23989	600	251	9269	9269	3179
21.	Sikkim	1644	25	126	408	408	216
22.	Tamil Nadu	4562	1549	2041	11561	11561	10972
23.	Tripura	1730	149	139	3838	3838	3503
24.	Uttar Pradesh	79864	3404	6098	63721	63721	65875
25.	West Bengal	11092	1738	1986	22557	22557	16088
26.	A & N Islands	304	59	28	279	279	293
27.	D & N Haveli	225	0	0	0	0	151
28.	Daman & Diu	110	9	0	87	87	82
29.	Lakshadweep	7	2	6	3	3	0
30.	Pondicherry	9	14	14	625	625	138
Total		697088	41462	34445	301651	291450	242025

*Members benefitted.

Cultural Ambience around Tourist Spots

*338. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to draw a plan for the improvement of cultural financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments are being consulted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the places selected as the venue of the cultural festival scheduled for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) To (c) The Ministry of Tourism has a scheme "Refurbishment of Monuments" under which assistance is provided for the Refurbishment and improvement of the Environment around the monuments/heritage buildings. The projects for the Refurbishment of Monuments are prioritised in consultation with the State Governments.

(d) The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments for promotion of identified fair and festivals. The Ministry has identified 124 Fairs and Festivals for the current financial year. Names of places are given in the statement attached.

Statement***List of Fairs and Festivals*****ANDHRA PRADESH**

1. Deccan Festival
2. Royalseema Food & Dance Festival
3. Vishakha Utsav
4. Lumbini Festival

ASSAM

1. Tea and Tourism Festival
2. Rangoli Bihu
3. Brahamputta Beah Festival

BIHAR

1. Sonepur Mela
2. Vaishali Mahotsav
3. Rajgir Dance & Food Festival
4. Chhotanagpur Adivasi Mela
5. Patliputra Mahotsava

GOA

1. International Sea Food Festival
2. Carnival
3. Shigmo (Holi)

GUJARAT

1. Navratri Festival
2. Kutch Festival (Rann of Kutch)
3. Tametar Festival
4. Kite Festival

HARYANA

1. Surajkund Crafts Mela
2. Kurukshetra Festival
3. Garden Festival
4. Kartik Cultural Festival

HIMACHAL PRADESH

1. Kullu Festival
2. Winter Festival
3. Minjor Fair Chamba
4. Summer Festival
5. Lavi Fair

JAMMU & KASHMIR

1. Ladakh Festival
2. Pooja Festival
3. Mansar

4. Banganga (Mumbai)
5. Kala Ghoda Fair (Mumbai)
6. Karveer Kohlapura (Kolhapur)
7. Kalidas festival in Nagpur

KARNATAKA

1. Vijaynagar Hampi Festival (Bellary)
2. Navraspur Festival (Bijapur)
3. Hoysala Mahotsav at Halebid (Hassan)
4. Pattadakak Festival

MEGHALAYA

1. Autumn Festival

MANIPUR

1. Kut Festival
2. Maharas Festival
3. Lui Ngai Ni Festival of Nagas
4. Gan Nagai
5. Yaosang (Doljatra)
6. Basanta Yatra
7. Kang (Rath Yatra)
8. Harikiu Hindongba
9. Ningoi Chakkaura

KERALA

1. The Great Elephant March
2. Nisha Gandhi Dance Festival
3. Onam
4. Snake Boat Race
5. Kerala Village Festival
6. Tourism Week Celebration

MIZORAM

1. Chappachrkut

ORISSA

1. Rath Yatra (throughout Orissa)
2. Kendrapara Yatra
3. Baripada Yatra
4. Bali Yatra (Cuttack)
5. Beach Festival (Puri)
6. Konark Dance festival (Konark)

MADHYA PRADESH

1. Khajuraho Festival
2. Pachmarhi Festival
3. Mandu Festival
4. Orhha-Shivpuri-Gwalior-Agra-Jhansi Festival
5. Tansen Samaroh (Gwalior)
6. Khajuraho Millennium

PUNJAB**MAHARASHTRA**

1. Elephant Festival (Mumbai)
2. Ganesh Festival (Pune & Mumbai)
3. Ellora Festival (Aurangabad)

1. Holla Mohalla
2. Harballabha Sangeet Sammelan (Jullandhar)
3. Rural Sports Mela Killa Raipur (Ludhiana)

4. **Baba Farid Mela**5. **Hasan Shah Mela**6. **Baisakhi****PONDICHERRY**1. **Fete-e-Pondicherry/Yoga Festival**2. **Food Festival Pondicherry****RAJASTHAN**1. **Bikaner Festival**2. **Nagaur Fair**3. **Desert Festival Jaisalmer**4. **Barmer/Kanna Festival**5. **Bundi Festival**6. **Marwar Festival**7. **Dadra & Nagar Haveli****SIKKIM**1. **Flower Show**2. **Handicraft Exhibition**3. **Tea & Tourism Festival****TRIPURA**1. **Boat Race**2. **Neer Mahal****TAMIL NADU**1. **Dance Festival at Mammilapuram**2. **Natyanjali Festival, Chidambaram**3. **Summer Festival, Ooty**4. **Chithrai Festival, Madurai**5. **Tea & Tourism Festival-Coonoo****UTTAR PRADESH**1. **Jhansi Mahotsav**2. **Taj Mahotsav**3. **International Yoga Week**4. **Lucknow Festival**5. **Kumaon Festival**6. **Garhwal Festival**7. **Bodh Mahotsav****WEST BENGAL**1. **Vishnupur Festival**2. **Calcutta Festival**3. **Darjeeling Tea Festival at Siliguri****ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS**1. **Island Tourist Festival****CHANDIGARH**1. **Rose Festival**2. **Garden Festival**3. **Mek Chand****ARUNACHAL PRADESH**1. **Tamla-du-Festival**2. **Tawang Festival**3. **Nyokum Festival**4. **Mopin Festival**5. **Orchid Festival**6. **International Women**7. **Entrepreneurs Meeting**8. **Conference at Itanagar**

NAGALAND

1. Winter Festival

DELHI

1. Roshanara Festival
2. Shalimar Festival
3. Qutab Festival
4. Garden Festival
5. Chandni Chowk Festival.

Children Films

*339. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a very few children films are produced and shown in National Film Festivals; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to encourage producers to make more children's films?

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

(a) Films meant for children, catering as they do to a specific age group, have a limited market and tend to be produced in limited numbers. The films exhibited in the annual National Film Festival (NFF) consist of award winning films. The scheme of awards includes the best children's film every year and this film is shown in the NFF along with other award winning films.

(b) The National Centre of Films for Children & Young People (N'CYP), a registered society under the Ministry of I&B, has been set up for production of children's films in various languages. The Government provides grants-in-aid to N'CYP for the production, acquisition and exhibition of children's films. N'CYP also organises the biennial International Film Festival for Children and Young People with the objectives of promoting and encouraging the children's film movement by screening children's films from different countries. Films certified as children's films by the Central Board of Film Certification are normally exempted from entertainment tax by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Linking of Major Ports by Rail

*340. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to connect all the major ports by Rail;

(b) if so, whether feasibility study has been made in that regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made in implementing the above proposal? #

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) All the major ports in the country are already connected by Rail.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Corruption In Recruitment

3341. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of corruption cases in the selection procedure of Railway Recruitment Board, Bhopal noticed during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases out of them handed over to various investigating agencies;

(c) the number of cases settled and pending with the department; and

(d) whether most of the candidates have joined duties during the course of investigation affecting the investigation proceedings and consequently some of the candidates are deprived of joining the duties?

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) 13.

(b) All the 13 cases were handed over to various investigating agencies.

(c) Cases settled—7.

Cases pending—6.

(d) No, Sir. Only one candidate selected for the post of Ticket Collector could not join service owing to vigilance investigation. On completion of investigation, his name was cleared for appointment to the aforesaid post on South Eastern Railway.

[English]

Defence Production during Ninth Plan

3342. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated an ambitious indigenisation programme of defence production for the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to replace ageing warships and submarines;

(d) the details of the progress achieved in respect of ongoing projects and locations finalised/under consideration for new projects with important features thereof particularly for the projects in Maharashtra; and

(e) the status of projects being implemented/under consideration of DRDO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Indigenisation is a continuing effort, and would remain as such in the Ninth Plan period also. It would take into account the short-term and long-term requirements of the Services, fund availability, technological capability and progress in indigenous research and development. Overall requirements are projected by the Ministry and the Services, after which the Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Undertakings draw up their own indigenisation programmes.

(c) Capability improvement and modernisation of the naval fleet are important ingredients of the Ninth Plan.

(d) and (e) Details regarding projects implemented and present status of on going projects may lead to disclosing sensitive information which will not be in the public interest.

Modernisation of Stations

3343. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received by the Government for modernisation of railway stations in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to modernise the railway stations, particularly Ongole railway station in Prakasam district?

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) Requests for modernisation of many a railway stations have been received. These were considered on merits based on the volume of passenger traffic, importance of the station and number of trains halting at the stations. Accordingly, different works relating of improvement/modernisation have been taken up in Andhra Pradesh at Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Kazipet, Tandur, Vijayawada, Palakol, Narsaraopet, Cuddapah, Renigunta, Guntur, Tirupati, Samalkot, Rajahmundry, Kakinada Town, Kacheguda and Bellampalli satations.

As regards Ongole, amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic have already been provided. As a measure of augmenting the existing amenities works of provision of water booth; air conditioning of the V.I.P. lounge, renovation of retiring rooms and waiting hall and the vegetarian refreshment room, extension and surfacing of platform Nos. 1 to 3 to hold 24 coaches have been taken up at a total cost of Rs. 10.94 lakh.

[Translation]

Doubling of Patna-Gaya Railway Line

3344. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for the doubling of railway lines;

(b) whether there is any proposal for doubling of Patna-Gaya railway line in Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be doubled; and

(e) 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) Doubling of single line sections is taken up when carrying capacity of the sections gets saturated, freight intensive sections being given priority.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Phase-I : Patna-parsa Bazar is nearing completion.

Phase-II : Parsa Bazar - Punpun is in progress.

Phase-III : Punpun - Taregna has been included in the Budget 1999-2000.

The rest of the section will be taken up in the coming years.

(d) and (e) The target date for completing doubling of the entire Patna-Gaya section has not yet been fixed. The work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

[English]

35th Session of Labour Committee

3345. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :
SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH :
SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Labour invited various Ministries to participate in the 35th session of the Standing Labour Committee;

(b) if so, the names of the Ministries invited for the meeting and out of them who failed to attend the meeting; and

(c) the designation of the representatives of the Union Ministries who attended and spoke in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Nineteen Central Ministries/Departments

namely (i) Planning Commission, (ii) Agriculture and Cooperation, (iii) Coal, (iv) Commerce, (v) Environment and Forest, (vi) Expenditure, (vii) Ministry of Home Affairs (Inter State Council), (viii) Social Justice, (ix) Women and Child Development, (x) Heavy Industry, (xi) Industrial Development, (xii) Petroleum and Natural Gas, (xiii) Power, (xiv) Railways, (xv) Textiles, (xvi) Urban Affairs and Employment, (xvii) Chemicals and Petro Chemicals, (xviii) Telecommunications, and (xix) Post, were invited to attend the 35th Session of the Standing Labour Committee held in New Delhi on 6.2.99. This Session was attended by the Officers of the rank of Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary except from Department of Industrial Policy, Promotion and Industrial Development and Ministry of Power which were represented by Officers of the rank of the Director/Deputy Secretary. The representative from Department of Expenditure and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas did not attend the meeting. The representative of the Central Ministries intervene in the discussions, only when some need arises to that effect or when the Chairman desires them to speak. Because of the shortage of time no representative of the Central Ministries excepting the Ministry of Labour spoke in the meeting.

[Translation]

Employment Exchange

3346. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered in each employment exchange in Gujarat; and

(b) the number of SC/ST persons out of them registered, employment exchange-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) Number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed who were on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in Gujarat including job-seekers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is furnished in the statement enclosed.

Statement*Number of Job-seekers in the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in Gujarat as on 30.06.1998*

(in thousands)

Sl. No.	Exchanges	Total	Scheduled Caste (included in total)	Scheduled Tribe (included in total)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Amreli	18.1	4.4	0.2
2.	Ahmedabad	141.1	43.4	3.5
3.	Ahwa Dangs	4.1	0.1	3.2
4.	Baroda (Clerical)	33.9	8.8	—
5.	Baroda (Technical)	28.2	8.2	—
6.	Baroda (PH)	1.2	0.2	—
7.	Bhavnagar	30.6	5.1	0.6
8.	Bharuh	33.7	3.8	—
9.	Bhuj-Katch	25.2	3.8	1.0
10.	Chhotaudepur	13.6	13.6	—
11.	Dharampur	16.3	—	16.3
12.	Dahod	18.6	1.5	—
13.	Gandhinagar	25.9	7.9	0.9

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Godhra	34.0	4.0	—
15.	Himmatnagar	44.3	10.0	—
16.	Jamnagar	27.3	8.4	0.5
17.	Junagadh	44.6	4.8	0.5
18.	Mandvi	8.0	—	8.0
19.	Mehsana	49.9	17.4	0.7
20.	Nadiad	80.0	14.1	1.0
21.	Palanpur	36.8	8.7	2.0
22.	Porbandar	9.5	1.5	0.2
23.	Rajkot	50.9	8.8	0.9
24.	Rajpipla	8.8	—	8.8
25.	Songadh	8.8	—	8.8
26.	Surat	28.1	5.7	—
27.	Surendra Nagar	29.2	8.9	0.4
28.	Valsad	19.9	2.7	—
29.	Khedbrahma	9.5	—	9.5
30.	Patan	25.7	N.A.	N.A.

1	2	3	4	5
U.E.I.G.B.				
31.	Ahmedabad	4.9	0.7	0.1
32.	Baroda	2.6	0.2	0.1
33.	Bhavnagar	2.0	0.3	0
34.	Rajkot	4.2	0.3	0
35.	Surat	3.2	0.3	1.2
36.	V.V. Nagar	2.7	0.4	0.2
37.	Patan	3.9	N.A.	N.A.
Total		929.4	197.9	68.5

Figures may not tally due to rounding off.

@ Figures less than 50.

— Nil

N.A.: Not Available.

[English]

Survey for Ariyalur-Pattukottai Rail Line

3347. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand for the survey of a new line between Ariyalur and Pattukottai via Kumbakonam and Mannargudi;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any representations from the trading community/local representatives/residents in this regard; and

(c) if so, 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) and (b) No, Sir. However, in response to demands from various MPs, survey for a new line from Thanjavur-Pattukottai has been taken up.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of Giridih-Jashidih Rail Line

3348. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for the construction of new railway line from Giridih to Jashidih via Jamua and Chakai;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted; and

(c) if so, the time by which the project is likely to be taken up?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Functioning of Agra Division

3349. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the jurisdiction of Agra Division;

(b) the time by which Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) office at Agra is likely to be made functional; and

(c) the total estimated expenditure is likely to be incurred on its establishment and the budgetary allocation 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) The detailed territorial jurisdiction of Agra Division has been finalised as under:—

Agra-Palwal (Excl.), Agra-Tundla (Excl.), Agra-Bayana (Excl.), Agra-Bandikui (Excl.), Mathura-Alwar (Excl.), Mathura-Achnera, Mathura-Vrindavan.

(b) The Division has been planned to be set up in a phased manner over a period of 2-3 years.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2.19 crores has been provided for Agra Division for 1999-2000.

Doubling of Kuttipuram-Guruvayur Railway Line

3350. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work on the doubling of Kuttipuram-Guruvayur railway line in Kerala has commenced;

(b) if so, the present stage of the work;

(c) the amount allocated for the project; and

(d) the time by which the work on doubling of above line is likely to be completed?

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

(a) and (b) Construction of Kuttipuram-Guruvayur line was included in the budget to achieve doubling of Shoranur-Kuttipuram line. Later the scope of Mangalore-Kuttipuram doubling was extended to Shoranur as a result of which this work would now become a new line project. The requisite clearances are required to be obtained afresh for which action has already been initiated. The work would be taken up after these clearances become available.

(c) Funds will be allocated once the clearances are obtained and the work is taken up.

(d) Target date of completion has not yet been fixed.

Subsidy and Facilities in Food Processing Industry

3351. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the subsidy and facilities given to the entrepreneurs for setting up of Food Processing Industry in the country;

(b) the type of Food Processing Industry feasible and economically viable in the State of Orissa;

(c) whether any detailed study has been conducted by the Union Government for the State of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) For Promotion and growth of food processing sector in the country, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is providing financial assistance under its plan schemes in the form of soft loan or grant-in-aid to industry, non-Governmental Organisation, Co-operatives, Research and Development Institutions and Human Resource Development Centres.

The thrust areas of the plan assistance are:

1. Establishment of post harvest infrastructure including cold chain infrastructure.
2. Establishment of Food Processing Industrial Estates/Parks.
3. Setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing Industries.
4. Research and Development on food processing.
5. Human Resource Development in the food processing sector.
6. For conducting studies, Seminars, Workshops and exhibitions etc.
7. Establishment of Quality Control Facilities.

Plan schemes of the Ministry are project oriented and not State specific.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has provided financial assistance to APICOL for conducting a study on the feasibility of setting up of Industrial Food Park in the State of Orissa.

Computerisation of Library of Publications Division

3352. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to computerise the Library of Publications Division;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the sanctioned and existing staff strength of the Library;

(e) whether any representation has been received from the Library for deployment of sufficient staff according to volume of work; and

(f) if so, the action 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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d)	Designation of post	Sanctioned strength	Staff in position
1.	Library Information Assistant	2	1
2.	UDC or LDC	1	1
3.	Daftry (Peon posted in place of Daftry).	1	1

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The names have been received from Employment Exchange to fill up the only *ad hoc* post vacant and interview for the same is being held shortly.

Sound System at Bhubaneshwar Airport

3353. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sound system installed at Bhubaneshwar Airport is completely defective and passengers are unable to understand the announcements made through it; and

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken by the authority to make it audible?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The sound system installed at Bhubaneshwar airport is working satisfactorily in the security hold area and closed rooms. However, in certain selected areas because of the height, there has been echo and efforts have been made to improve the quality of sound by adjusting/relocating the position and angle of the speaker. Meanwhile, the help of experts has also been sought for improving the quality of acoustics in such areas of the airport.

Orders for Sleeper

3354. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have purchased sleeper from Tanti sleeper factory, Panagarh;

(b) if so, the number of sleeper purchased;

(c) whether the rate of previous sleeper and new sleeper are the same; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) 15.26 lakh nos.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. New rates of sleepers have been decided on the basis of open tenders and are lower than earlier rates paid.

Serials on Women's Achievements

3355. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the number of serials highlighting women's achievements have been telecast on Doordarshan during 1998 and 1999 till date, alongwith the time and dates on which they were telecast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : 13 commissioned and 13 sponsored serials highlighting women's achievement were telecast on Doordarshan during the period and their details are given in the statement.

Statement

Details of the Serials Highlighting Women's Achievement Telecast on Doordarshan during the years 1998 and 1999

S. No.	Name of the Serial	Date of Telecast	Time
1	2	3	4

COMMISSIONED SERIALS

1.	Pankhuriyan	6.1.98 to 27.1.98	4.00 p.m.
2.	Pahal	7.1.98 to 7.4.98	4.00 p.m.
3.	Ahalya	3.2.98 to 17.2.98	4.00 p.m.
4.	Nirnay	12.2.98 to 26.3.98	8.30 a.m.
5.	Pehchan	17.3.98 to 12.5.98	4.00 p.m.
6.	Anjuman	28.3.98 to 17.4.98	4.00 p.m.
7.	Nari	15.4.98 to 13.5.98	4.00 p.m.

1	2	3	4
8.	Chhoti Si Aasha	6.5.98 to 10.5.98	3.00 p.m.
9.	Vedkalin Istriyan	20.8.98 to 10.8.98	4.00 p.m.
10.	Suchitra	1.9.98 to 22.9.98	4.00 p.m.
11.	Mukti	27.8.98 to 3.9.98	8.30 a.m.
12.	Bebasi	8.2.98 and 23.2.98	4.00 p.m.
13.	Taaliyan	4.3.99 (continuing) (Repeat telecast)	8.30 a.m.

SPONSORED SERIALS

1.	Main Abla Nahin Hun	14.1.98 15.1.98 19.1.98	3.00 p.m.
2.	Charitraheen	14.1.98 15.1.98 19.1.98 20.1.98 10.2.98 11.2.98 13.2.98 23.2.98	3.30 p.m.
3.	Aparajita	5.2.98	8.30 a.m.
4.	Anandi Gopal	3.4.98 8.4.98	3.30 p.m.
5.	The Saga of the Indian Women	23.4.98	9.30 a.m.

1	2	3	4
6.	Sheela	1.9.98	3.00 p.m.
7.	Dekh Basanti Dekh Batasi	20.9.98 27.9.98 4.10.98 11.10.98 18.10.98 25.10.98	10.00 a.m.
8.	Women & Camera	26.9.98 30.7.98	10.00 a.m.
9.	Aaj Ki Naari	19.10.98 to 12.3.99	2.35 p.m.
10.	Devi Choudharani	4.1.99 18.1.99 25.1.99 1.2.99 8.2.99 15.2.99 22.2.99 1.3.99 8.3.99 15.3.99	9.30 a.m.
11.	Sabla	7.1.99 14.1.99 21.1.99 28.1.99	7.00 p.m.
12.	Samay Ke Sakshi	19.8.98 (continuing)	2.20 p.m.
13.	Aap ki Shanti	14.9.98 (3 days a week) from Monday to Wednesday) and 5 days a week w.e.f. 02.11.98 (Monday to Friday)	2.30 p.m.

Funds for Eklakhi-Balurghat Project

3356. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests received by Railway Board from the Members of Parliament for providing more funds for Eklakhi-Balurghat Project during the last three years;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) A number of requests have been received, including repetitive ones, during the last 3 years from various Members of Parliament. Very often, letters from Hon'ble Members of Parliament refer to several projects. Each request received from an Hon'ble Member of Parliament is dealt individually and due consideration is given to it. However, consolidated project-wise record of such representations is not maintained.

(b) Funds were progressively increased as under:

(i) In 1997-1998	—	Rs. 10 crs.
(ii) In 1998-1999	—	Rs. 10 crs.
(iii) In 1999-2000	—	Rs. 20 crs.

(c) The requests have already been acceded to and outlay has been doubled in 1999-2000.

Poor Inquiry Service

3357. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of poor condition of Railway Inquiry Services over Phone No. 131 which takes sometimes hours before getting it for answer;

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

(c) whether the Government also propose to set-up more Railway Inquiry Services over phone at various Railway Stations in Delhi; 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) to (d) Some instances of Enquiry Telephone remaining busy have come to notice. In Delhi area an average of around 78000 calls are handled daily with a total of 121 lines. Out of these, 67 lines are part of the automatic answering machines services. The efficiency of 131 is dependent upon the working of other Government Departments like Department of Telecom, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited etc. also. To further improve the telephone enquiry services on No. 131, a regular review of availability of lines, staff for manning etc. is carried out. Northern Railway has already set up railway enquiry services over telephone at all major passengers terminals of Delhi. In addition to this, the latest enquiry service over phone has been installed at Ghaziabad. In order to ensure functioning of enquiry system, it has been decided to set up a computerised National Train Enquiry System over Indian Railways.

Tampering of ACRs by Ex-Naval Chief

3358. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ex-chief tampered with ACRs" appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated February 2, 1999;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry into the matter has been conducted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure that ACRs are not tampered with at any stage and biased writing of confidential reports is checked?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The 'Pioneer' dated February 2, 1999 does not carry any news-item captioned "Ex-chief tampered with ACRs". However, Government have seen such a news-item in The 'Pioneer' dated February 23, 1999.

2. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that ex-CNS (Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat) had tampered with the ACR of an officer by crossing out the report of a previous CNS (Admiral V.S. Shekhawat), an superimposing his own adverse remarks. It is unprecedented for a CNS to alter an assessment report by a previous CNS.

3. The matter is being examined.

[Translation]

Documentary Film on Rivers

3359. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the rivers on which documentary film was proposed to be made for the documentary serial "Pani

Ke Akshar" depicting India's folk culture;

(b) the names of the rivers on which documentary was made and shown and the rivers on which documentary was not made; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to produce remaining documentary film in view of its popularity?

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 details of documentaries on river valley projects produced and telecast on Doordarshan are given in the statement annexed.

(c) Doordarshan plans the programmes on various topics as per its programme requirements.

Statement

Details of documentaries on river valley projects telecast by Doordarshan

S. No.	Name of the Documentary	Telecast date
1.	Sardar Sarovar Valley Project	29.07.94
2.	Burgji Narmada Nadi Ghati	10.11.94
3.	Narmada Ghati Vikas Ki Cre	03.04.95
4.	Daoba—Documentary	16.04.95
5.	Indira Gandhi Nahar Dam	26.08.95
6.	The River Krishna (Episode-1)	07.10.95
	(Episode-2)	14.10.95
	(Episode-3)	21.10.95
	(Episodes-4)	28.10.95
7.	Chimini Dam Project	06.03.96
8.	The River Valley Projects of Eastern India	
	(i) Mahanadi (Episode-1)	30.05.96
	(ii) Sone (Episode-2)	06.06.96
	(iii) Khandagpur Jhool (Episode-3)	13.06.96
	(iv) Gandak (Episode-4)	20.06.96
9.	Kosi River Valley Project	—
10.	Rihang River Valley Project	—

[*English*]

Night Landing Facility at Guwahati

3360. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether night landing facility has been provided at Guwahati airport; and

(b) if not, the time by which the same facility is likely to be provided there?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Working Group for Development of Tourism

3361. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a working group for development of tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the composition of the working group;

(c) the aspects likely to be covered by the group; and

(d) the time by which the group is likely to give its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Working Group on Tourism constituted for the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan included officials of Ministry of Tourism, Planning Commission, representative from other Ministries/Departments, representative from Hotel and Travel Industry and Tourism Secretaries of State Governments. The terms of reference included Review of the performance of Tourism Sector, to assessment of foreign tourism markets, assesment of required infrastructure facilities, review the incentives, estimates of direct employment, Product development, Human Resource Development and Promotion Marketing and Technology in Tourism Sector. The Working Group has submitted its report to the Government.

Harassment/Cheating of Foreign Tourists

3362. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing incidents of harassment and cheating of foreign tourists by the touts and criminals at the airports and other places in the country; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop such incidents and dispel any impressions about the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prevention of harassment and cheating of tourists is essentially a State Subject. However, the Ministry of Tourism maintains coordination with various concerned agencies including State Governments and Airports Authority of India to deal with such incidents. This matter was also discussed in the State Tourism Ministers' Conference held on 6th August, 1998 in New Delhi and it was resolved that the State Governments will consider legislation of suitable regulatory measures in the form of a Tourism Trade Act to ensure safety and security of tourists.

[*Translation*]

Unsatisfactory Service of A.I.R. and Doordarshan

3363. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the broadcast and telecast of A.I.R. and Doordarshan in the country have been found most unsatisfactory; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

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) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati have informed that it is their endeavour to make conscious efforts to improve the quality of programmes of All India Radio and Doordarshan. This is an ongoing process.

[*English*]

Duty Free Shops at Airports

3364. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has diluted key pre-qualification norms while inviting bids to run duty-free shops at major Indian Airports;

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

(c) the revenue earned by AAI from these duty-free shops during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) There was an amendment to the conditions of Global Tender Notice issued by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) relating to turn over for running Duty Free Shops at airports in India. This amendment was made with a view to enable the existing licensee at the airports, namely, India Tourism Development Corporation to make their bid in response to the advertisement.

(c) The revenue earned by AAI from the duty free shops during the last three years is as under :

1995-96	Rs. 745.31 lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 750.77 lakhs
1997-98	Rs. 813.56 lakhs

Defence Ties with Britain

3365. SHRI JAYARAMA I. M. SHETTY :
SHRI U. V. KRISHNAMRAJU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Britain keen on defence ties" appeared in 'The Statesman' dated January 21, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the British Government have shown interest to have defence ties with India; and

(c) if so, the details of discussions held in this regard during the past few months and the outcome thereof?

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

(c) During the visits of External Affairs Minister and other senior officials of the Government of India to UK recently, the Government of UK had suggested that bilateral cooperation between the two countries could be

resumed. In that direction, the Chief of Defence and Chief of General Staff of UK have invited our Chief of the Army Staff to visit UK. The proposal of the Government of UK to hold the next meeting of the Indo-UK Defence Consultative Group in India during March 1999 has also been accepted by the Government of India. The meeting is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on March 30-31, 1999.

[Translation]

Military Aerodrome in H.P.

3366. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister, of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force had conducted a survey sometime back to construct a military aerodrome at Jangal Barasu in district Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decisions arrived at?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Reservation in Government Jobs for Ex-servicemen in J & K

3367. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no reservation in State Government jobs for ex-servicemen in J & K;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any new schemes for welfare of ex-servicemen especially in J & K keeping in view the above fact; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir had made a provision of 5% and 10% reservation for ex-Servicemen in Group 'C' and 'D' posts of State Civil Services. This facility was, however,

withdrawn in June, 1994 and instead the State Government made a provision for 5% preferential treatment for ex-Servicemen. The State Government have been requested to restore reservation for ex-Servicemen.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Profits earned by C.S.D.

3368. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the diversion of profits earned by Canteen Stores Department to unregistered residential school as appeared in 'The Indian Express' dated December 12, 1998;

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure that these profits are utilised only on welfare schemes for jawans and their families; and

(c) the manner in which the profits generated by the C.S.D. are being utilised presently?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The allegation that there had been a diversion of any part of the profits earned by the Canteen Stores Department to an unregistered residential school is not based on facts. In fact, what happened was that an amount of Rs. 5 crores was allocated to a Society, under the name and style of 'Civil Services Society', which stands registered with Registrar of Societies, Delhi, in 1996, out of the profits of the CSD for the year 1994-95, for the establishment of a school for the children of transferable officials of the All India and Central Services, as also the children of Public Sector and non Government officials. The grant to the society was made with approval of the then Chairman, Board of Control, Canteen Services, after due scrutiny of the Project Report and securing an undertaking that the school shall reserve 25% of the seats for children of the eligible categories of personnel of the Armed Forces. To keep a watch that the profits are utilised only on the welfare schemes, the recipients are required to submit authenticated utilisation certificates alongwith necessary details, to the Ministry. 50% of the total net annual profits generated by CSD is deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India and rest 50% is distributed to the Armed Forces, Inter Services Organisations and various authorised establishments of Ministry of Defence, as grants-in-aid.

Flights to Pakistan

3369. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India/Indian Airlines are not operating its flights in any sector in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to start the flights to Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Indian Airlines, at present, operates two flights a week between Mumbai and Karachi.

Appointment of Coal Unloaders

3370. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recent judgement the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) directed the General Manager, Western Railway to appoint 16 Coal Unloaders on permanent basis in the Divisions under Western Railways;

(b) if so, whether these Unloaders have since been appointed on permanent basis as per the CAT judgement; 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) and (b) No such directives were given by Central Administrative Tribunal, New Delhi, in the recent judgement dated 08.12.1998, in original Application No.1670/97. The directive given by Central Administrative Tribunal, New Delhi, in their earlier judgement dated 16.07.1992 was that the applicants should be considered for engagement as Casual labour, wherever vacancies exist. In implementation of the Central Administrative Tribunal's judgement *ibid*, a list of 16 Coal Unloaders was issued by Jaipur Division under Western Railway with the direction that they will be engaged as Casual

Labour in Mechanical Department depending upon the requirement. Since there was no requirement in Mechanical Department of any Division of Western Railway, the 16 Coal Unloaders were not engaged. Aggrieved, 7 out of these 16 Coal Unloaders approached Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, for their absorption. The Central Administrative Tribunal, New Delhi in their judgement dated 08.12.1998 directed the Railways to continue the efforts to engage the applicants in any of the Division of Western Railway as per the earlier order dated 16.07.1992, i.e. as Casual Labour.

(c) The 16 Coal Unloaders have not been appointed on permanent basis because the Court's directive is not for permanent absorption but for engaging them as casual Labour on any Division of Western Railway, whenever such opportunity becomes available. However, it is not possible to engage them at present, as there is a total ban on engagement of Casual Labour.

Job Replacement in Beedi Sector

3371. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :
SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA :
SHRI M. RAJIAH :
DR. SANJAY SINH :
SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the World's largest Tobacco Multinational namely M/s. Philip Morris has applied for entry to produce cigarettes to tap the beedi sector;

(b) whether the giant MNC Philip Morris approached the Government on job replacement plans in the beedi sector;

(c) whether the Director General of Labour has discussed this issue with Philip Morris of USA; and

(d) if so, the details of such talks?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) M/s. FTR Holdings SA, Switzerland, a subsidiary of M/s. Philip Morris Companies Inc., have submitted a proposal for foreign investment for setting up a 100% subsidiary to establish a Research and Technical Services Centre to implement programmes with farmers to improve tobacco leaves quality and yield, inclusive of

flue cured Virginia, burley and oriental types, etc. Their proposal does not contain any reference to beedi sector. As such, question of job replacement plans in beedi sector does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Programme on J & K

3372. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned Rs. 10 crores to Doordarshan to prepare a programme on Jammu and Kashmir during the current year;

(b) if so, whether the Government have reviewed the utilisation of amount already given to Doordarshan for the said purpose;

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(d) the programmes prepared by Doordarshan on Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years; and

(e) the date on which these programmes were telecast indicating the names of producers?

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) On the recommendations of the Core Group of Secretaries on Media, an additional special amount of Rs.14.66 crores (Rs. 10.00 crores for the current financial year 1998-99 and Rs. 4.66 crores for meeting the outstanding liabilities) has been approved by Ministry of Finance for production of special programmes by Prasar Bharati (Doordarshan and AIR) in various formats on developmental, cultural, historical and other aspects of life in Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Further funds for the purpose are sanctioned only after it has been ascertained that the funds sanctioned earlier were utilised for the bonafide purpose.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Effects of Nuclear Explosion on Defence
Communication System**

3373. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new defence system to save highly sophisticated communication system from the electromagnetic effects of nuclear explosions has been developed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said system is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. A development programme has been undertaken.

(b) and (c) It is not in the national interest to give details.

Manufacturing of Long Range Submarines

3374. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have achieved success in manufacturing long range submarine which can also operate in very deep water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the inputs being used in manufacturing the said submarine is indigenous; and

(d) the amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Two submarines were constructed at Mazagon Dock Ltd. (MDL), Mumbai and commissioned in Indian Navy in 1992 and in 1994. These submarines are capable of operating in deep waters.

(c) The material package for these submarines was obtained from abroad in finished/semi-finished stages. The

actual building of submarine and system integration were carried out at MDL, Mumbai.

(d) In February, 1997, Government sanction has been issued for construction of two more of these submarines at an estimated cost of Rs. 700 crores each. The construction work has not yet commenced.

[English]

FP Units in Goa

3375. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of food processing units operating in Goa at present;

(b) the annual production in terms of quantity and values; and

(c) the incentives that are available to these units?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Food processing industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors. Hence, the information regarding the number of food processing industries functioning, state-wise, is not maintained centrally. However as per Annual Survey of industries published in 1994-95 by Central Statistical Organisation of Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation, in the state of Goa there were 433 food processing units in the factory sector having an output of Rs. 1133 crores approximately.

(c) The Ministry provides financial assistance under its plan schemes, in the form of loan or grant-in-aid to industry, Non-Governmental Organisation, Co-operatives, Research & Development Institutions and Human Resource Development Centres. The Thrust areas for the plan assistance are :

1. Establishment of post harvest infrastructure including cold chain infrastructure.
2. Establishment of Food Processing Industrial Estates/Parks.
3. Setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries.
4. Research & Development on food processing.

5. Human Resource Development in the food processing sector.
6. For conducting studies, Seminars, Workshops and exhibitions etc.
7. Establishment of Quality Control Facilities.

Toy Train in New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling

3376. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Toy Train in New Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling in West Bengal is going to resume its journey;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the narrow gauge railway tracks are being laid on this railway line; 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) to (d) Due to breaches in track structure between Tindharia and Kurseong, train services between New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling have been suspended since 10.6.1998. Efforts are underway for the restoration of communication on narrow gauge railway line, between New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling. Trains will be restored after completion of the restoration work.

Sale Proceeds of Defence Units

3377. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI D. S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the sale proceeds of each of the Defence Public Sector Undertakings during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to increase the Sale/production of these units?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The information is given in the statement.

(b) There is a steady increase in the value of production.

All Defence Public Sector Units are Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing organisations. Performance parameters are an essential ingredient of the MOU and these are regularly monitored.

A proactive approach towards modernisation, diversification and product upgrade of PSUs is adopted to enable them to meet their targets. On the other hand since Services are their main customers, the fund availability for purchase also needs to be kept in view.

Statement

Sale Proceeds of Defence Public Sector Undertakings

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Public Sector Undertaking	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
HAL	1566.91	1770.00	1669.93
BEL	1068.98	1226.24	1261.30
BEML	1011.10	1169.79	1259.71

1	2	3	4
GRSE	82.92	159.39	145.45
GSL	15.15	279.18	27.24
MDL	94.47	207.93	1095.31
BDL	203.17	264.30	311.65
MIDHANI	84.12	91.92	92.51
Total	4126.82	5168.75	6063.10

Small Aircraft

3378. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the number of passenger aircraft of less than 100 seats capacity with the Government and the routes on which these are flying?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : Indian Airlines operates three Dornier DO-228 aircrafts on the following routes :

- (i) Cochin-Agatti-Cochin
- (ii) Delhi-Shimla-Kullu-Delhi.

Operation on the following routes will commence shortly:

- (i) Goa-Agatti-Goa
- (ii) Delhi-Chandigarh-Ludhiana-Delhi
- (iii) Delhi-Dehradun-Delhi.

Export of Locomotives, Coaches and Wagons

3379. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Number of Locomotives, coaches and wagons exported during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 till date, separately country-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the export of locomotives and wagons; 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) The number of locomotives, coaches and wagons country-wise and year-wise exported/given on lease during the last three years is as under:

Year	Country	Outright Sale	Lease
1996-97	Bangladesh	Diesel Electric Locomotives YDM4(10 nos.)	—
1996-97	U.K.	Old NG Steam Locomotive (01 no.)	—
1996-97	Malaysia	—	09 MG Diesel Electric Locomotives.
1997-98	Malaysia	—	05 MG Diesel Electric Locomotives.
1997-98	Sri Lanka	Diesel Electric Locomotives WD M2 (6 nos.) & WD M6 (01 no.)	—
1997-98	Tanzania	IIIrd class MG Passenger coaches (27 nos.)	—
1998-99	Tanzania	—	10 MG Diesel Electric Locomotives.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Export of rolling stock has been identified as one of the thrust areas and decided to enter into International Market for export of both new and second hand rolling stock through aggressive marketing efforts.

These efforts have resulted in number of enquiries from South East Asian and African countries.

Reservation Quota for Handicapped

3380. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide reservation quota of berth to the handicapped in all the classes and in all the trains;

(b) if so, whether the Government also propose to provide special facilities in the bogies reserved for the lady passengers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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) Two berths in sleeper class in all trains running on non-suburban sections have been earmarked for handicapped persons performing their journey on handicapped concessional ticket. The person accompanying the handicapped person as escort is also provided accommodation out of this quota. At present, there is no proposal to earmark separate quota for handicapped persons in upper class.

(b) to (d) A logo indicating that this coach is booked for ladies is displayed outside the coach. Ladies compartment is generally attached near the guard's van so as to render all possible assistance in case of emergency. Checks are also conducted from time to time to ensure that the coach earmarked for ladies is not occupied by gents.

Gauge Conversion in Gujarat

3381. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for the conversion of MG/NG railway line into Broad gauge from Windmill station to Bedi Port is under consideration;

(b) if so, the present position in regard to action taken thereon; 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) The suggested line will be a single user siding and can be provided at the cost of the Port Authorities. They have not initiated any action in this regard so far.

Indian Institute of Mass Communication

3382. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) The Indian Institute of Mass Communications set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government contemplate to set up more such institutions;

(c) if is, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which these institutions are likely to be set 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) In addition to the main Institute which is located in Delhi, following branches of Indian Institute of Mass Communication are being set up :

(i) Dhenkanal (Orissa)

(ii) Kottayam (Kerala)

(iii) Dimapur (Nagaland)

(iv) Jhabua (Madhya Pradesh)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Development of Food Processing Industries

3383. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether development of Food Processing Industries is lagging far behind in Orissa than other States;

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove regional imbalance in the development of Food processing Industries in Orissa and other States where it is not developed adequately; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up any food processing units directly in any State. However, under the Plan Schemes being operated by the Ministry, financial assistance is extended to State Government Organisations/Public Sector/Joint Sector/ Assisted Sector Companies, Private Sector Companies/ Cooperatives/NGOs for development of food processing industries. These schemes are project oriented and not State specific.

[*Translation*]

Flights from Indore to Ahmedabad, Calcutta and Hyderabad

3384. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for air-service from Indore to Ahmedabad, Calcutta and Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A request has been received for restoration of service on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Indore-Bhopal-Calcutta route as

also to provide direct links to cities of Madras, Bangalore and Nagpur.

(c) 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 including Indore depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

[*English*]

Modernisation of Railway Stations

3385. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received by the Government for modernisation and expansion of Railway Stations in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard particularly for Trivandrum-Petta-Trivandrum Central Stations?

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) Requests for modernisation of many a railway stations have been received. These were considered on merits based on the volume of passenger traffic, importance of the station and number of trains halting at the stations. Works of improvement/modernisation have accordingly been taken up at Trivandrum Central, Ernakulam Jn., Trichur, Calicut, Kottayam, Quilon, Kayankulam and Alleppey railway stations.

At Trivandrum Central the work of new Station Building on the second entry side and face lifting of the existing station building was done during 1993-94 at a cost of Rs. 120.00 lakh. Raising of the island platform; improvements to retiring room; provision of Close Circuit Television at reservation office and provision of a 18 bedded dormitory were also done at a cost of Rs. 47.56 lakhs during the period 1994 to 1998. In addition, the provision of 2 additional platforms with shelters and a foot-over-bridge have also been taken up alongwith the ongoing doubling work.

At Trivandrum Pettah, the works of extension of the platform to hold 22 coach trains and the provision of a new platform were completed during 1993-94. Paving of the platform has also been taken up.

Berths for Senior Citizen

3386. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Senior Citizens are being allotted Upper Berths for their night journey in trains inspite of their requests for lower Berths; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to mitigate this hardship of the Senior Citizens?

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) Provision has already been made in the computerised reservation system to reserve automatically lower berths to Senior Citizens even if they do not give their choice provided lower berths are available at the time of booking.

Problems Facing Workers Abroad

3387. SHRI D.B. ROY :
SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians working abroad, country-wise;

(b) whether any study has been conducted by the Government on the various problems facing by them abroad;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) According to the available information 67,58,192 Indians are settled abroad. A statement indicating the number of Indians settled abroad, country-wise is attached.

(b) to (d) While Government have not commissioned a specific study relating to various problems faced by Indians working abroad, tow teams, including one comprising members of the Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs, recently visited the Gulf region to assess, *inter-alia*, the capacity of the Indian diplomatic missions/posts to address the consular problems of the Indian working in the region. As a result, the strength of the consular staff in these missions/posts has been augmented. The Indian diplomatic missions/posts abroad are also continuously analysing the various problems faced by Indian workers in the area/countries of their jurisdiction in the context of the local socio-economic or political environment. Prompt action is taken to resolve these problems while keeping the relevant authorities in India informed, and seeking advice and assistance wherever required.

Statement

Country	Approximate Number of Indians settled
1	2
Afghanistan	0
Albania	5
Algeria	80
Angola	70
Angulla	4
Antigua	40
Argentina	800
Armenia	150
Aruba	50
Australia	28564
Austria	11000

1	2	1	2
Azerbaijan	120	Cambodia	183
Bahamas	0	Cameroon	250
Bahrain	100000	Canada	420000
Bangladesh	555	Cape Verde Islands	0
Barbados	69	Cayman Islands	50
Barbuda	0	Central African Republic	10
Belarus	94	Chad	0
Belgium	5000	Chile	500
Belize	340	China (PRC)(including Hong Kong)	21500
Benin	400	China (Republic of)	0
Bhutan	20000	Colombia	59
Bolivia	50	Comoros	250
Bosnia Herzegovina	1	Congo	15
Botswana	3000	Cook Island	0
Brazil	1500	Costa Rica	7
Brunei Darussalam	9208	Croatia	4
Bulgaria	35	Cuba	15
Burkina Faso	15	Cyprus	350
Burundi	700	Czech Republic	56

1	2	1	2
Denmark	500	Greece	10340
Djibouti	350	Grenada	56
Dominica	18	Guatemala	8
Dominican Republic	0	Guinea	60
Ecuador	6	Guinea Bissau	5 //
Egypt	1360	Guyana	240
El Salvador	6	Haiti	0
Equatorial Guinea	6	Holy See	0
Eritrea	10	Honduras	5
Estonia	12	Hungary	180
Ethiopia	12	Iceland	18
Finland	600	Indonesia	5400
France	10000	Iran	1400
Gabon	5	Iraq	80
Gambia	80	Ireland	1500
Georgia	60	Israel	500
Germany	34020	Italy	15062
Ghana	1500	Ivory Coast	125
		Jamaica	1200

1	2	1	2
Japan	5508	Macedonia	0
Jordan	900	Madagascar	3000
Kazakhstan	745	Malaysia	30000
Kenya	8000	Maldives	
Kiribati	0	Mali	13
Korea (DPR)	1	Malta	150
Korea (Republic of)	400	Malawi	300
Kuwait	195000	Mauritania	0
Kyrgyzstan	175	Mauritius	360
Laos	183	Mexico	250
Latvia	75	Micronesia	0
Lebanon	11000	Moldova	0
Lesotho	250	Mongolia	40
Liberia	300	Montserrat	15
Libya	12000	Morocco	340
Liechtenstein	0	Mozambique	500
Lithuania	0	Myanmar	2175
Luxembourg	179	Namibia	52
Macau	0	Nauru	100

1	2	1	2
Nepal	1000000	Portugal	2000
Netherlands	5000	Qatar	80000
Netherlands Antilies	2000	Reunion Island	173
Nevis	0	Romania	220
	750	Russian Federation	12000
Paraguay	4	Rwanda	300
	13	San Marino	0
Nigeria	22000	Sao-Tome & Principe	0
Norway	2100	Saudi Arabia	1300000
Oman	410825	Senegal	40
Pakistan	0	Seychelles	500
Palau	0	Sierra Leone	430
Panama	3828	Singapore	28000
Papua New Guinea	0	Slovak	50
Paraguay	30	Slovenia	10
Palestine	0	Solomon Islands	0
Peru	200	Saint Kitts	16
Philippines	13000	South Africa	3000
Poland	600	Spain	14000

1	2	1	2
Sri Lanka	131220	Tuvalu	0
St. Lucia	75	Uganda	2000
St. Vincent & Grenadines	20	Ukraine	2100
Sudan	1150	United Arab Emirates	1200000
Surinam	150	United Kingdom	130000
Swaziland	200	United States of America	1300000
Sweden	1535	Uruguay	10
Switzerland	4169	Uzbekistan	380
Syria	500	Vanuatu	0
Tajikistan	143	Venezuela	400
Tanzania	3500	Vietnam	350
Thailand	15000	Western Samoa	10
Togo	300	Yemen	3500
Tonga	50	Yugoslavia	16
Trinidad & Tobago	300	Zaire	650
Tunisia	45	Zambia	60000
Turkmenistan	270	Zimbabwe	15500
Turks & Caicos Islands	20	Total	6758192

Occupancy Rate in Hotels

3388. SHRI MADAN PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was fall in occupancy rate in Hotels during the peak season in 1997-98 and 1998-99 as compared to 1996-97 despite the increase in arrival of foreign tourists in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the number of hotels in the country constructed prior to 1982 which are hiking their rates every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) There was a decline in occupancy rate in approved categories of hotels during October to December 1997-98 and 1998-99 as compared to 1996-97. There was also a decline in foreign tourist arrivals during October to December 1998-99 as compared to the corresponding period of 1996-97. The reasons for decline in occupancy rate of approved hotels include high rates of published hotel tariffs in metro cities and the decline in business traffic who prefer to stay in high class hotels.

(c) The hotels have been advised to discontinue the dual tariff system under which foreign tourists are charged at a high rate.

(d) There were 335 approved hotels in the country prior to 1982. However, the tariffs are fixed by the hoteliers themselves and they are not required to report changes in tariffs to the Ministry of Tourism at present.

Liberalisation of Employee's Pension Scheme

3389. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to liberalise the existing Employee's Pension Scheme, 1995 so as to include all the retired employees who are beyond the pensionary limit at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Radar System at IGIA

3390. DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "ATC system goof-up delays flights" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated January 3, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the radar system set up at Indira Gandhi International Airport failed to cope up with the high density traffic;

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

(e) the criteria for selecting firms; and

(f) the names of the firms selected for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item referred to the problems of the Automated Air Traffic Control System while it was undergoing trial before its commissioning on 11th January, 1999.

(c) and (d) The new radar system was made operational from 11th January, 1999 after carrying out various tests including System Site Acceptance Test (SSAT). Shake down test, and running the system for shadow operations. There were some teething problem inherent in the commissioning of a new project and these have not been taken care of. However, any malfunction which is noticed, will be attended to by the trained technical personnel of Airports Authority of India as well as that of the equipment vendor M/s. Raytheon as per the system of warranty for the equipments.

(e) and (f) The firms were selected by following the procedure of inviting global tenders and after due evaluation of the technical and financial bids for the project

of modernisation of Air Traffic Services at Delhi and Mumbai airports. M/s. Raytheon of USA was awarded the work on a turnkey basis in March, 1993.

[*Translation*]

Industries lying Closed

3391. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : 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 the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise; 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) One of the objectives of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) set up by the Union Government in 1987 is to rehabilitate sick industrial units both in the Private and Public Sector. According to Information available upto 31st December, 1998, a total of 617 rehabilitation schemes have been approved/sanctioned by BIFR since inception.

[*English*]

Bagdogra Airport

3392. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bagdogra Airport will temporarily be closed for renovation;

(b) if so, the time for which it will be closed;

(c) whether the Government of West Bengal and Sikkim have been consulted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the discussion took place in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) According to the Airports Authority of India, the Indian Air Force has plans to resurface the runway and associated pavements during 1999-2000. The details in this regard are being ascertained.

Registration of Newspapers

3393. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of newspapers started during January 1, 1996 to December 31, 1998 in Gujarat, Mumbai and Delhi on daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly basis;

(b) whether some applications are pending for starting newspapers during the above period have not been granted registration till date;

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

(d) the time by which the registrations are likely to be granted?

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 total number of newspapers/periodicals started from Gujarat, Mumbai and Delhi during 1996, 1997 and 1998 are 416, 472 and 401 respectively. Periodicity and place-wise break-up is given in the Statement. Information regarding names and other details is voluminous and is published annually in a document form entitled "Press in India" by the Registrar of Newspapers for India.

(b) There is no need for registration for starting a newspaper. Registration is done only after commencement of its publication.

(c) and (d) In view of (b) above, do not arise.

Statement

*Periodicity-wise number of publications started from Gujarat,
Mumbai and Delhi during 1996, 1997 and 1998*

Year		Dailies	Weeklies	Fortnightlies	Monthlies
1996	Gujarat	08	71	10	14
	Mumbai	11	15	04	09
	Delhi	33	83	51	107 //
1997	Gujarat	14	79	17	17
	Mumbai	11	17	09	36
	Delhi	28	101	60	93
1998	Gujarat	05	44	16	17
	Mumbai	02	20	03	16
	Delhi	26	76	40	136

Attachment of A.C. 3-Tier Coaches

3394. SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the name of the trains which have been provided 3 tier A.C. Sleeper Coaches, during the last one year and to be provided during the current financial year?

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.C. 3-tier sleeper accommodation has been introduced on the following trains from 1.4.1998 :

1. 1013/1014 Kurla-Bangalore Express

2. 1077/1078 Pune-Jammu Tawi Jhelum Express

3. 1071/1072 Kurla-Varanasi Kamayani Express

4. 1015/1016 Kurla-Gorakhpur Kushinagar Express

5. 1081/1082 Mumbai-Kanniyakumari Express

6. 8409/8410 Howrah-Puri Sri Jagannath Express

7. 5205/5206 New Delhi-Muzaffarpur Lichchavi Express

8. 5213/5214 N.Delhi-Muzaffarpur Swatantrata Senani Express

9. 5063/5064 Gorakhpur-Bandra Avadh Express

10. 2925/2926 Mumbai-Amritsar Paschim Express
11. 5645/5646 Guwahati-Dadar Express
12. 5623/5624 Guwahati-Cochin Express
13. 5625/5626 Guwahati-Bangalore Express
14. 4005/4006 Nizamuddin-Indore Intercity Express
15. 4859/4860 Delhi-Jodhpur Express
16. 2435/2436 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express
17. 6717/6718 Madras-Madurai Pandiyan Express
18. 2627/2628 Karnataka Express
19. 7053/7054 Hyderabad-Madras Express
20. 7085-7086 Bangalore-Secunderabad Express
21. 3005/3006 Howrah-Amritsar Mail
22. 6119/6120 Chennai-Kanniyakumari Express
23. 6605/6606 Chennai-Mettupalayam Nilgiri Express
24. 6333/6334 Trivandrum-Rajkot Express
25. 6335/6336 Gandhidham-Nagercoil Express
26. 6337/6338 Cochin-Rajkot Express
27. 2619/2620 Mangalore-Kurla Express
28. 2461/2462 Delhi-Jodhpur Mandore Express
29. 8451/8452 Rourkela-Bhubaneshwar Tapaswini Express.

Introduction of AC 3-tier sleeper is an ongoing process and will be introduced on more trains during current financial year depending upon the availability of coaches from Production Units.

Purchase of Russian Anti-missile System

3395. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any negotiations are being undertaken for purchase of Russian anti-missile system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the delivery schedule of the system?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Daily Rail Commuters of Delhi

3396. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests from the Association of rail commuters residing in the suburban of Delhi regarding the increase in railway services, change in railway schedule and the additional number of railway halts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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 PANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) to (c) A large number of representations are received at various levels of Government regarding introduction, extension, rescheduling, stoppages of trains, additional railway halts, etc. These are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken. It has been decided to introduce an additional pair of DMU services on Delhi-Sharnli section.

[English]

Proposal by Pune Pravasi Paryatak Manch

3397. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from Pune Pravasi Paryatak Manch relating to railways;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals;

(c) the action being taken by the Government on those proposals; and

(d) the time by which the final decision on those proposals 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representation has the following proposals :—

1. Increase in frequency of Pune-Ahmedabad Ahimsa Express and its extension upto Jodhpur.
2. Implementation of Pune Division.
3. Attachment of AC-3 tier coaches in Pune-Ahmedabad Ahimsa Express, Pune-Howrah Azad Hind Express, Goa Express, Kolhapur-Gondia Maharashtra Express.
4. Stoppage of Pune-Mumbai Pragati Express at Kalyan station.
5. Extension of Goa Express upto Vasco-da-Gama and change in its timings ex-Pune.
6. Permission to travel in the sleeper class coaches during day time on Pune-Mumbai and Mumbai-Pune-Solapur section.

(c) and (d) The frequency of 1095/1096 Pune-Ahmedabad Ahimsa Express will be increased from 3 days a week to 4 days a week during 1999-2000.

Extension of Ahimsa Express upto Jodhpur, attachment of AC 3-tier coaches in Ahimsa Express, Azad Hind Express, Goa Express and Maharashtra Express, stoppage of Pragati Express at Kalyan & extension of Goa Express upto Vasco-da-Gama and change in its timings ex-Pune have been examined but not found operationally and technically feasible. Besides, the section between Castle Rock and Kulem is not yet cleared by Commissioner for Railway Safety for operation of passenger trains.

Sleeper class is a fully reserved class and higher than second class. Passengers holding confirmed and RAC ticket for this class are only allowed to travel in this class. Higher fare is charged from passengers for travel by this class for enjoying a relatively convenient journey. Keeping the safety and convenience of reserved passengers in mind, under no circumstances, unreserved passengers are booked alongwith sleeper class passengers.

Daund (excl.)-Baramati and Pune-Ahmednagar section has been included in Pune Division. Daund station has not been included due to operational reasons.

Performance of I.A.

3398. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines have performed well during November & December 1998;

(b) if so, whether there were a sudden increase in traffic to a conscious exercise on the part of Indian Airlines to improve its services;

(c) if so, whether the marketing exercise are able to fetch the desired results; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The performance of Indian Airlines during the month of

November and December 1998, was as follows :-

(Rs. in crores)

	November, 1998	December, 1998
Operating Profit/(Loss)	14.90	41.05
Net Profit/(Loss)	(4.10)	22.25
Revenue Tonne Kilometres (RTKMs) (Million)	57.033	64.601

The details of passengers carried are as below:—

No. of Passengers carried (in million)	October, 1998	November, 1998	December, 1998
	0.58	0.587	0.546

Improvement in the product and marketing efforts are ongoing process Indian Airlines makes continuous efforts to improve its product and to retain competitive edge in the market. Indian Airlines is taking measures to bring about qualitative and quantitative improvement in the service rendered to the passengers and increase in profitability through :- (i) Product upgrade, (ii) Increase utilisation of aircraft, (iii) Increase International operations, (iv) Increased productivity, (v) Creation of profit centres, (vi) Innovative and aggressive marketing strategies, (vii) Launching of Alliance Air, and (viii) Cost control measure.

[Translation]

Air Crashes near Bamharauli Airport

3399. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air crashes often take place at Bamharauli Airport (C.A.T.C.) in Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of such air crashes during the last three years and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount of compensation provided for the loss of life and property in such aircrashes and the efforts made to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Civil Aviation Training Centre (C.A.T.C.) is an organisation under Ministry of Civil Aviation. It has been informed by that Ministry that this centre does not have any aircraft of its own.

[English]

Malayalam Movie 'Pathram'

3400. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Censor Board has given certificate for release of a Malayalam movie named 'Pathram';

(b) whether there were some objections for giving such certification to the said movie;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether certification for some Hindi and regional language films have been criticised by the public and courts;

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

(f) the grounds on which certificates have been issued to these films?

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) While the process of examination of the film PATHRAM for certification was on, the Central Board of Film Certification received a complaint alleging that there was an attempt in the film to denigrate and distort the role and functioning of newspaper media. Later, this complaint was withdrawn by the complainant. The film was certified on 15.2.99 by the Board after verification of cuts and completion of other formalities.

(d) and (e) In the recent past, in view of the complaints received regarding the film FIRE, after its release, it was referred to the Central Board of Film Certification for re-examination. The Board re-examined the film and reported that the 'A' certificate granted to the film was appropriate. The report of the Board has been accepted by Government.

In the case of film POLICE STORY (Kannada), the High Court of Karnataka ordered cancellation of the censor certificate on the ground *inter alia* that the film denigrates the legal system, the courts and the judiciary.

(f) All films are certified by the C.B.F.C. after they are examined in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder. Films considered fit for exhibition are granted certificates with or without cuts. If the Board feels that the negative impact of the film cannot be removed by deletions, the film is refused a certificate. In the case of film FIRE, the committee which examined the film did not find it objectionable. In the case of film POLICE STORY, the Board had deleted portions considered objectionable in terms of the guidelines before 'A' certificate was granted.

Increase in the Air Services in Orissa

3401. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Government of Orissa to increase air services in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has received request to airlink Bhubaneswar with other cities like Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai and Pune.

(c) 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.

D.R.D.O. Awards for Scientists

3402. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have instituted any awards for the scientists of D.R.D.O.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of awards conferred on the scientists during 1998 and the current year along with the details of the field and the amount of awards?

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

(b) Government have instituted an award scheme consisting of 10 types of awards for scientists and laboratories of DRDO and their partner institutions.

(c) A Statement is attached.

Statement

The titles of the awards instituted by Government and the Amounts in each case are given below :—

(a) AGNI Award for Excellence in Self-Reliance (Rs 2.00 lakh each, 5 Awards)

(b) DRDO Award for Path Breaking Research (Rs 10.00 lakhs, 1 Award)

(c) DRDO Award for Excellence in Performance (Rs 10.00 lakh, 2 Awards)

(d) Defence Technology Absorption Award (Rs 10.00 lakh, 2 Awards)

- (e) Academic Excellence Award
(Rs. 10.00 lakh, 1 Award)
- (f) Technology Leadership Award
(Rs 2.00 lakh, 2 Awards)
- (g) DRDO Scientists of the Year Award
(Rs 1.00 lakh, 10 Awards)
- (h) DRDO Young Scientists Award
(Rs 50,000/-, 8 Awards)
- (i) Best Performance Award
(Rs 25,000/-, 8 Awards)
- (j) Defence Technology Spin-off Award
(Rs. 2 lakhs, 5 Awards)

Based on the recommendations of the Awards Committee constituted by the Government, it has been decided to give the following awards for the excellent contribution made during 1998.

(a) DRDO Award for Path Breaking Research

This award is given to scientific teams of SHAKTI-98 from Department of Atomic Energy and DRDO.

(b) DRDO Award for Excellence in Performance (2 Awards)

One of the awards is given to the team engaged in design, development leading to production and Service induction of PRITHVI missile system. Another award is given to the team engaged in design, development leading to production and Service induction of Integration Airborne Electronic Warfare System.

(c) Academic Excellence Award (1 Award)

The Award is given to the following two teams :

- (i) The team of Centre for Applied Research in Electronic (CARE) of IIT, Delhi for the innovative research development and leading to production of phase control module, through indigenous effort.
- (ii) The team of Department of Electrical Engineering, Jadavpur University, Calcutta, for the outstanding contribution in research and evolution of Guidance and Control algorithm for flight vehicles.

(d) DRDO Scientists of the year Award

8 Scientists of DRDO get this Award for their excellent contribution in research and development of Defence Technologies in advanced computing, naval, armaments, missile, radar, communication and EW fields.

(e) DRDO Young Scientists Award

Six young scientists of DRDO get this award for their excellent contribution in research and development of Defence Technologies in communication, life sciences, missile, armament and metallurgy fields.

These awards are announced towards the end of the year after considering the performance during the entire year. Therefore, the awards for the current year are not yet due for consideration.

Land for International Airport at Bhubaneswar

3403. SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total land acquired for the construction of the International Airport at Bhubaneswar;

(b) whether compensation is being paid for the landowners; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Airports Authority of India paid an amount of Rs. 25 lakhs to the State Government of Orissa towards the acquisition of land measuring 68.32 acres which was handed over to it in November 1992 for the extension of the runway from 7440 feet to 9000 feet.

[Translation]

Setting up of FPI Units

3404 SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals approved for the setting up of Food Processing Industries during 1997-98 and 1998-99 till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the target fixed for setting up of such units during the above period has been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) The State-wise number of proposals approved, including Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEMs) filed for setting up of food processing units during April 1997 to December, 1998 is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) The Ministry does not set up any food processing unit in any State. As most of the units are set up by the private entrepreneurs/companies, no targets for setting up of food processing units are fixed. However, the Ministry provides financial assistance for growth, development, promotion of food processing industries including for setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries under its Plan Schemes.

Statement

State-wise Number of Proposals Approved for setting up of Food Processing units during April, 1997—December, 1998

S. No.	State	No. of Proposals
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	69
2.	Assam	3
3.	Bihar	7
4.	Gujarat	34
5.	Haryana	36
6.	Himachal Pradesh	12
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	2

1	2	3
8.	Karnataka	30
9.	Kerala	11
10.	Madhya Pradesh	59
11.	Maharashtra	210
12.	Nagaland	1
13.	Orissa	4
14.	Punjab	38
15.	Rajasthan	31
16.	Tamil Nadu	56
17.	Uttar Pradesh	129
18.	West Bengal	54
19.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3
20.	Delhi	5
21.	Daman & Diu	2
22.	Pondicherry	9
23.	Goa	5
24.	Andaman & Nicobar	1
25.	Location not Identified	6
Total		817

Train Accidents in Mumbai Suburban Rail Services

3405. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents occurred in Mumbai Suburban rail services during the last one year and till date;

(b) the number of persons killed/injured thereby separately;

(c) the total amount of compensation paid to the victims; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to avoid recurrence such type of accidents?

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 total number of accidents occurred in Mumbai Suburban rail services during the last one year and till date are given below:

1998	—	14
1999*	—	Nil
*up to February		

(b) The number of persons killed/injured are as under :—

Killed	—	2
Injured	—	Nil

(c) No compensation has been paid to the victims of train accident occurred in Mumbai Suburban Rail Services during the last one year and till date so far. However an amount of Rs. 15,000 has been paid as ex-gratia to the victims.

(d) Steps taken to bring down the incidence of train accidents on Indian Railways are as under :—

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

- (ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.
- (iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections.
- (iv) Walkie-Talkie sets are being progressively supplied to Drivers and Guards on selected routes.
- (v) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.
- (vi) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.
- (vii) For detecting rail fractures and weld failures 96 more double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors are being procured.
- (viii) In Addition to the above, 2 Self Propelled Ultra Sonic Rail Testing Cars are also being procured.
- (ix) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- (x) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, Routine Over Hauling Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.
- (xi) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.
- (xii) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
- (xiii) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
- (xiv) Periodic Safety Audit of different divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from zonal headquarters has been introduced.

- (xv) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.
- (xvi) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.
- (xvii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.
- (xviii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

[English]

Butterfly Catching Expeditions

3406. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of foreign travel agents and tour operators attract tourists to India with the promise of butterfly catching expeditions;
- (b) if so, whether such an expedition is prohibited under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; and
- (c) if so, the measures taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) No such incident has come to the notice of the Ministry of Tourism.

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Jaipur as International Airport

3407. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for not converting the Jaipur Airport into an International Airport;
- (b) the amount spent by the Union Government for the development of the Jaipur Airport during the last three years;

(c) whether the boundary walls have been erected around the piece of land acquired from the State Government for the construction of the International airport and whether the work on the construction of runway has been completed;

(d) if so, whether the heavy fog during winter in Delhi has necessitated the conversion of the Jaipur Airport into an International Airport; and

(e) if so, the time by which it will be converted?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Jaipur is a model airport with customs and immigration facilities for limited international operations by national carriers and foreign tourist charter flights.

(b) The amount spent on upgradation of Jaipur Airport to international standards during the last three years is Rs. 1.31 crores in 1995-96 and Rs. 1.60 crores in 1997-98.

(c) Under Phase-I, the works of boundary wall around 100 acres of land and the extension of runway from 6000 feet to 7500 feet, have been completed on 17th February, 1999. Under Phase-II, tenders have been invited for construction of boundary wall around the remaining 300 acres of land and the probable date of completion is May 2000 under this phase the runway will also be extended to 9000 feet.

(d) and (e) Jaipur airport is designated as an alternate airport to handle diverted flights of AB-320/AB-310 class. There is no proposal at present to convert Jaipur airport into an international airport.

[English]

Killing of own Colleagues by Army Soldiers

3408. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of incidents of soldiers killing their own colleagues or superiors took place in Indian Army, particularly in J&K during 1998-99, so far;
- (b) the main reasons for these incidents; and
- (c) the steps taken to improve the relationship amongst the Indian Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) During 1998-99, there have been five such incidents. Four of these incidents have taken place in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The main reason for these incidents is the combat stress due to the peculiarities of counter insurgency environment which are different from operational tasks in the battlefield. To keep the combat stress at the barest minimum level, continuous efforts are made like planning proper relief programme constant education and close interaction between commanders and the troops.

[*Translation*]

Doubling and Electrification of Surat-Bhusawal Rail Line

3409. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether doubling and electrification work on Surat-Bhusawal rail line has been going on for long;

(b) if so, the date on which the above works started and the extent of works completed so far along with the amount spent thereon so far;

(c) the time by which the above works are likely to be completed and the estimated amount to be incurred thereon;

(d) whether the time prescribed for the above works has already elapsed; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not completing the work in time?

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) The electrification work on Surat (Udhna)-Bhusawal (Jalgaon) was included in Railway Budget 1997-98. After sanction of estimate etc. process of awarding major contracts was taken in hand. OHE contracts have since been awarded. Rs. 12.14 crores have been spent so far on this project.

A survey for doubling of Udhna-Jalgaon has been taken up. Further consideration of the doubling project

will be possible once the survey report becomes available. A double and Electrified BG line already exists for Surat-Udhna and Bhusawal-Jalgaon sections.

(c) The Railway Electrification project is targetted for completion in the 10th Plan. The work has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 138.12 crores.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Abandoned Chennai-Singapore Flights

3410. SHRI RAJ BANSHI MAHTO :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines crew abandoned the Chennai-Singapore flight sometime in the last week of September, 1998;

(b) if so, the outcome of the inquiry, if any, made by the Government in the matter; and

(c) the action that has been taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The aircraft operating scheduled flight IC-555 on 26.9.1998 was to depart at 0025 hours. Since a single step ladder was available, the passengers took some time to board the aircraft. Consequently, the cabin crew and commander of the flight came under flight and Duty Time Limitation. As such, the flight was operated by another set of crew after a delay of two hours and 55 minutes.

Fruit Processing Industries with Foreign Collaboration

3411. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set-up fruit processing industries with foreign collaboration in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) the assistance provided to fruit processing units in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last two years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):
(a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government do not set up fruit processing units directly in any of the States.

(c) The assistance provided to fruit and vegetable processing units in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years by the Ministry is as under :—

1997-98	—	Rs. 13.75 lakhs as grant
1998-99	—	Nil

In addition, the following assistance in the form of loan has been provided to fruit processing units in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years by National Horticultural Board, under their Scheme "Development of Marketing of Horticultural Produce through Participation in Soft Loan".

1997-98	Rs. 160.00 lakhs (released)
	Rs. 33.50 lakhs (sanctioned)
1998-99	Rs. 60.00 lakhs (sanctioned)

[Translation]

Laying of Railway Lines

3412. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is lying pending with the Government to lay rail line to connect Betiya, Arval, Daud Nagar, Aurangabad, Chatarpur and Pali;

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed to complete this work; 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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Constraint of resources.

[English]

Revised Pay Scales for Librarian In I.H.M.C.T.

3413. SHRI GIRDHARILAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Librarians in various Institutes of Hotel Management and Catering Technology and National Council of Hotel Management and Catering Technology are being given the scales as per the recommendation of Fifth Pay Commission.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any disparity between the Pay Scales given to Librarians of Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology and National Council of Hotel Management and Catering Technology;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Revised Pay Scales have been given to librarian in the Institutes of Hotel Management and National Council for Hotel Management corresponding to the pre-revised scales held by them.

(c) to (e) National Council for Hotel Management and Institutes of Hotel Management have separate entities and different functions requiring staffing of different nature. Question of disparity therefore does not arise.

Tata International Airport

3414. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 760 on December 3, 1998 regarding revival of Tata International Airport Project and state:

(a) whether the viability that were being reworked regarding revival of Tata International Airport project near Bangalore has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The proposal is under consideration in consultation with the Government of Karnataka.

Labour Tribunal's Award

3415. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Labour Commissioner is the appropriate authority for securing implementation of the Labour Tribunal's Award;

(b) if so, the remedies that are available to a party for the non-implementation, delayed implementation and partial implementation of the Tribunal's Award;

(c) whether the Regional Labour Commissioner has the jurisdiction to launch prosecution against the party defaulting implementation of any of the term of the award; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and rules and procedure to be followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) The Central Government has delegated powers to Labour Enforcement Officers (Central) who are working under Regional Labour Commissioners (Central) as the appropriate authority to implement the Awards.

(b) The Parties can approach for no-implementation, part-implementation or delayed implementation of award after 30 days from the date of its publication to the appropriate Govt. or any of its appointed officer for the purpose to launch prosecution in the Court of Law.

(c) According to Section 34 of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 the appropriate Government has delegated powers to Labour Enforcement Officer (Central) for launching prosecution against the party defaulting in implementation of any of the terms of the award. However, where the accused is a public servant attracted by the provisions of Section 197 of Cr. P.C. the sanction of the employing Ministry is also required to be taken for launching prosecution.

(d) Where non-implementation, delayed implementation or partial implementation of Tribunal's award or breach of any award is brought to the notice of Central Industrial Relations Machinery in case of Central Government, a show-cause notice is issued to the defaulting party offering him an opportunity to implement the award failing which prosecution is launched under Section 29 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Concessional Air Ticket for Disabled

3416. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Indian Airlines to give concessional air tickets to people suffering from above 80 percent locomotor disability;

(b) if so, whether these directions are also applicable for the private domestic airlines;

(c) if not, the decision taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the reimbursement of concession amount to the Indian Airlines on account of certain such facilities being extended to several group of citizens?

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Private Airlines operators are free to fix their fares or extend concessions based on their commercial judgement.

(d) The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Defence to reimburse Indian Airlines to the extent of discount offered to Armed Forces.

*[Translation]***Landing of Bhopal bound Flight at Indore**

3417. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flight of Indian Airlines which took off from Delhi in the night instead of day on 17th December, 1998 Landed directly at Indore instead of Bhopal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of passengers in that flight who had purchased tickets for Bhopal;

(d) whether the employees of Air Traffic Control Tower, instead of providing facility for landing the aircraft at Bhopal airport went to their houses;

(e) if so, the action taken against them;

(f) whether the local Member of Parliament has made a complaint in this regard; and

(g) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Because of unprecedented fog, Alliance Air flight CD-433 on 17th December, 1998 left Delhi at 2133 Hrs. against the scheduled departure time of 1810 Hrs. It had to overfly Bhopal because of non-availability of watch hours there

(c) There were 37 passengers on board who had purchased tickets for Bhopal.

(d) and (e) At Bhopal the watch hours are available only upto 2015 hours. The watch was closed after Indian Airlines had informed ATC Bhopal that flight CD-433 was operating Delhi-Indore-Mumbai.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Indian Airlines who have been asked to investigate the complaint are yet to submit their findings.

*[English]***Implementation of Plans by IIMC**

3418. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the plans proposed to be implemented by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication during 1999-2000; and

(b) the budgetary provisions made 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) The plan schemes to be implemented by Indian Institute of Mass Communication during 1999-2000 are:

(i) Building and Housing Project;

(ii) Research and Evaluation Studies;

(iii) Modernisation and Expansion of Facilities for Electronic/Print/Radio and TV Journalism and Video Production;

(iv) IIMC Branch, Dhenkanal (Orissa);

(v) IIMC Branch, Kottayam (Kerala);

(vi) IIMC Branch, Dimapur (Nagaland); and

(vii) IIMC Branch, Jhabua (Madhya Pradesh).

(b) The Budget Provision for the above Plan Schemes during 1999-2000 is Rs. 370.00 lakhs.

*[Translation]***Transfer of BTDC Assets to ITDC**

3419. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sent any proposal to the Union Government for the transfer of some assets of Bihar Tourism Development Corporation to I.T.D.C.; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Haj Pilgrimage

3420. SHRI K. KRISNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to engage any foreign based aviation company to transport Haj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on Air India;

(c) the total number of pilgrims expected to go on Haj during the year; and

(d) the amount of subsidy to be paid by the Government on each Haj pilgrim this year and the estimated total subsidy to be borne by the Government during the year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) M/s. MIDO Aviation Group, USA has been engaged for undertaking Haj movement by air during Haj-1999 which commenced from 18.2.99. There is no impact on Air India as Haj flights are undertaken on "no profit no loss" basis.

(c) The number of pilgrim for Haj, 1999 is expected to be 63,000.

(d) The amount of subsidy to be paid by the Government per pilgrim is Rs. 17640 and the total subsidy for 63000 Hajis has been estimated at Rs. 111 crores.

Gauge Conversion

3421. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the projects for conversion of Khagaria-Samastipur and Katihar-Jogbani metre gauge lines into broad gauge are still pending clearance; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the projects are likely to be cleared?

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 projects were included in the budget without completion of current surveys. Surveys have since been got completed and the clearance process has been initiated.

Air India International Flight to Agra

3422. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending under consideration of the Government for International flights of Air India to Agra Airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Supreme Court's Ruling on Employment

3423. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 319 dated August 13, 1997 regarding Supreme Court ruling on employment and state:

(a) whether the Government have since filed a review petition before the Supreme court;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The Review Petition filed by the Government in the Supreme Court against Supreme Court judgement dated 22.8.96 in the case of the Excise Superintendent Malkapatnam, Krishna District, Andhra

Pradesh Vs. K.B.N. Visweshwara Rao and Others, was dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 15.1.98 and the Government has already implemented the said judgement.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan Rail Line

3424. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to convert the Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan metre gauge line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, whether funds are proposed to be released for the purpose; and

(c) if not, the justification behind conducting the survey 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) A survey for Gauge conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan narrow gauge line and its extension to Kota was completed in September 1996. The survey revealed that the cost of the 284 kms. line would be Rs. 364 crores with a rate of return of less than 1%. In view of the grossly unremunerative nature of the line and the acute constraint of resources, it has not been found possible to consider taking up this project.

[English]

Extension of Railway Network

3425. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests received by Railway Board from Members of Parliament for extension of Railway network from New Coochbehar (West Bengal) to Golakganj (Assam) during the last three years;

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

(c) the time by which the above requests are likely to be acceded to by the Government?

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

(a) A number of requests have been received, including repetitive ones, during the last 3 years from various Members of Parliament. Very often, letters from Hon'ble Members of Parliament refer to several projects. Each request received from an Hon'ble Member of Parliament is dealt individually and due consideration is given to it. However, consolidated project-wise record of such representations is not maintained.

(b) A survey has been taken up and is expected to be completed by 30.06.1999.

(c) Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Recruitment in Railways

3426. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Class III and IV employees recruited during the last three years by the Railway Recruitment Board, Bhubaneswar, Orissa;

(b) whether some of the recommended candidates made by the R.R.B., Bhubaneswar are yet to be appointed by the Railway Administration due to some kind of inquiry going into the alleged corruption and nepotism made thereof; 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) 1391 candidates were empanelled for Class III (Group C) recruitment during the last three years by the Railway Recruitment Board, Bhubaneswar. Class IV (Group D) recruitment is not done by Railway Recruitment Board, Bhubaneswar.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Pending Claims in ITDC

3427. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of claims for supplies and works are pending for settlement in Regional Offices of ITDC in mega cities for the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of cases referred to arbitration particularly in Mumbai and progress made therein;

(d) whether the Government are considering to take any fresh steps for settlement of pending claims within a stipulated time;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of major irregularities reported/committed by ITDC officials and progress of investigation if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Presently, only two claims are pending in the Mumbai Regional Office of ITDC as per details given below :

Sr. No.	Name of the Party	Amount (in Rs.)	Pending since when	Services rendered
1.	Sh. Mohd. Tayab, Civil Contractor	1,17,059	August, 1998	Civil Works
2.	M/s Manal Tours & Travels	29,466	Nov. 98/Feb.97	Hiring of vehicles.

(c) No case of claims for supplies and works has been referred to arbitration in Regional Offices of ITDC.

(d) and (e) The settlement of dues is done as per laid down procedures, subject to the condition that the bills are verified and found correct in all respects.

(f) As informed by ITDC no major irregularity on the part of ITDC officials has been reported in processing of the aforesaid claims.

U.S. Satellite for Surveillance over India

3428. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the two US Satellites that are generally responsible for surveillance over India;

(b) if so, whether the Army Engineers, Scientists from Atomic Energy Commission and the Defence Research and Development Organisation calibrated their movements with these satellites; and

(c) if so, the main steps being considered to check the foreign surveillance in India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the presence of such satellites. Disclosure of any further details will not be in the national security interest.

Airport at Ambala

3429. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for construction of a new Civil Airport at Ambala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development of Food Processing Sector

3430. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to create a separate Ministry or department to maintain the focus on the development of the food processing sector;

(b) if so, the reaction of the State Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to set up more food processing units during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Response from State Governments is awaited.

(c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up any food processing units directly in any state. However, under the Plan Schemes being operated by the Ministry, financial assistance is extended to State Government Organisations/Public Sector/Joint Sector/ Assisted Sector Companies, Private Sector Companies/ Cooperatives/NGOs for development of food processing industries.

Demands of Employees of Doordarshan Centre, Bhubaneswar

3431. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Doordarshan Kendra at Bhubaneswar have submitted a charter of demands to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined those demands; and

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

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) No, Sir. However, the casual artists working at DDK, Bhubaneswar have submitted demands for regularisation of their services, etc.

(c) and (d) The regularisation of casuals is being done in accordance with the regularisation scheme.

Expansion of Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment Centre

3432. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment Centre located near Manali in Kullu District of Himachal Pradesh has issued a notification to acquire land in Vashishtha in Himachal Pradesh for its expansion; and

(b) if so, whether the local people have opposed the move in view of the fact that adequate Government land is available for the expansion work across the Beas river in front of SASE Centre; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE), Manali, after the devastating floods in 1995, had approached the Himachal Pradesh Government for providing suitable land near its present location for establishing the essential elements of SASE. The Himachal Pradesh Government have therefore, issued a notification to acquire some land and provide the necessary land site to SASE.

(b) and (c) State Government is taking appropriate action.

Child Labour

3433. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of child labourers are engaged in gold jewellery manufacturing units in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any complaint has been received from the N.G.O. in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government to free these child labourers from bondage?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Army Academy in Punjab

3434. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Army Academy in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A proposal to set up an Army School/Academy at Anandpur Sahib in Punjab is under consideration.

Special Recruitment Drive for SCs/STs by Indian Airlines

3435. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is backlog in filling up the posts of Trainee Technicians reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes even after the special drive launched by Indian Airlines during 1966;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines carried out a special Recruitment Drive during the year 1996 to fill up the backlog of vacancies that existed in various cadres as on 31st July, 1996. In the category of Trainee Technician, a total of 59 vacancies

(22 reserved for SC and 37 for ST) were identified as backlog vacancies and accordingly, the recruitment action was initiated to fill up the above vacancies. During the Special Recruitment Drive, however, 5 backlog vacancies (one reserved for SC in the trade of aircraft Technician (X-ray) and four posts reserved for ST (two in the trade of Instrument, one in the trade of Plant Electrical and one in the trade of Plant Air Condition) remained unfilled.

However, as per the new post based revised rosters introduced as a consequence to the instructions issued in July, 1997, the shortfall as reflected above does not exist.

Reservation Quota for Goa

3436. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reservation quota including VIP quota at Mumbai and Delhi Railway Stations for Goa bound trains and vice-versa, train-wise;

(b) whether this quota fulfil the requirement of the passengers; and

(c) if not, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to fulfil the requirement of the passengers?

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) A statement is attached.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

The reservation quote including VIP quota at Mumbai and Delhi Railway stations for Goa bound trains and vice-versa train-wise, is as under:

Train No.	Reservation quota			
	1st AC	A.C. 2-tier	A.C. 3-tier	Sleeper class
1	2	3	4	5
Trains from Mumbai				
0111 Konkan-Kanya Express	—	42	56	417
6635 Netravati Express	—	38	52	636
2619 Matsyagandha Express	—	32	46	516

1	2	3	4	5
Trains from Delhi				
2618 Mangala Express	—	28	52	612
2432 Rajdhani Express	12	64	119	—
Trains Towards Delhi				
2617 Mangala Express	—	4	—	16
2431 Rajdhani Express	4	30	60	—
Trains Towards Mumbai				
0112 Konkan-Kanya Express	—	29	49	219
2620 Matsyagandha Express	—	2	1	4
6636 Netravati Express	—	—	2	34

Publicity

3437. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government for placing orders of advertisements like printing of brochures, pamphlets, promotional materials, making of films and CD-Roms on place of tourist attractions in the country;

(b) the name of the firms/organisations which have been entrusted the above work during the last three years; and

(c) the annual expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) The Ministry of Tourism maintains a list of empanelled agencies for production of publicity material. Suitable agencies have

been empanelled on the basis of their expertise and past experience for executing such jobs through an open tender. Quotations are invited from all empanelled agencies for production of promotional materials including brochures, folders and films. The order is placed on the basis of competitive rates quoted by and technical merit of the Empanelled Agencies.

(b) The firms/organisations entrusted with the job of printing/producing publicity material in the last three years is given in the statement attached.

(c) The annual expenditure incurred on Production of the publicity material for the last three years is given below :

1995-96	Rs. 1,61,16,422.00
1996-97	Rs. 1,37,59,514.00
1997-98	Rs. 2,25,82,139.00

Statement

The Names of the Firms/Organisations which were entrusted with the work regarding production material in 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given hereunder

1995-96

1. M/s Cross Section Publications
2. M/s Visual Communications
3. ITDC
4. M/s Benoy K. Behl Films
5. M/s Mediant Films Pvt. Ltd.
6. M/s TTK Pharma Ltd.,
7. M/s Tringol Communications
8. M/s Moving Pictures Co. (I) Pvt. Ltd.
9. M/s Cinemat Productions
10. M/s Hindustan Thompson Associates Ltd.
11. M/s Bhagwati Printers
12. M/s Alaknanda Advertising
13. M/s Appeal Advertising
14. M/s Vision & Images Advertising

1996-97

1. M/s Cross Section Publications
2. M/s Benoy K. Behl Films
3. M/s Media Films Pvt. Ltd.
4. M/s Appeal Advertising
5. M/s T.T.K. Pharma
6. M/s R.K. Visions
7. M/s Bharat Marketing & Advertising
8. M/s Visual Communications

9. M/s J.S. Productions

10. M/s Chiranjan Advertising

11. M/s Ultra Advertising

12. M/s Alaknanda Advertising

13. M/s Rahul Arts & Prints

1997-98

1. M/s Chiranjan Advertising

2. M/s Rahul Arts & Prints

3. M/s Cross Section Publications

4. M/s Bharat Marketing Advertising

5. M/s Visual Communications

6. M/s Appeal Advertising

7. M/s M.J. International

8. ITDC

9. M/s Newfield Advertising

10. M/s Empower

11. M/s Mime

12. M/s AIM TV

Construction of Road Over Bridges

3438. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governmen of Kerala has requested the Union Government to include all the railway level crossings between Calicut to Cannanore in Kerala for construction of over bridges in the state on cost sharing basis in the coming financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this direction?

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 following proposals were received from State Government of Kerala:

S. No.	Level crossing	Railway Km.	Location between
1.	186	666/11-12	Calicut-West Hill (Kozhikode)
2.	54	67/13-14	Korattyangadi-Chalakuadi
3.	48	62/9-10	Chalakuadi
4.	71	102/13-14	Idapally-Emakulam
5.	215	713/10-11	Badagara-Nadapuram Road (Cherode NH-17)
6.	196	679/1-2	Elattur-Quilandi (Vengalam NH-17)
7.	192	673/8-9	West Hill-Ettakkot (Vengali NH-17)
8.	232	738/7-8	Dharamadam-Ettakkot (Muzhupliangady NH-17)
9.	272	810/1-2	Nileshwar-Kanhangadi (Padanakkad NH-17)
10.	269	805/5-6	Charavattur-Nileshwar (Pallikara NH-17)
11.	177	660/4-5	Feroke-Kallayi (Meenachanda Road)
12.	8	8/17-18	Emakulam-Tirupunithura
13.	43	56/9-10	Near Irinjalakuda
14.	199	666/1-2	Elattur-Quilandi
15.	206	695/12-13	Quilandi-Tikkotti
16.	238	743/3-4	Ettakkot-Cannanore
17.	239	749/2-3	Ettakkot-Cannanore
18.	11	15/5-6	Shoranur-Cochin Harbour Terminus Sec. (Wadakancheri)
19.	178	662/5-6	Shoranur-Mangalore (Panyankara)

(c) Of the 19 proposals listed above. 14 proposals shown with asterisk have been included in the Railway's Works Programme of 1999-2000.

Works shown at S.No. 18 and 19 are in lieu of level crossings provided on deposit terms, hence, their replacement with Road Over Bridge is possible only on deposit terms.

Defence land

3439. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of Defence land at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the detailed policy of the Government governing leasing out or sale of defence land for various purposes;

(c) the details of land acquired and sold to the State Governments/NGOs during each of the last ten years, State-wise;

(d) the details of policy changes effected in recent years and/or under consideration for release of unused defence land; and

(e) the details of the major proposals, seeking allotment of defence land, state-wise and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) At present, no defence land is surplus. Vacant lands are zoned for future use. However, requests from State Governments/Central Government/Public Sector Undertakings etc. are considered on merits and on the basis of exchange of land of equivalent value. Leases and allotment of non-profit making institutions both social and charitable, are also considered on merits of each case. All proposals relating to transfer/alienation of defence land are to be effected with the prior approval of Cabinet.

(c) Lands are acquired for specific defence uses and are normally not sold to the State Governments/NGOs.

(d) and (e) As stated in reply to (b) above.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Total land holdings (in acres)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35042.228
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4156.000
3.	Assam	24548.200
4.	Bihar	15893.304
5.	Delhi	11422.706
6.	Goa	3094.948
7.	Gujarat	23247.820
8.	Haryana	33697.933
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5972.659
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	16216.468
11.	Karnataka	29183.112
12.	Kerala	5228.277
13.	Madhya Pradesh	219927.207
14.	Maharashtra	137316.920
15.	Manipur	1284.489

1	2	3
16.	Meghalaya	5294.180
17.	Mizoram	113.525
18.	Nagaland	1646.470
19.	Orissa	23226.018
20.	Punjab	78410.822
21.	Rajasthan	827787.206
22.	Sikkim	2520.488
23.	Tamil Nadu	20954.090
24.	Tripura	1782.135
25.	Uttar Pradesh	152709.447
26.	West Bengal	39498.139
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8373.962
28.	Chandigarh	2679.432
29.	Diu and Daman	201.730
Total		17,31,429.915

[Translation]

Broadcast Service In Jabalpur, M.P.

3440. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the broadcast service in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh has not begun despite the installation of F.M. transmitter;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the broadcast service is likely to begin?

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) The project can be commissioned only after availability of Staff for which action has been initiated.

[English]

Construction of Road Over Bridge near Hotgi

3441. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct road over bridge near Hotgi railway station and road under bridge at Rambari under Solapur Division; and

(b) if so, the time by which these bridges are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. However, a Foot Over Bridge at Hotgi station across 4 tracks has been sanctioned as part of remodelling of station to provide access to the island platform from city side which is likely to be completed by Dec. 1999. Extension of this bridge is being examined on other side also. Provision of Road Under Bridge at Rambari in lieu of level crossing No.55 on cost sharing basis is feasible but neither State Government nor Municipality has sponsored firm proposal to this effect so far on receipt, this can be examined by Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

Repeat of Advertisements

3442. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI MADAN PATIL :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

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

(a) whether a large number of advertisements are being shown on Doordarshan in between the various programmes decreasing the interest of the viewers;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering any plan to minimise the telecast of such advertisements in between the programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to encourage the interest of T.V. viewers?

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 reported that while allowing advertisements in programmes, due care is taken to keep a balance between commercial time and programme content. To sustain viewers' interest in the programmes, excessive use of advertisements is avoided and these are telecast only during specified breaks.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Radio Station at Bhaderwah

3443. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Radio Station at Bhaderwah has been completed but not commissioned; 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) A 6 KW FM transmitter with studio facilities and staff quarters is being set at Bhaderwah, J&K. Most of the installation works are complete. However, at present, the premises of AIR, Bhaderwah have been occupied by the security forces. The remaining works of installation shall be taken up as soon as the law and order situation in the area improves. The station can be commissioned only after that.

Rehabilitation of Repatriates from Gulf Countries

3444. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons repatriated to India from Gulf and other countries, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any Scheme for their rehabilitation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether they are allowed to re-enter in the Gulf countries on the same passport; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) A statement indicating the number of persons re-patriated to India from different countries, including the Gulf countries, is attached.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The repatriated Indians are allowed to re-enter the Gulf countries on the same passport if, there are no adverse entries on them. In case of adverse entries, fresh passport is required to be taken for re-entering the Gulf countries.

Statement

S.No.	Mission/Posts Country	No. of Persons deported	Amt. incurred
1	2	3	4
1.	Colombo	30	nil
2.	Muscat	6666	nil
3.	Damascus	3	33099
4.	Bishkek	6	54630
5.	Kampala	10	nil
6.	The Hague	70	nil
7.	Istanbul	7	nil
8.	London	1025	nil
9.	Prague	nil	29119
10.	Ottawa	38	nil
11.	Canberra	39	nil
12.	Brunei	50	nil
13.	Bonn	3464	nil
14.	Milan	1	nil
15.	Hamburg	364	nil

1	2	3	4
16.	Berne	60	nil
17.	Rabat	4	27031
18.	Chicago	27	nil
19.	Budapest	85	41299
20.	Dubai	41389	nil
21.	Doha	2596	nil
22.	Tehran	10	11672
23.	Bahrain	4484	nil
24.	Male	318	70061
25.	Cairo	2	nil
26.	Athens	96	nil
27.	Baghdad	9	152291
28.	Yemen	10	205007
29.	Seoul	168	31944
30.	Beijing	2	22348
31.	Johannesburg	197	nil
32.	Brussels	106	nil

1	2	3	4
33.	Minsk	303	nil
34.	Vienna	99	nil
35.	Ankara	20	5300492
36.	Bucharest	148	nil
37.	Kualalumpur	1335	114996
38.	Oslo	12	nil
39.	Berlin	645	nil
40.	Brasilia	4	nil
41.	Tashkent	1	nil
42.	San Francisco	109	nil
43.	Washington	82	nil
44.	Almaty	2	nil
45.	Copenhagen	13	nil
46.	Frankfurt	1208	nil
47.	Yangoon	3	44302
48.	Bangkok	520	nil
49.	Sofia	2	nil
50.	Ho Chi Minh City	2	49882

1	2	3	4
51.	Islamabad	464	1038917
52.	Belgrade	5	53376
53.	Birmingham	1098	nil
54.	Vancouver	14	nil
55.	Vientiane	1	nil
56.	Malta	11	nil
57.	Madrid	3	nil
58.	Glasgow	4	nil
59.	Houston	53	nil
60.	New York	54	nil
61.	Wellington	64	nil
62.	Chiangmai	1	nil
63.	Nicosia	12	nil
64.	Jeddah	45839	nil
65.	Stockholm	21	nil
66.	Kuwait	2554	149094
67.	Singapore	6479	80515
68.	Manila	12	nil

1	2	3	4
69.	Tokyo	1423	nil
70.	Moscow	52	nil
71.	Tel Aviv	229	nil
72.	Toronto	92	nil
73.	Panama	182	nil
74.	Riyadh	62292	nil
75.	Abu Dhabi	49336	nil
		2,36,085	Rs. 74,90,075

High Power Transmitters in M.P.

3445. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan programmes in certain areas of Madhya Pradesh are not clearly visible;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and corrective measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to install high power T.V. transmitter in these areas; 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) Doordarshan programmes are available throughout the country including whole of Madhya Pradesh through satellite which could be received by using appropriate

dish antenna system. Terrestrial coverage in Madhya Pradesh is expected to be available to about 72.6% population and 67.7% area (inclusive of fringe areas where elevated antennae and boosters are required to obtain signal).

It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to extend terrestrial coverage in uncovered part of the country including Madhya Pradesh.

Expansion/extension of Doordarshan is being carried out in phased manner depending upon the availability of resources, infrastructural facilities, requisite manpower and relative priorities.

For expansion of terrestrial service in Madhya Pradesh, 7 High Power Transmitters, 12 Low Power Transmitters and a very Low Power Transmitter are presently under different stages of implementation.

Sophisticated Weapons to fight with Terrorism

3446. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Military and Security Forces in J & K have to face difficulties in fighting against terrorists due to shortage of sophisticated weapons; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Terrorists, in J&K, are equipped with the State-of-the-art weapon systems. There is, thus, requirement of modern weapon system and equipment, specific to effort for countering the Proxy War, there. The Army has been progressively upgrading its Counter Insurgency weapons and equipment. A comprehensive J&K Action plan has been drawn up, in this behalf.

Construction of ROB/RUB in Andhra Pradesh

3447. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for construction of road over bridges/road under bridges in Andhra Pradesh, particularly at Kothapatnam railway crossing in Ongole town;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government in regard thereto?

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. But no formal proposal has been received for construction of Road Over Bridge at Kothapatnam.

(b) The following proposals for construction of ROB/s/RUBs were received:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Bayyavaram | ROB at Km. 734/11-12 |
| 2. Narasarao Pet | ROB at Km. 630/6-7 |
| 3. Mahabubabad | ROB at Km. 437/27-28 |
| 4. Khammam | ROB at Km. 484/27-28 |

5. Kakinada-Kathipudi (Pithapuram) ROB at Km. 638/12-13

6. Hafeezpet ROB at Km. 165/13-14

(c) Out of above, following works have been included in the Works Programme of 1999-2000.

1. Bayyavaram
2. Mahabubabad
3. Khammam
4. Kakinada - Kathipudi (Pithapuram)

Direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Bangalore

3448. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to introduce a direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Visual Technology for Soldiers in Darkness

3449. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been developing a technology enabling the soldiers to see clearly in pitch dark; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this technology is expected to be ready?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) DRDO have developed a number of technologies to enable the soldiers to see clearly during the darkness. These technologies include active infra-red, passive night vision and thermal imaging. Based on these technologies, a series of night vision devices have been developed by DRDO, introduced into

the Service and productionised by the production agencies.

Tourists Visiting India

3450. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had a meeting with various International Airlines on January 14, 1999 in which they urged him to give concessions to passengers visiting India during the period to be observed 'Visit India Year' from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000;

(b) if so, the other concrete measures taken by the Ministry in this regard;

(c) whether his Ministry had invited Ambassadors from 35 countries to get their views on this event;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry propose to bring out some cosmetic changes in the Capital before the beginning of this event; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) A meeting with the International Airlines operating to India was held on January 15, 1999 under the Chairmanship of Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism. In the meeting, the airlines were requested for the promotion and marketing of 'Visit India Year' (now renamed as 'Explore India—Millennium Year') from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000. This included the screening of in-flight video on tourist attractions of India, use of Explore India logo, training of staff, budget packages etc.

The main objective of the meeting was to generate awareness about the Explore India—Millennium year 1999-2000 and garnering their support in generating more tourists to India.

(c) The Ministry had invited Ambassadors/High Commissioners of 63 countries to share views on celebrating the Explore India—Millennium Year in a meeting held on 12.2.99.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has been in close touch with the concerned Central Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and the Government of National Capital Region of Delhi for improvement in the

infrastructure, facilitation services like passenger facilitation, Custom and Immigration at airports, Railway stations, road transportation and the training to service providers in the capital as part of Explore India—Millennium Year.

[Translation]

Missing Instruments from Delhi Airport

3451. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the accounts of Delhi Airport has not been audited since many years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the valuable assets of Communication Department of the Delhi Airport are missing from the Government treasury;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The accounts of the Airports Authority of India, (AAI) a Public Sector Undertaking as a whole, are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) who has already audited the accounts of Airports Authority of India upto the year 1997-98.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Improvement of Infrastructure

3452. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide Rs. One crore to some selected cities for improving infrastructure in order to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of cities, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the money will be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism has formulated a scheme for Integrated Infrastructure Development of select tourist/ Pilgrim Centres in the country. Under the scheme Rs. 50.00 lakhs is to be provided by the Ministry of Tourism and Rs. 50.00 lakhs by the State Government. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Goa Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Orissa, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Haryana, Sikkim and West Bengal have submitted project proposals for development of Pilgrim/Tourist Centres. The funds are provided on the basis of complete project proposals as per guidelines and availability of funds, on instalment basis.

New Technology for Operation and Safety

3453. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have failed to provide safe journey to the passengers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to induct new technology for operation, safety and new lines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

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) to (e) Yes, Sir. Introduction of new technology in both Operation and Safety is a continuous an ongoing process. Presently, the following new technologies are being progressively adopted on Indian Railways for improving safety.

— Track circuiting, axle counter, panel interlocking, three phase state-of-the-art technology loco, simulator for drivers training, ultrasonic testing of rails etc.

— Vacuum de-gassing and online ultrasonic testing of rails also being introduced at the manufacturing plant itself for improving quality of rails etc.

[*Translation*]

Ring Railway Service in Jaipur

3454. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce Ring Railway Service in Jaipur city with the help of JDA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent so far on preparing blue prints of the scheme; and

(d) the time by which the said schemes likely to be implemented?

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 such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Railways.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Guidelines for Reducing Air Fares

3455. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given on USQ No. 1952 on December, 10, 1998 regarding guidelines for reducing air fares and state:

(a) whether the guidelines for reducing air fares have been finalised; and

(b) if not, the time by which the same are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The guidelines are yet to be finalised.

(b) No specific timeframe can be indicated at this stage for finalisation of the guidelines.

Income from Private TV Channels

3456. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the details of total annual income earned by the Government from the private TV channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : Income from Private TV channels accrues to the Government by way of royalty charges levied by Wireless Planning Co-ordinator and charges by Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited for uplinking facility. The details of annual income therefrom is as follows:

(i) Annual Royalty charges by WPC, Department of Telecommunication	— Rs. 1.3 crore
(ii) Uplinking facility charges by VSNL	— Rs. 12 crore
Total	Rs. 13.3 crore

Amount Earmarked for Railway Projects in Bihar

3457. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount earmarked for the projects taken up in the State of Bihar in 1998-99, project-wise; and

(b) the actual amount spent in each of these projects till date, project-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) Allocation of funds to Railway projects is a need based exercise where the relative priority of the project depending upon its physical progress, operational importance, national and strategic significance and social desirability is the guiding factor. A number of Railway projects span across more than one State. Therefore, State/Regional boundaries are not a criterion for deciding Railway investments.

(b) Does not arise.

Army Jawans infected with H.I.V. Positive

3458. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that over 6000 Jawans are H.I.V. positive in Indian Armed Forces;

(b) if so, whether any indepth study has been made in regard thereto;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to motivate the army personnel not to indulge in such activities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The cumulative prevalence figure of HIV infected service personnel from 1990 till July 1997 is 1432. The estimated figure of 6000 given in the booklet titled 'Commander's Handbook on AIDS' does not represent the actual HIV-positive cases diagnosed in the Services.

2. The following steps have been taken to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS among defence personnel :—

- (i) IEC (information, Education and Communication synonymous with Health Education) activities on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS have been stepped up in the Armed Forces. These IEC activities are undertaken by medical, nursing and paramedical staff and also by Commanders at all levels and other religious teachers. A video film was developed by the Armed Forces Medical College, highlighting the causes and prevention of HIV/AIDS among the Armed Forces Personnel. The same was mass produced by Directorate General, Medical Services (Army) and distributed to all units.
- (ii) Only HIV infection free Blood is used for transfusion to service personnel and their families.
- (iii) Condoms are made available freely in the units for service personnel. These are provided from Medical Inspection and Recreation & Information Rooms.
- (iv) Service personnel found sero-positive for HIV are examined frequently and preventive measures are being taken against the spread of infection from such personnel while providing medical care to them.

Special Pay Package for Defence Scientists

3459. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give special pay package to defence scientists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date with effect from which the special pay package has been granted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No special pay package has been given exclusively for Defence scientists. However, the Government have approved some incentives for retaining the scientists of Department of Defence R&D, Space and Atomic energy. In addition an award scheme has also been instituted for recognising excellence in scientific and technological achievements for the scientists of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

Serving of Liquor at Bhubaneswar Airport

3460. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of liquor is allowed in the Airport restaurants;

(b) if so, the specific arrangements made, if any, in regard thereto;

(c) if not, whether the Government are aware that the consumption of liquor has become a daily phenomenon in the restaurant of Bhubaneswar Airport; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps being taken in the matter to stop it?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Licensees of the restaurants at the five International airports have been authorised to serve liquor. Similarly, at certain domestic airports liquor is allowed to be served

on the basis of agreements entered into with the licensees of the restaurants.

(c) and (d) There is no provision to serve liquor in the agreement entered into with the licensees of the restaurant at Bhubaneswar Airport. Constant vigil is maintained at this airport to ensure that the terms and conditions of the agreement are not violated.

Chinese Arms Exports Market

3461. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese arms exports market is expected to open up affecting India in terms of its own acquisitions; and

(b) if so, the measures being considered by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Chinese arms exports during 1993-1997 stood at US\$ 3531 million. Their arms export market can be expected to open up in tandem with their economy opening up. However, arms acquisition by India is not dependent on arms exports by the Chinese.

2. Government continues to closely monitor all developments which have a bearing on our national security and to take appropriate measures to safeguard the national interest.

Flights of Air India

3462. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative figures of air traffic carried out of India by the Air India and the foreign air-carriers for the past five years; and

(b) the steps that are being taken to increase the flights of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The details are as under :

Year	Traffic carried from India by	
	Air India	Foreign Airlines
1993-94	849834	2839381
1994-95	890755	2946484
1995-96	1058670	3356043
1996-97	1078119	3634680
1997-98	1118012	3860259

(b) There are no immediate plans to increase capacity by Air India. In view of limited capacity, Air India has restructured flight operations based on cash margins to ensure maximum profitability.

Customer Services by Indian Airlines

3463. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have improved or propose to improve the customer services on ground and in the Air;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the operating revenue of Indian Airlines during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines is taking measures to bring about qualitative and quantitative improvement in the service rendered to the passengers as-also increase in profitability through:—
(i) Product upgrade, (ii) Increased utilisation of aircraft,

(iii) Increased International operations, (iv) Increased productivity, (v) Creation of profit centres, (vi) Innovative and aggressive marketing strategies, (vii) Launching of Alliance Air, and (viii) Cost control measures.

(c) The operating revenue of Indian Airlines during the last three financial years was as below:

Year	Operating Revenue (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	2466.81
1996-97	2848.55
1997-98	3243.45

Purchase of Cranes

3464. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MADAN PATIL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made a deal for purchasing of cranes having capacity of 140 tonnes;

(b) if so, the number of cranes and the price at which these cranes have been purchased and the name of the firm alongwith the country with whom this deal has been concluded;

(c) whether the cranes of the same capacity could also be manufactured in the country; and

(d) if so, the reasons for importing these cranes?

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) Two contracts have been placed for procuring 140T Accident Relief Cranes. The details are as under:

Name of the firm and country	Qty. (in Nos.)	Total FOB value of contract
M/s Mannesmann Demag Fordertechnik AG Gottwald, Germany.	8	Deutsche Marks 24,905,184.20
M/s Cowans Sheldon Clarke Chapman Ltd., U.K.	4	U.K. Pound Sterling 5,423,442

(c) No, Sir. Jamalpur Workshop of Eastern Railway having acquired transfer of technology from the original supplier of these cranes was in the process of manufacturing the first indigenous crane. Till such time, such a prototype is tried out in actual field conditions, it can not be said that the Workshop had the indigenous capacity/capability to manufacture similar cranes in the country.

(d) Does not arise.

Aircraft/Helicopters owned by State Governments

3465. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the State Governments that are having their own aircraft/helicopters;

(b) the duration of flying hours utilised by each of the Governments during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the quantum of funds recovered from each of the State Governments in lieu of providing civil aviation facilities to them during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala are having their own aircraft/helicopters.

(b) The information in this regard is maintained by the respective State Governments.

(c) The details of amount recovered from each State Government during the year 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Amounts recovered from State Governments for providing civil aviation facilities for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State Government	Revenue Collected		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
Government of Andhra Pradesh	1.06	1.33	2.34
Government of Bihar	1.37	1.79	1.76

1	2	3	4
Government of Gujarat	1.11	1.06	1.33
Government of Haryana	1.69	2.00	2.63
Government of Jammu & Kashmir	0.77	0.99	0.25
Government of Kerala	0.02	0.02	0.49
Government of Karnataka	0.08	0.30	0.53
Government of Maharashtra	8.48	11.79	13.43
Government of Madhya Pradesh	5.18	7.98	7.02
Government of Orissa	1.41	2.31	1.88
Government of Punjab	0.73	1.87	1.04
Government of Rajasthan	3.10	2.48	2.43
Government of Tamil Nadu	1.43	4.35	9.58
Government of Uttar Pradesh	3.67	8.60	4.71
Government of West Bengal	0.06	0.02	0.00
Total	30.16	46.89	49.42

Flights from Hyderabad to Gulf Countries

3466. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of passengers that travel to the Gulf countries from Hyderabad Airport per month;

(b) whether any foreign Civil Aviation Companies came forward to undertake the services to the Gulf countries from Hyderabad Airport;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) On an average about 6750 passengers travel to Gulf Countries from Hyderabad per month.

(b) to (d) Since Hyderabad is not yet declared as an international airport, it is not offered as a point of call to foreign airlines.

Encroachment on Defence Land

3467. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale encroachments on defence land in Greater Mumbai and Pune Cantonment; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remove the encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) While there have been some reports of encroachments on Defence land in Greater Mumbai and Pune Cantonment, sustained efforts are on to get the encroachments removed. The assistance of the State Government of Maharashtra has also been sought by the local authorities in this regard.

Secret behind Pak Firing in Kargil

3468. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army experts have come to the conclusion that secret behind and accuracy of Pakistani firing during sometime in November, December 1998 in Uri and Kargil was directed by some one in India;

(b) if so, whether some arrests were made and found that the Telephone Exchange in the Kargil area had directed the firing;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Army had demanded screening of the staff of the Telephone Exchange; and

(e) if so; the outcome of the enquiry held?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) Pakistan ISI agents in Kargil are suspected to be behind the accuracy of Pakistani firing in the Uri-Kargil sector recently. However, specific information about suspects is not available.

The local civil administration and police have been informed to be on the lookout for such individuals.

Technical Clearance for M.R.T.S.

3469. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether technical clearance for implementing Metro Rail Transit System at Delhi has been given;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and impact thereof;

(d) the amount spent on the preliminary work of MRTS so far; and

(e) the stand taken by the Government on the implementation of MRTS in Delhi?

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) Delhi MRTS Phase-I is a sanctioned project. Technical clearance has been given in respect of Gauge, Loading standards, Broad Gauge Schedule of Dimensions as per sanctioned Detailed Project Report, Traction System for Metro corridor, etc.

(d) Rs. 266.47 crore upto February, 1999, including investment of Rs. 211 crore on land acquisition.

(e) Delhi MRTS Phase-I is being implemented by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) subject to necessary technical clearances from the Ministry of Railways, the administrative control being with the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment.

Withdrawal of Armed Forces from J&K

3470. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan, there has been a decline in Pakistani firing at Jammu and Kashmir borders;

(b) if so, the extent to which the border in J&K has remained silent after the visit; and

(c) whether in view of the modified situation the Government are considering to withdraw the armed forces from J&K?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) There is no perceptible change in Pak firing after the visit of the PM to Pakistan.

(c) Does not arise.

Ammunitions for Small Arms

3471. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the ammunitions used in manufacturing of small arms for Indian Army are being imported;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether there is any move to develop these ammunitions indigenously;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in that direction so far;

(d) whether ammunition factory at Khadki has got any success in developing ammunitions for small arms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No ammunition is used in manufacturing of small weapons. Ammunition is, however, required for testing small arms and is being manufactured indigenously.

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

(d) and (e) Ammunition Factory, Khadki (AFK) manufactures a variety of small arms ammunitions including 5.56 mm ammunition, recently inducted in the Army. AFK have undertaken development of AK-47 ammunition as per the draft GSQR and a batch of 5000 rounds is due to be taken up for user trials shortly.

Titles of Newspapers and Periodicals

3472. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of newspaper and periodical titles are blocked by the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to de-block all the publication titles which are not being used by the applicants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with criteria for de-blocking?

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) As per records of Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), the number of titles verified upto 28.2.1999 is estimated to be 2.63 lakh. Out of these, the number of titles registered is 48,000.

(c) and (d) Owners/publishers of the titles of newspapers/periodicals who had got their titles verified till 31.12.1995 but not registered them with RNI till 31.10.1998 were given public notices inviting objections/representations as to why their titles should not be de-blocked. In case of about 1.70 lakh such titles, no objections/representations were received and they were de-blocked accordingly. Similar procedure/criteria is to be followed on year to year basis.

[Translation]

New Flights from Sanganer Airport

3473. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities for which flights are available from Sanganer airport located near Jaipur at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the frequency of these flights;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to start air services for some few cities from Sanganer airport; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Sanganer Airport (Jaipur) is, at present linked with Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Delhi, Jaisalmer, Mumbai and Udaipur.

(b) to (e) 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 depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

[English]

Funds for Cantonment Board Hospitals

3474. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Cantonment Board Hospitals in the country, location-wise and the funds allotted for each of them during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are aware that most of these hospitals are not properly equipped with para

medical staff, Doctors and medicines due to short of funds;

(c) if so, whether there is a proposal to sanction more funds for these hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the facility to treat the residents of neighbouring areas, particularly from remote/hilly areas, is available in these hospitals; and

(f) if not, the corrective steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A statement showing the total number of Cantonment Board Hospitals (does not include dispensaries) location-wise and funds allotted to each of them during last three years is attached. These hospitals are in addition to other hospitals/dispensaries run by Government and private operators within the cantonment.

(b) to (d) No Sir. These hospitals are adequately provided with doctors, staff, medicines and other necessary facilities.

(e) and (f) Cantonments Boards provide medical facilities to people living within the cantonment. However, patients coming from adjoining areas to the cantonment are also attended depending on the nature of the case.

Statement

Hospitals maintained by Cantonment Boards and funds allotted to them during each of the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the Cantonment	Hospitals		Funds allotted during last three years (Rs. in lakhs)		
		Number	Number of beds	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Budgeted)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Agra	1	30	11.76	14.41	26.32
2.	Ahmednagar	1	40	20.63	29.78	33.87
3.	Allahabad	1	24	12.23	16.40	27.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Aurangabad	1	20	12.10	14.52	16.39
5.	Babina	1	8	9.08	9.16	15.91
6.	Bakloh	1	2	3.89	4.22	9.48
7.	Bareilly	1	16	9.00	10.30	16.04
8.	Barrackpore	1	—	12.80	20.01	17.57
9.	Belgaum	1	9	8.84	11.27	13.69
10.	Clement Town	1	14	7.02	9.30	15.76
11.	Dalhousie	1	2	3.64	5.06	8.64
12.	Dehradun	1	18	13.51	15.08	24.63
13.	Dehu Road	1	50	45.00	55.15	61.17
14.	Delhi	1	30	78.73	97.00	104.62
15.	Deolali	1	75	45.44	56.18	65.23
16.	Ferozepur	1	32	14.40	13.79	42.57
17.	Jabalpur	1	34	20.49	22.65	34.18
18.	Jalandhar	1	34	17.60	18.76	28.40
19.	Jammu	1	35	21.87	22.70	35.27
20.	Jhansi	1	18	11.53	13.20	18.98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	Kamptee	1	32	20.28	20.38	23.64
22.	Kanpur	1	36	25.66	28.64	45.03
23.	Kasauli	1	19	11.08	13.75	23.99
24.	Khasyol	1	20	3.40	4.11	8.74
25.	Kirkee	1	100	145.45	180.48	202.58
26.	Lansdowne	1	33	6.75	7.41	14.42
27.	Lucknow	1	44	19.87	31.98	56.21
28.	Meerut	1	75	29.68	32.84	51.08
29.	Mhow	1	38	14.97	17.77	27.88
30.	Morar	1	10	7.08	7.61	13.00
31.	Pune	1	100	126.49	147.00	155.00
32.	Ramgarh	1	32	10.57	10.56	18.07
33.	Saugor	1	20	7.11	8.52	12.62
34.	Secunderabad	1	54	41.83	49.00	58.00
35.	Subatnu	1	9	3.75	4.16	7.52
36.	Varanasi	1	18	10.62	12.16	15.90
37.	Wellington	1	35	15.81	27.35	37.25

[Translation]

Soft Drink Company

3475. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earned by the foreign Soft Drink companies in India for the last three years, company-wise;

(b) the details of its adverse effect on the domestic soft drink manufactures; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage domestic small scale industries to invest in this field?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Soft drink companies are operating in private sector. Government do not maintain details of profits and loss earned by these companies.

(b) As a result of entry of foreign soft drink companies, the soft drink sector has become very competitive. This has resulted in many of the domestic soft drink manufacturers entering into franchises agreement with the foreign companies for bottling their brands.

(c) Benefits admissible for small scale sector are also available to small scale units engaged in manufacture of soft drinks.

[English]

Handbook on AIDS

3476. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army's Directorate General of Medical Services has brought out a handbook on AIDS;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to prevent spread of AIDS amongst Defence personnel; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on AIDS prevention programme during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and earmarked for 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A book titled "Commanders' hand book on AIDS" has been prepared by Armed Forces Medical College, Pune and the same was mass produced by Directorate General of Medical Services (Army).

2. The following steps are being taken, to prevent the spread of AIDS among Defence personnel:—

- (a) IEC (Information, Education and Communication synonymous with Health Education) activities on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS have been stepped up in the Armed Forces. These IEC activities are undertaken by medical, nursing and para-medical staff and also by commanders at all levels and religious teachers. A video film was developed by the Armed Forces Medical College highlighting the causes and prevention of HIV/AIDS among the Armed Forces Personnel. The same was mass produced by Directorate General Medical Services, Army and distributed to all Units in the Army.
- (b) Only HIV infection free Blood is used for transfusion to service personnel and their families.
- (c) Condoms are made available freely in the units for service personnel.
- (d) Service personnel found sero-positive for HIV are examined frequently and preventive measures are being taken against the spread of infection from such personnel while providing medical care to them.

3. The expenditure on the control of HIV/AIDS is met from the consolidated Budgetary provision made available to the Armed Forces Medical Services for providing comprehensive health care facilities to service personnel and their families. In addition, following grant-in-aid for surveillance of HIV/AIDS has been provided by National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Year	Amount (in Rs.)
1996-97	Nil
1997-98	15,24,500.00
1998-99	13,61,000.00
1999-2000	Not received so far.

**Upgradation/Expansion of DD Kendras in
Maharashtra**

3477. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MADAN PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Government have received requests from the State Governments for upgradation/expansion of Doordarshan Kendras during the last three years;

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

(c) whether some projects are running behind the schedule;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for their early completion?

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) Requests are received from time to time from various quarters, including State Governments for upgradation of existing transmitters and setting up of New transmitters and studios in the country.

(b) A statement showing details of requests received from State Governments/UTs is enclosed.

(c) to (e) It is the endeavour of Doordarshan to make all out efforts to complete its projects well in time. However, some of the projects are delayed due to non-availability of ready built accommodation for LPTs/VLPTs and delay in availability of infrastructural facilities viz. land, power supply etc., to be provided by State Governments. Delay in construction of buildings and towers by contracting agencies, difficult working conditions in certain areas due to climate conditions and law and order problems viz. N.E. region and J&K also affect the progress of on-going projects.

Statement

*State-wise number of requests received for upgradation,
installation of Doordarshan Studios and Transmitters*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ U.T.	No. of Requests received
1.	Assam	1
2.	Gujarat	3
3.	J & K	1
4.	Karnataka	1
5.	Kerala	2
6.	Maharashtra	4
7.	Nagaland	2
8.	Orissa	4
9.	Rajasthan	2
10.	Tripura	1
11.	Uttar Pradesh	2
12.	A & N Islands	1

Settlement of Railway Claims

3478. SHRI S.S. OWASI :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average time taken in settling the railway claims;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding corruption in settlement of claims;

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

(d) the steps taken for speedy settlement of claims?

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 average time taken in settling the claims by All Indian Railways for the year 1997-98 is 33 days.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some complaints have been received.

(c) Disciplinary action commensurate with the gravity of offence is taken under relevant rules.

(d) A statement is attached.

Statement

The following steps have been taken for speedy settlement of railway claims:

- (i) Notice of claims can be accepted at the station/goods shed to which the goods are booked.
- (ii) Claim work on Zonal Railways is being computerized to expedite settlement of claims.
- (iii) The scheme of Mobile Claims Offices has been reactivated on Zonal Railways to entertain and settle claims on the spot at important cities.
- (iv) Commodity Claim Cells have been set up on the Zonal Railways.
- (v) Machinery has been toned up to implement the scheme for claims enquiry for tracing on 'end to end' basis.
- (vi) Monitoring is done over Zonal Railways to ensure that target time for finalization of different types of claims is observed.
- (vii) Full powers have been delegated to General Managers for settling time-barred cases. Earlier

cases beyond Rs. 50,000 were required to be approved by Railway Board.

(viii) Financial concurrence has been completely dispensed with in decreed claims cases.

(ix) Strict Instructions issued to the railways to ensure that cheques are issued and despatched within a period of 15 days after the decretal amount for claim has been sanctioned.

Formation of Counter-Insurgency Force

3479. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to raise the counter insurgency force to replace the Rashtriya Rifles is under the active consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether regular army battalions functioning under Rashtriya Rifles, BSF and other Corps function under the same command; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal.

(c) and (d) All Para Military Forces, including the Rashtriya Rifles, when deployed on counter-insurgency duties, function under the command of Army.

Promotional avenues in MI Directorate

3480. SHRI PROMOTHEES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 3811 on April 27, 1995 regarding the prevailing stagnation and promotional avenues for Examiners working in the MI Directorate of his Ministry and state:

(a) whether any review of cadre of Examiner's posts in that Directorate has since been undertaken;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the justification thereof;

(c) whether the recommendations made by the Fifth Pay Commission to improve their pay scales and service conditions have been implemented;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The cadre structure of Censorship Organisation in the Directorate General of Military Intelligence of the Army Headquarter was examined by the 5th Central Pay Commission which *inter alia* recommended restructuring of the cadre of Examiners.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission for restructuring the cadre have been implemented with the issuance of Government letter on 28th October, 1997. In the restructured cadre-9 posts of Supervisory Examiner have been re-designated as Examiner-I in the pay scale of Rs. 6500-200-10500, 20 posts of Examiner-II have been created in the pay scale of Rs. 5500-175-9000; and 12 posts of Assistant Examiner have been upgraded and merged with Examiner in the pay scale of Rs. 5000-150-8000 and re-designated as Examiner-III.

(e) Does not arise.

Chinese Arms to Pak

3481. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI M. BAGA REDDY :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Pakistan set to buy more weapons from China" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 17, 1999;

(b) if so, whether China has increased the sale of its arms to the neighbouring countries of India;

(c) if so, whether this has posed a great threat to the Indian security; and

(d) if so, the steps, the Government propose to take to meet the situation?

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

(b) China is known to be supplying arms to India's neighbouring countries including Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. However, there are no confirmed reports to suggest any major recent increase in this activity.

(c) and (d) All developments having a bearing on India's national security are constantly monitored and all necessary steps are taken from time to time to maintain appropriate defence preparedness to thwart any attempt of misadventure on the part of our adversaries.

Flights between Mauritius and India

3482. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Mauritius has tied up fresh marketing arrangement with Air India following an increase in passenger traffic between Mauritius and India;

(b) if so, the main details of the pact signed between Air Mauritius and Air India; and

(c) the extent to which there has been an increase of passenger traffic between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Air India and Air Mauritius have signed a Joint Venture Agreement for operation of flights on Mauritius-India-Mauritius route for the year 1999-2000.

(b) The Agreement envisages operation of three flights per week during the period from 1.4.1999 to 4.2.2000 and two flights from 5.2.2000 to 31.3.2000 on Mauritius-Mumbai-Mauritius route and one flight per week during the period from 1.4.1999 to 31.3.2000 on Mauritius-Delhi-Mauritius route, by Air Mauritius in Joint Venture with Air India on profit sharing basis.

(c) The air traffic between India and Mauritius has increased from 51998 in 1996-97 to 58195 in 1997-98.

Pilgrim Rest Houses

3483. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the pilgrim rest-houses sanctioned by the Union Government during the last three years, State/location-wise; and

(b) the time by which the construction work of sanctioned rest-houses are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism sanctions projects to State Governments on receipt of detailed project proposals as per Guidelines. During the last three years the Accommodation Projects sanctioned at identified Pilgrim Centres are 1) Tourist Accommodation-Katra, 2) Tourist Bungalow-Ajmer, 3) Tourist accommodation—at Patna Sahib. The State Governments are required to complete the projects in 30 months.

Bilateral Agreement on Air Services

3484. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any bilateral agreement on air services was signed in the recent past between the Government of India and UK:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date on which the agreement was signed;

(c) whether this agreement has been implemented by India; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, and the time by which it is going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No such agreement was signed in the recent past.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Recruitment of Commissioned Officers

3485. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to abolish the direct recruitment of Commissioned officers in Armed forces and select them from other ranks according to the merits after a five years compulsory service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason for not introducing such an efficiency oriented scheme?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing avenues for the selection of candidates from among the personnel below officer rank are considered adequate.

Grounding of Helicopters at Bombay High

3486. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Minister Ignores P.M. Order" appearing in the 'Asian Age' dated October 2, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the case reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure smooth functioning at Bombay High?

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

(b) On the recommendation of the Ministry of Petroleum, on 15th December, 1997 permission was granted to Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) to hire three Bell-412 helicopters from M/s Azal for providing helicopter services for carriage of men and material related to the Bombay High off-shore operations under foreign registration initially for a period of 3 months with the condition that the helicopters would be got registered in India and operated in conformity with the domestic air transport policy. On the request of ONGC, permission was extended from time to time till 1st September, 1998.

In the meantime, M/s Azal India Pvt. Ltd. (an-Indian company) was granted NOC on 6th November, 1998 to operate non-scheduled air services. Import permission for three Bell-412 HP (2 + 13 seater) helicopters was issued on 1st December, 1998.

(c) In order to meet its operational requirements for off-shore activities, ONGC hires helicopter services from various vendors like Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. (PHHL),

and other Indian operators. M/s Azal India Pvt. Ltd. has also started flying with effect from 1.1.1999. PHHL and other Indian registered helicopter operators are fully equipped to provide necessary services to ONGC.

Nuclear Shelter

3487. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has joined select band of militancy power by indigenously developing protective systems which not only combats contamination caused by nuclear, biological and chemical weapons but also functions as nuclear shelter;

(b) whether some of these nations, like United States, Russia, China, Israel and the NATO members possess this system;

(c) whether this system can be used at a command post/observation post or for storage of medical supplies, fuel and food in a contaminated areas; and

(d) if so, the details of its other advantages?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) A number of protective systems capable of providing individual and collective protection against contamination caused by nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) weapons have been indigenously developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The protective system can be used for storage of food, fuel and medical supplies and for individual/collective protection.

Pay Revision of Accounts Officials

3488. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Members of Parliament and Accounts officials regarding pay revision and other demand;

(b) if so, the details 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations in this regard have been received from recognised Unions, Staff Associations and various dignitaries including Members of Parliament. The representationists have been demanding improvement in pay scales allotted to staff working in the Accounts Department of the Railways.

(c) A proposal has been initiated by the Ministry of Railways in this regard. The proposal has, however, not yet been concurred in by Ministry of Finance and Department of Personnel and Training. Final decision of the Government has, therefore, not yet been taken.

Pay Scale of Group 'B' Officers

3489. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assistant Officers Group 'B' of all departments were working in the same grade prior to January 1, 1996;

(b) whether Assistant Accounts Officers Group 'B' are now provided a higher scale; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to provide the same scale to other Group 'B' Assistant Officers on Indian Railways?

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. Group 'B' officers belonging to all Departments in Zonal Railways and Production Units etc. were placed in the common pay scale of Rs. 2375-3750 with effect from 30-7-1993 which remained in force up to 31.12.1995.

(b) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, 80% of the Group 'B' officers working in the Accounts Department in the Zonal Railways and Production Units etc. are placed in the higher revised grade of Rs. 8000-13500 subject to

fulfilment of laid down conditions. This recommendation of the Pay Commission was intended to bring Group 'B' Accounts Officers in the Railways at par with analogous officers in other Accounts and Audit Departments of the Government, who already had a higher grade available to them.

(c) Efforts have been made in the past by the Ministry of Railways to provide higher pay scale to a segment of Group 'B' Officers in other departments of the Railways also. However, the same has not yet been accepted by the Government, mainly on account of repercussions in other Group 'B' Services in the Government.

Roster for SCs/STs/OBCs in CONCOR

3490. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether roster for SCs/STs/OBCs has been maintained in Container Corporation of India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number out of the total staff belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes category, post-wise;

(d) whether there was an advertisement in the newspaper to fill up the post of Senior Manager (Tech) reserved for Scheduled Caste category but the same was filled by general candidate deliberately on deputation from the Ministry of Railways;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of vacancies of SCs/STs that have been converted into general category during the last three years;

(f) whether the complaints from the SC/ST employees were received against violation of Railway Board Directives and caste based humiliation; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government on these complaints?

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) Rosters for working out posts reserved for SC/ST/OBCs in recruitment are maintained region, department and category-wise. These rosters were maintained according to vacancies prior to 2.7.1997 and were recast to post reservations' rosters w.e.f. 2.7.1997 as per Government of India orders received under Ministry of Industries, DPE Memorandum No. 6/20/97/DPE(SC/ST Cell) dated 28.7.1997.

(c) A statement is attached.

(d) It is true that a post of Senior Manager (Tech.) reserved for SC was advertised in October 1996, but it is not correct that the same was filled up by general candidate deliberately on deputation from Ministry of Railways.

(e) No vacancy reserved for SC/ST has been converted into General category during the last three years.

(f) and (g) Out of 100 SC/ST employees working in Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), only four complaints were received from SC/ST employees. While three complaints related to service matters, which were redressed promptly, one related to alleged harassment on caste basis. The matter was got inquired into by a senior SC officer and the complaint was found unsubstantiated. The complainant, though called a number of times by Inquiry Officer, did not appear before him to depose anything in support of his complaint.

Statement

S. No.	Category	Total Staff	No. of SCs	No. of STs
1	2	3	4	5
1.	GGM	4	—	—
2.	GM	3	—	—
3.	DGM	1	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Manager	7	—	—
5.	Dy. Manager	14	3	—
6.	Sr. Manager	1	—	—
7.	Asstt. Manager	8	—	1
8.	Secretary	4	1	—
9.	Pvt. Secretary	4	—	—
10.	Jr. Secretary	16	2	1
11.	Executive	29	7	—
12.	Sr. Executive	11	1	—
13.	Asstt. Executive	18	1	1
14.	Jr. Executive	50	7	1
15.	Asstt. Tech. Executive	64	13	4
16.	Jr. Tech. Executive	23	3	1
17.	Supervisor	4	1	—
18.	Sr. Supervisor	1	—	—
19.	Asstt. Supervisor	46	10	1

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Sr. Assistant	144	18	8
21.	Works Assistant	5	—	—
22.	Receptionist	2	—	—
23.	MT/Off.	11	1	—
24.	Programmer	3	1	—
25.	Helper	56	13	—
Total		529	82	18

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Airlines Limited etc. for the year 1997-98 under sub section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956, and reasons for delay

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Airlines Limited and its subsidiary Alliance Air, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Airlines Limited and its subsidiary Alliance Air, New Delhi,

for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(iii) Review by the Government on the comments of Auditors and Comptroller and Auditor General on the Accounts of the Indian Airlines Limited and its subsidiary (Alliance Air) for the year 1997-98 and managements' replies thereto.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2707/99]

Notifications regarding the Messers Daman Ganga Papers Limited, Emami Paper Mills Limited, Valsad, as a mill of producing Newsprint, etc., under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 alongwith reasons for delay

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Sikander Bakht, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(i) S.O. 1040(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 1998 notifying the Messers Daman Ganga Papers Limited, Emami Paper Mills Limited, Valsad, as a mill producing Newsprint.

(ii) S.O. 1070(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th December, 1998 making certain amendments in the Order published in Notification No. S.O. 1040(E) dated the 3rd December, 1998.

(iii) S.O. 133(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1999 notifying V.G. Paper and Boards Limited, Unit-II, Kolumam, Coimbatore as a mill producing Newsprint.

(iv) S.O. 123(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 1999 notifying the Anurag Board and Paper Mills (P) Limited, Muzaffarnagar as a mill producing Newsprint.

(v) S.O. 124(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 1999 notifying the N.R. Agrawal Industries Limited (Unit No. II), Valsad, as a mill producing Newsprint.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) of item No. (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2708/99]

Review by the Government of the working of the India Tea and Restaurants Ltd., Mumbai along with the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 1997-98 etc. under sub section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956

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, on behalf of Shri Ramakrishna Hegde, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2709/99]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Spices Trading Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2710/99]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority, New Delhi, 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 Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2711/99]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Labour for the year 1999-2000

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : I beg to lay on the table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2712/99]

Notifications regarding GSR 1(E) relating to Amendments in the Notification No. 32/97/Cus. dated 1st April 1997, etc. under section 159 of the Customs Act 1962, etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—
 - (i) G.S.R. 1(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 1999 together with an explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 32/97/Cus., dated the 1st April, 1997.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 58(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 1999 together with an explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 104/95-Cus., dated the 31st May, 1995.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 766(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 1998 together with an explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 23/98-Cus., dated the 2nd June, 1998 so as to reduce the basic Custom duty on parts and components required for the manufacture of fuel injection equipment from 20% to 10% upto the 31st March, 1999.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 156(E) to G.S.R. 166(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1999 together with an explanatory Memorandum regarding Custom duty changes and exemption in the context of Budget proposals pertaining to Indirect Taxes announced by Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 27th February, 1999.
 - (v) G.S.R. 742(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 1998 together with an explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 34/97-Cus., dated the 7th April, 1997 so as to extend the operation of D.E.P.B. Scheme to the Inland Containers Depots at Salem, Tirupur, Singanalur, Waluj and Malanpur.

- (vi) The Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 79(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 1999 with an explanatory Memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2713/99]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—
 - (i) G.S.R. 167(E) to G.S.R. 183(E) and G.S.R. 189(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1999 together with an explanatory Memorandum regarding Central Excise duty changes and exemption in context to Budget Proposals pertaining to Indirect Taxes announced by Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 27th February, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2714/99]
- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:—
 - (i) The Service Tax (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 184(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1999.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 185(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1999 together with an explanatory Memorandum seeking to exempt service tax on specified taxable services.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 186(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1999 together with an explanatory Memorandum seeking to exempt service tax on taxable services provided by Rent a cab scheme operator.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 187(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1999 together with an explanatory Memorandum seeking to exempt service tax on taxable services provided by consulting engineers in relation to computer software services.

- (v) G.S.R. 188(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 1999 together with an explanatory Memorandum seeking to rescind certain service tax notifications.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2715/99]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 765(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 1998 together with an explanatory Memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Industrial Sewing Machine Needles originating in or imported from Japan, Korea R.P. and People Republic of China, issued under sub-section (2) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2716/99]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-section (1) of section 8B of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

- (i) G.S.R. 767(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 1998 together with an explanatory Memorandum seeking to impose safeguard duty on all imports of Flexible Slab Polyol for the manufacture of Polyurethane Foam and Polyurethane Foam Mattresses.

- (ii) G.S.R. 768(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 1998 together with an explanatory Memorandum seeking to impose safeguard duties on all imports of Propylene Glycol.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2717/99]

Annual Report of the National Academy of Ayurveda, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98 along with Audited Accounts, etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Academy of Ayurveda, New Delhi, 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 National Academy of Ayurveda, New Delhi for the year 1997-98.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2718/99]

Annual Administration Report of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts, etc. and statement showing reasons for delay

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, 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 Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 1997-98.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 2719/99]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule(6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and

Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Goa Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1999 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th March, 1999 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Goa Appropriation Bill, 1999 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th March, 1999 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.02¹/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Fourteenth Report

[English]

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Mumbai South) : Sir, I beg to present the Fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance on the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 1998.

12.02¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE

Seventh and Eighth Reports

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare:

- (1) Seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on "Demands for Grants, Ministry of Labour—1998-99".

- (2) Eighth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Fifth Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Labour and Welfare on "Demands for Grants, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment—1998-99".

12.02³/₄ hrs.

[English]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Eighth Report

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner) : Sir, I beg to present the Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants—1998-99 relating to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals.

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that I have received the following message dated the 16th March, 1999 from the President.

"I have received with great satisfaction the expression of thanks by the Members of Lok Sabha for the Address which I had delivered to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 22nd of February, 1999."

12.04¹/₂ hrs.

RE: WITHDRAWAL OF OFFICE MEMORANDA PERTAINING TO RESERVATIONS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES IN SERVICES

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : Sir, we have raised an issue and before we proceed to the other item, we want to know about your decision. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Buta Singh. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All the Members will get chance to speak in 'Zero Hour' today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please make a decision on bogus voting. You have kept it pending for a long period. You had informed the House in case of bogus voting, but you are not telling any thing so far. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question was raised as a very important matter ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Buta Singh's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singh, please take your seat. I have allowed Shri Buta Singh. What is this?

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Buta Singh's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singh, do we have to follow any procedure in the House or not? What is this?

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Buta Singh's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody will get a chance to speak today, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Virendra Singh ji, you will also get a chance to speak, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Chacko, you also sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, hon. Members belonging to all political parties in the House came together to protest against the official memoranda which the Government to India had issued. ... (Interruptions) They were very keen to put forth the strongest protest on behalf of the people of India belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against the memoranda issued in January, 1997 by the Government of India. ... (Interruptions) Sir, this was not just a question of a few people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes here and there. ... (Interruptions) Nor was this a question of employment facilities being given to the members of the Scheduled Castes. ... (Interruptions) It was a wider question. It was a question involving the national entity of the 30 crore people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, we are happy that you are allowing this discussion. But what about your decision on the Bhagwat issue?

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to it later.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Bhagwat issue was raised in the House yesterday. ... (Interruptions) Sir, there are serious allegations against the Defence Minister. ... (Interruptions) Kindly let us know your decision on that. Kindly let us know how you are going to deal with it.

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, on behalf of all the parties in the House, the people belonging to scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. ... (Interruptions)

[Shri Buta Singh]

12.09 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday, almost all the parties including R.L.M., Congress party and BJP had urged upon the Government before this House regarding breach of rights of the people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe and as a result thereof an official Memorandum issued by the Government from January 1997, has done away with the very basis of the reservation policy.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Which Government was in power at that time. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I will say ...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I will be calling one Member from each party. Then you can say whatever you want to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Today being the last day before Break, let everybody get a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will also get a chance. Please sit down now.

(Translation)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying that in the beginning of 1997, this Government was not in power, since then Department of Personnel and Grievances has issued five official Memorandum, due to which this reservation policy was wiped out. The basic issues linked with this policy were also done away with. In view of these developments, all the members of all the parties particularly member and leaders belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe communities have extended their support, first of all I thank them. This question donot rate only to Dalits and Adivasis. Several provisions have been made under the constitution. Article 16(4), 16(4)A, Article 335 and Article 324 enshrined in our contitution are basically the components of the Indian Constitution. He admits that the 1/4 population *i.e.* 30 crore people of India belong to Scheduled Caste and

Scheduled Tribe communities, how their rights can be protected, these are enshrined in the constituent assembly of our country. These are not given in charity nor given in gift. These are our constitutional rights. Therefore whenever there will be any attack on these rights, then 30 crore people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe will fight against this and ensure that they are not deprived of their rights. Some times it is also being said that reservation was provided to the people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe to grab their votes. We refute this thing. We are not salable goods, this is not a vegetable market that anybody takes our votes by providing reservation or concession. We have our own rights and these have been enshrined in our Constitution. Provision of Article 338 has been made in the Constitution of our country to protect these rights and the President of India has special rights under which he can appoint a special officer to protect these rights. Nowadays this post has been converted into commission for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. That commission has constitutional right to punish the bureaucracy by setting up a court of law, whenever any attack be made on the rights of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. Clause 9 of Article 3 make it obligatory for any Government, whether it is Union Government or State Government, that wherever any change will be made in this policy, I can tell by reading the Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)* It has been published by many newspapers that nowadays when Buta Singh make his speech, then he keep a book in his hand. I would like to say that this is the only book which protect us, otherwise some persons will wipe out the weaker section and Adivasis. The book protect us, therefore we march ahead with the help of this book. This has been clearly written in it, I would like to read a line of clause 9 of Article 338 in the House.

(English)

Article 338(9) of our Constitution says:

"The Union and every State Government shall consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

(Translation)

Even after such a clear order, I would like to ask through this House whatever any Government, whether it is Congress Government, Janta Dal Government or B.J.P. Government. I would like to ask who bestowed you with these rights? How you have issued these five ordinances?

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Who issued these.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I have already said. Why you are so aggrieved? What I mean to say is who has done it. In view of this neither any Government nor Supreme Court or any Court is capable to do anything whenever it is required only Parliament is capable to change the policy therefore all such ordinances or demi official letters issued by the Government under this constitution they are illegal, unconstitutional. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH (Bhiwani) : When they were issued?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : You please listen. To withdraw these, neither this Government should have any trouble nor earlier Governments should have had any such difficulty. Gujral Sahab is sitting here. He had prepared an ordinance to withdraw these ordinances, a committee had been constituted under the leadership of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and the cabinet had issued the ordinance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Paswanji was a Minister at that time, this matter has come up at that time.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ashok Pradhan, please do'nt interrupt the hon'ble Member. You will get chance. I will call you.

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : These ordinances were likely to be issued, but immediately the Government fell and new Government came in to power. Now we have been making efforts with the new Government for the last one year. The demi-official letter issued for depriving the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of their rights should at least be withdrawn by issuing the ordinance prepared by Gujral Sahab which is still lying in the Cabinet Sectt. The Commission of SC/ST has submitted a special report to the hon'ble President by using their extraordinary rights after making efforts for one year. Normally it does not happen. The Commission of SC/ST has submitted their report on 22.1.1998. It means this report is lying before this Government and after that we have been trying our best. Our best meeting was held with hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari

Vajpayee. You will be surprised to know that in that meeting. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : He is making a speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please keep quiet. Nothing has been done during the last two days, that is why he is making a long speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I am telling the facts. I am not going into details. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please keep quiet. You can express your views after his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : A delegation met hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji at his residence, which include Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Madan Lal Khurana and the Members from all the parties, Shri Sanghpriya Gautam from B.J.P., Shri Hanumantappa from Congress, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan from Janta Dal and we gave a Memorandum signed by hundred Members of Parliament. The Memorandum which was given to hon'ble Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji day before yesterday, had been signed by hundred Members of Parliament. Among these Signatories were BJP, Congress, the Members of all other parties. These members have also requested to withdraw those five demi-official letters which have deprived us of our rights. Hon'ble Prime Minister did not give any reply in this regard. Our Memorandum is still lying with him. Meanwhile, I would like to read a line of the reply which has been given in the Rajya Sabha by Shri Janardhanan, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Buta Singhji, more people want to participate in it.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : He said in the reply that the Government will neither modify nor revise it, it means the Government has closed this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I said, nothing will go on record. Only Shri Buta Singh's speech will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, I would like to inform the House about the impact created by these Memorandums. The ordinance was issued in 1997, in which the people belonging to SCs and STs ...(Interruptions) I am not going out of the subject matter. ...(Interruptions) I would like to submit one point each for all five Memorandums about the impact created by these memorandums. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should just tell what should the Government do?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, with first Memorandum, seniority was lost. Through second Memorandum, Reservation roster was abolished. Thus, the system which was prevailing since 1952, was discontinued. Through the third Memorandum promotion was stopped. Through fourth Memorandum, reservation was not extended to all classes of posts. Through fifth Memorandum the special provision for recruitment in respect of wipe out backlog that was also abolished. Thus, with all these five Memorandums, the policies were completely reversed. But as per constitution, policies cannot be reversed. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not give any further details.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, The Minister of Welfare has removed the picture of Dr. Ambedkar from her office. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you want the Government to do?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : My demand is that the Government should withdraw this official Memoranda.

[Translation]

We demand that the picture of Dr. Ambedkar be again placed there. ...(Interruptions) A Bill should be introduced to enact law regarding reservation.

That law should be incorporated in Ninth Schedule of the Constitution so that nobody dares to do injustice with the SC and ST officers, this is our demand. Discussions should be held on all decisions of Supreme Court so as to revise them. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am calling one hon'ble Member from all parties. Everybody will get a chance.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please be silent, you will get a chance to express your views.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at first I would like to thank you and the Government whose intention is that discussion should be held and one should express his views in a clear way. I associate myself with the views expressed by my senior Member Shri Buta Singh. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, you will get a chance. What you want to raise is a different matter. After the discussions on this is over, you will get your chance. Every party will put forth its point of view on this. Please do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Sir, the situation is this.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called Shri Ashok Pradhan to speak. Please do not disturb him; he is also from your party.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Sir, see, how they are supporting the dalits. Their condition will become clear. I would like to submit that I associate with what hon'ble Shri Buta Singh has said. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, the Prime Minister must come and clarify this matter. What is the point of this discussion, if the Prime Minister is not here? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Shri Buta Singh you have expressed your views. Now, listen to my views too
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : Sir, is this 'Zero Hour'? ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, A discussion is going on and every party will get a chance because this is a very important matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : One Member from each party will put forth its point of view and then the Government will react to it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the Prime Minister is not here; the Home Minister is not here; what is the discussion that is going on? I am sorry, Sir, that during 'Zero Hour' there cannot be a discussion on any particular matter.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Jos, I have called Shri Ashok Pradhan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is going on here?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am calling one hon'ble Member from each party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Prof. Kawade, I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seats? Shri Reddy, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, you have all seen how this issue was raised yesterday—for the whole day, the House could not function. So, the hon'ble Speaker has allowed one Member from all parties to mention his party's viewpoint so that the Government can react to it. This is the decision that is taken.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Jos, I am on my legs. Will you please sit down?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Jos, will you please sit down? Let me complete. You are simply not allowing me also to speak. Let me understand the position.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let me complete. I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : What about our 'legs', Sir?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your 'legs', only after my 'legs'!

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have called Shri Ashok Pradhan. Likewise, I will call one Member from all parties. Kindly be patient to hear everybody. Please do not interrupt so that we can complete this issue and then the Government will react.

If you do not cooperate with me, then I will adjourn and go.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : What is the use if the Home Minister and the Prime Minister are not present here? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : Please call the Prime Minister. ...(Interruptions) Why does the Prime Minister not want to listen today? ...(Interruptions)

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister should come in the House. It is concerned with thirty crores of dalits and tribal people ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA (Dandhuka) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister had come to the House yesterday. Why did they not let him speak? ...(Interruptions) The Hon'ble Prime Minister wanted to speak yesterday, but you did not let him speak. You are not sympathetic with the poor. ...(Interruptions) You wasted the whole day. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Kawade, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. He is representing the Government. How can I insist that Prime Minister must be present here?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kumari Mamata Banerjee, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Kawade, this is not good. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : One day was wasted. That is being talked about. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Kawade, if you continue like this, then I will have to name you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is everybody to speak in this House? I have given the floor to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Madam, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Sir, yesterday the Prime Minister was here. He wanted to hear all the Members of Parliament and give his reaction. However, neither could we hear the views of the leaders from the other side nor could we have his reaction. He will come the moment the House feels that he should come. Yesterday, the House literally stopped him from speaking nor did they present their views. I went around begging people that

you can make your presentation, that your views can be presented in this House after which the Prime Minister will reply.

If they agree today that we will have a proper decorum and that we will all voice our views one after the other, then the Prime Minister will come in a minute. Let them agree. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Bhuria, let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Kawade, this is not the way to raise the matter. If you continue like this, then nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Bhuria, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, will you please yield to me?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am on my legs. I will hear you Shri Banatwalla.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : I will say it in one sentence. The question of propriety. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will give you the floor. Please allow me to complete.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : How can he say that the Prime Minister will come to the House when the House is in order? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, I am on my legs. Will you please resume your seat?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Today is the last day of the Session. Why are you agitated? The whole House is prepared to hear you. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister has said that the Prime Minister will come to the House at any time. Be fair to him. Yesterday, he was here and he wanted to make a statement. The Minister has just now told that he will come to the House and hear all of you. So, let us have a peaceful atmosphere in the House. I have given the floor to Shri Pradhan. I will give the floor to everybody who wants to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, other matters are also serious.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let them come, I will listen them too.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, the hon'ble Minister says that the Prime Minister will come when the House is peaceful. What does he mean by that? That is a breach of propriety. The question of dignity, decorum is a question between the Chair and ourselves. The Prime Minister cannot say that he will come to the House on a condition. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He did not say it. Please do not put words in his mouth. He was here to make the statement. Be fair to him. This is unfair. He wanted to make the statement. He came to me twice saying that he wanted to make a statement. You are a senior

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

Member and a leader also. For heaven's sake, let us be patient enough to hear everybody.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : To maintain the dignity of this House, I am raising this question. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Shiv Shanker wants to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : This is a highly sensitive matter affecting a large segment of the society. You are kind enough to say that Shri Buta Singh will speak and you have now given the floor to Shri Pradhan. All those Members, who want to say something on this should be allowed to speak because this has a far reaching consequence. My friends from the other side should also be allowed to speak. ...(Interruptions) You have allowed Shri Pradhan. You may allow us also to speak. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here in the House. Other Ministers are also here. If Members feel it necessary, the Prime Minister can also come and the matter can be decided. In the meanwhile, let us all say what we want to because this issue has far reaching consequences. I am sorry to say, that yesterday a question was decided in the Committee about what should be discussed and what should not be discussed. I am sorry to say that the Prime Minister should not have said outside that the JPC could not be formed. That is unfair. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, you are going to the other subject.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : That is unfair. ...(Interruptions) He could have said this here that JPC would not be constituted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : May I appeal to all the Chief Whips that this issue concerns about one-third population of this country? This is such an issue that everybody is concerned about it. The hon'ble Speaker has said that let every party say something and the

Government can react to it. After that we can pass on to certain other items. Today being the last day, let us transact some business. Therefore, I seek cooperation of all the Whips and leaders to keep their Members calm.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the topic on which Shri Buta Singh expressed his views, is very serious. If other Members speak this way, how could the dalits be uplifted? Today, matter before us is that five Memoranda have been issued. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, we should first study the root-cause of this matter as to from where it has been originated. It happened on 16.11.1997. ...(Interruptions) Everything was going on smoothly. Then came January 1998. ... The Government in power at that time. ...(Interruptions) Whose Government was in power, is known to all, at that time Shri Devegowda was heading the Government.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : Shri Gujral Government was in power at that time.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : It's o.k. Both the ex-Prime Minister Shri Devegowda and Shri Gujral are present in the House. At that time, they were in power, although, the Prime Minister was changed. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if only the ex-Prime Minister who is present in the House at present could express his view, there would be no conflict. But this procedure was not followed and why this Memorandum was issued? I would like to submit that atrocities are being committed against the dalits. This issue has not arisen today. It is prevailing since independence. A provision has been made in the Constitution in this regard. We are sitting here because of this. There is no difference of opinion that dalits are sitting here. Shri Buta Singh expressed his views. I would like to associate myself with him but I would also like to submit that there should not be any politics in it. It is not a matter of politics. Mr. Deputy Speaker, yesterday whatever was said, was inspired by politics while the Hon'ble Prime Minister ji ...

SHRI SAILENDRA KUMAR : B.J.P. people were also there ...

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA : You were with us.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : During the last fifty years, Congress has been in power for about 40-45 years. ...(Interruptions) They have ruled in the name of dalits. When this official Memorandum was issued, the Government was being run with their support. I can

imagine the feelings of Shri Buta Singh ji and Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, who is sitting here, was a part of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Raghuvansh ji, please sit down.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : He is calling my name, so please let me express my views.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Raghuvansh ji, when your name will be called, then you should speak. This is not a matter of reservation. Please tell what do you want from the Government so do.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : I am coming to the same point. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, they were part of the Government. He was speaking about the recent episode but the recent Bihar episode which took place not hidden from anyone. The whole country has seen it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please tell what do you want to say to the Government.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : I am covering on the same point.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : I request please do not bring polices in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Please tell what should be done ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : I only wanted to say that the Bihar episode is not hidden from anyone. It is well know to all. The manner in which Congress supported Lalu Yadav and saved him, is not hidden. Now, they talk about dalits which is not good. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pradhan ji, please speak on the issue and not on other matters. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

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 have a small submission to make. The hon'ble member is frequently disturbing every member who is speaking. I think there should be at least some decorum in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, I am asking for his cooperation.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my views. Don't I have the right to express my views. Are other members not expressing their views? Has not Shri Buta Singh expressed his views and we heard their views. We are speaking on this topic only.

Today, our Bharatiya Janata Party Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and its allies have taken this issue very seriously. Even before agitation, Bharatiya Janata Party has dealt this matter very seriously. It was decided in SC/ST forum that we will express our views but it was not mentioned that politics would be involved. Yesterday's episode was inspired by politics. Yesterday for the whole day. Hon'ble Prime Minister made efforts that we express our views on this topic. I would like to submit that this Government is the Government for dalits in real sense. It aims at the interests of the dalits. Our Government has maintained this provision all along. Even if we count by the representation in Parliament, the position of dalits is clear before the House. If our Government intends to do anything, it does not just pose to do that as the previous Government was doing. At that time, Shri Paswan was in the Government and he was the leader of his party, all this happened during that period. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please Speak on the topic.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, should not we look into the whole matter and find out as to who was the Minister and Prime Minister and the Government when this Memorandum was issued and which Government was in power? Should not we inform the nation about it? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have put your point and now it is your turn to ask as to what Government should do?

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying that our BJP Government, under the leadership of Hon'ble Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, is taking this matter very seriously, and they have made up their mind, that's why they kept on sitting the whole day in the House yesterday to listen the points raised in regard to down-trodden people as well as the entire matter pertaining to them. You are a witness to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA (Swai Madhopur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unless this important issue is taken up by the Prime Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Today, it is our Government who wants to protect the interests and welfare of the down trodden people, it wants them to bring them in the main stream. ...*(Interruptions)* Our Prime Minister wants to say something about it and also wants to do something for this class. He is totally in the favour of down trodden people. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, atrocities have been committed on a down trodden (Suppressed) women ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Order please ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Why have you stood up?

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (Karol Bagh) : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today, an important issue is being discussed here in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : One lady Member is speaking and when ladies themselves are busy in talking, please listen to her.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : All the Members of the House, including Mr. Pradhanji, who has spoken just before me, alongwith SC, ST and other Members of each and every party of the House have altogether opposed the five orders issued. ...*(Interruptions)* Madam, you also supported it, everybody has supported it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI (Ghatampur) : What were you doing at that time. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : I would like to say one thing here that the entire House is unanimous over this point that these orders should be withdrawn, there is no doubt about it. Shri Buta Singh ji has said it just now and all of us support the issue raised by him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Madam, Shrimati Meira Kumar is not yielding.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you please tell them not to oppose it. This issue is pertaining to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which has such a large population in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Who is the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : This issue relates to the people who elect you to form the Government, they are the back bone of this country. You please do not oppose them. Today the whole House is supporting it. This is not a question when these orders were issued, but the question is that these orders are wrongly issued, and it hardly matters who has issued these orders and when. Today we strongly demand that neither our party nor any member present in this House is protesting to withdraw this order.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this going on here? Order please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : May I request the Chief Whips to cooperate with me?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Kindly allow me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no point of order during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, the hon'ble member is making her submission. But the members from the other side are not allowing her to speak. When she has been called by you, she should be allowed to speak. Please control them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, you are also indulging in the same thing. She will continue now. I will take care of it. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we should also be allowed to speak. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon'ble Speaker has said on this subject that the next subject will be taken up only after giving opportunity to all the parties to speak and getting the reaction of the Government. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this subject is being discussed here from yesterday onwards and I do not know for how long it will be discussed. You kindly allocate some time. Please listen to us also. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a member of our party is speaking and she is talking

about the welfare of all the parties. This subject relates to the crores of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but they are not allowing her to speak. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : How much you are concerned about these people, the entire country knows it very well. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already taken a decision. She will continue now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : May I seek the cooperation of the Chief Whip? What is this going on? Prof. Kunen, please ask your Member to take his seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already told you that I will not allow this. How many times should I have to repeat it?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, you cannot dictate the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you want to allow it?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you will allow them. Who will

*Not recorded.

[Shri Virendra Singh]

listen to us. You allocate a fix time for them, for how long this whole matter will go on ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Unless these orders are withdrawn, this matter will go on. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a lady member is speaking from our party and they are feeling uncomfortable. She is talking about everybody's interest. She is talking about the interest of down trodden and Adiwasi people and the entire House wants to listen to her attentively. But the people from other side do not want to listen to her and are creating disturbance in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record, except what Shrimati Meira Kumar says.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when the time comes to discuss the matter regarding tribals in the House, the members start interrupting, it is very unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

13.00 hrs.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : May I make an appeal? Let hon. Members from all the parties speak. Whenever an hon. Member is speaking, let there not be any running commentary.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is what I have been saying.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is again standing. Shri Bwiswmuthiary, when I am on my legs, you should sit. You must learn the rules.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you fix a time. ...*(Interruptions)* You please allow everybody to speak only for two minutes as there are many more issues also to be discussed here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was saying the same thing but I was interrupted several times. I was saying that injustice has been done towards Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by issuing those orders. The entire House oppose it. The entire House wishes that these orders be withdrawn. We are unable to understand as to why some of our members are interrupting it because I know they are the people who participated in the 'Dhama' yesterday. It is a national issue rather than a question just related to any party. How these down trodden and adiwasi people of this country can get back their rights, they are leading a shameful life for the thousands of years. ...*(Interruptions)* You please do not insult them here. ...*(Interruptions)* You please be quiet. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE (Surendranagar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, kindly allow us to speak also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, whatever judgement was there, by mentioning that these five orders have been issued. They have wrongly interpreted it and knowingly whatever office orders and office Memorandum have been issued, there was only one aim that whatever provisions have been made regarding reservation in our constitution, should be implemented *in toto* so that more and more dalit and adiwasi masses could accrue these benefits but these orders are contrary to the intention. These orders weaken the cause of the reservation provided in Constitution and weaken the basic structure of reservation. I earnestly demand to Prime Minister from our party side. In this connection many times delegations have met the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said that he is helpless. I would like to request him through you that he should not feel helpless. ...*(Interruptions)* Whole House is with him

*Not recorded.

and he should not feel any type of weakness. ...*(Interruptions)* These orders should be withdrawn. ...*(Interruptions)* Please let me speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRIMATI MIERA KUMAR : What they want to prove by standing repeatedly. I am sure that they are with us but they are shaking my confidence by interrupting repeatedly. They are repeatedly showing that they do not want to support us on this issue. I have put a demand, I do not want to play politics in this matter. They have talked about Congress that is why I would like to say that during the Congress period when there was a contradictory judgment of Supreme Court in regard to reservation in promotion. We had reversed it by bringing 77th Constitution amendment. I would like to tell the Prime Minister that he should also take the similar step, if require, bring amendment in Constitution and withdraw these orders so as to protect the interest of SC and ST people.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if there was ever a national issue, this is a national issue and it should be treated as a matter not of any political party. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, the concerned Minister has left the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, the country is also watching who is here and who is not there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, the concerned Minister is not here. ...*(Interruptions)* it would have been better if the Hon'ble Prime Minister had been here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Prime Minister will be coming, I told you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : But Sir, the concerned Minister should be here to listen to the submission. They are not at all interested in this ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Chacko, they are all interested. All are here. The concerned Minister can also hear it from his chamber.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, such an important matter is being discussed in the House, so the concerned Minister should be present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please, let him speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, as is very rightly said, the matter which is very sensitive, concerns a very large percentage of our population who require most urgent and appropriate attention, not only of this House but also of the Government. Therefore, there is no doubt about the importance of the matter. I feel and all of us are concerned, therefore, as a Parliament we should also treat it in the same spirit.

Sir, it would have been better—I am not saying it is a condition precedent—since all sections of the House are very much agitated for good reason, I wish the Prime Minister would have been here today also to listen to the Hon'ble members' submissions.

What I feel is that there are two aspects which are of very great importance. It has been understood that on the basis of the Supreme Court Judgement, the previous Government had issued the orders. Some hon'ble Members are saying that there is apparently a wrong interpretation of the Supreme Court Judgement. But that cannot be said like that. The earlier Government had also taken a legal opinion at the highest level. Therefore, this is a matter which cannot just be decided on the basis of my perception of the Supreme Court Judgement. This is a matter to be studied properly. Therefore, what I am requesting is that let this Government also have some time.

It appears, in January this year, a delegation, in which the hon'ble Speaker was also a member, the Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was also a member, apart from other hon'ble members, had a long discussion with the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Ultimately, on 29th January a letter was sent to him recording the discussion they had. The hon'ble Speaker, Shri Buta Singh, Shri R.V. Paswan, Shri Hanumanthappa, Shri Gautam, almost all party delegation met the Prime Minister.

I wish the Hon'ble Prime Minister had also responded positively to this, in the sense of trying to find out a solution to meet urges and aspirations of our people. They are our people. Therefore, instead of keeping quiet something should be done. The reply is very unhappy in

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

the sense, there is a totally closed mind of the Government on this issue. This is a creating problem today.

I appeal to the senior hon'ble Ministers, they are all concerned I have no manner of doubt, I am not casting any aspersions on any of them, but Sir, some matters have to be responded more quickly than others. On the 25th of February it is said that it has not been found possible to withdraw, modify any of these instructions. After that, obviously a large number of Members are agitated.

Therefore, I am respectfully submitting for the consideration of all sections of the House that this is a very vital matter.

Most urgently a small Committee including the members of Parliament may be formed to go into the implications of the judgement of the Supreme Court—which can be withdrawn and which cannot be withdrawn; they can take opinion from the Attorney General or anybody else they like—and come with a solution. The Government must cooperate with them. The Government must take the initiative in this regard.

Today, it is a sorry spectacle when 38 per cent of the people are concerned with this issue—this is the mood of the House—yesterday because something unfortunate has happened and, therefore, the hon'ble Prime Minister will not be present here today; the concerned Minister is also not present here. It is a very sorry state of affairs. I am not making any personal accusation. As I said, it is a national matter; treat it as such.

I am sure that Shri Buta Singh and many friends will accept with my suggestion of forming a committee in this regard. Let something be done immediately as per the suggestions made by the Opposition so that some solution may be found out at an early date.

I generally support but I have to consider very deeply the implications of different Memoranda. I must confess that I have not yet done that but generally we know and we support the cause for which this demand has been made.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Honourable Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me

an opportunity to participate on this important issue pertaining to SC and ST.

Almost all our honourable members have expressed their views about it. The entire house and the honourable members of all the parties are concerned about it. As I remember, the honourable members of Parliament belonging to all parties, have met several times on this issue and there was unanimity among all the members about this issue. These 5 G.O. which have been issued recently are very dangerous in regard to the promotion of SC and ST officers. We have also met time to time, whether it was the meeting of SC and ST forum, or all the leaders of other parties have called this meeting at their residence. I do not want to say that in this regard last Government was on fault or whose fault is this but present Government is going to complete almost one year, in this subject all the honourable members. ...*(Interruptions)* Mishra ji please sit down for a minutes.

Regarding this subject as all honourable members have said, just now as our Somnath babu has said, who is a senior member of our House, all the parties have said that leaders of all the parties had presented a combined Memorandum to Prime Minister but the reply of Prime Minister was not satisfactory. Prior to this question regarding Government of Delhi was raised, no effective step was taken in this connection, that is why today whole house is concerned about this issue. All the members of different parties who are sitting here and they were also present at the time of dharna yesterday, at that time it was decided that this issue will be raised in the House tomorrow and honourable Prime Minister will give reply in this regard. It is a very serious issue, honourable Prime Minister should come to the House and listen the views of all honourable members and express his views clearly and in satisfactory manner.

The other thing, which I would like to tell, is very important, is that commission of SC and ST should be provided with constitutional and judicial rights and full powers. So far, it does not have the judicial and Constitutional right as such that is why, whenever any order is issued, it is not complied with. As the Government has given the Constitutional and judicial rights to Election Commission, powers should also be conferred upon the commission of SC and ST on the same lines.

With these words, I demand on behalf of my party that the G.O.s containing five points issued by the Government, should be withdrawn immediately and all the officers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be given their Constitutional rights. Thanks.

SHRI PITAMBER PASWAN (Roseera) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am coming to you. According to the strength of the party, you will get the chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (Ramanathapuram) : Sir, why are you not calling us? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am calling the members to speak according to the strength of the party. Please understand that. Do not cast aspersion like that. You are a member in the Panel of Chairmen. It is least expected of you.

[Translation]

SHRI PITAMBER PASWAN : It is a very sensitive matter. Major part of the people of the country has been insulted and admonished for thousands years, to whom in view of their helplessness, reservation has been provided by the framers of the constitution. Dalit and Adivasis for reservation have been deprived of their reservation rights. It is immaterial as to which Government was involved in it, but the present Government should fulfill responsibility honestly to provide protection for weaker section's rights. It is a matter of sorrow that members of B.J.P. say that their Government deals fair with Dalits and Adivasis. But I put a question mark on it. When we the members of Parliament and leaders of SC/ST met him and gave Memorandum, he said he is compelled for it, and we are unable to do anything in the matter and he did nothing so far. If you have sympathy towards people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, you would have introduced the bill and protected their rights. I would like to say to our friends of B.J.P. that you should see what happened in Bihar. The Government of our party do work for Dalits in Bihar, but very few people are engaged in massacring of Dalits and want to withdraw the rights given to Dalits. We are expressing our views about Dalits in this House, but neither the Prime Minister is present here nor the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please tell what do you want from the Government.

SHRI PITAMBER PASWAN : I want that the ordinance should be promulgated for withdrawing these five orders. With this, I want to say one thing more ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down now. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI M. RAJIAH (Siddipet) : I would like to express my views on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)* This is a very important and sensitive matter coming up before the House. Today we are discussing the rights of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled people provided in the Constitution. It is not a question of their belonging to any party; they are there in every party. But nobody should try to indulge in politics in this matter. That is the issue here about the rights of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees.

The previous Government issued five Office Memoranda by which the rights of the employees as well as of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities have come down. The seniority of the employees has been affected. The backlog in the vacancies has also been affected. Thus there is a great loss to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities about which we are discussing in this House.

My party is helping the poor people and the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe people in our State. Now many people have been discussing here about this issue. They have mentioned some judgement. The judgement might be there. But I request the Government and the Prime Minister to go through the judgement fully and decide it. My party is insisting that all the Office Memoranda that have been issued must be withdrawn. This is our request. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA BAITHA (Bagaha) : Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, whatever atrocities are being committed on Dalits, is very bad thing. In 1997, their reservation rights for promotions have been cancelled, these orders should be withdrawn. Our senior officials are reverted to junior

*Not recorded.

[Shri Mahendra Baitha]

position as per the orders issued by the Government offices. Thus injustice is being committed on Dalits. These five orders should be withdrawn. Therefore a reply should be given by consulting with the Prime Minister and these five Memoranda be withdrawn, with these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, you said that you are calling Members according to the party's strength. Since you are going by the strength, that is why I am telling you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am going according to the strength of the party.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : CPI has five Members and we are seven. ...*(Interruptions)* You are telling about the party strength. That is how, you are calling. That is why, I raised this issue. Let, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee speak. I do not have any objection. But our party strength is more than that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, I know.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion. The arithmetic of the parties can be settled later. Now, we have to give our attention to the main question.

I fully associate myself and our party with the feelings expressed by Shri Buta Singh as well as by other members belonging to different political parties.

Now, the question is that the five Government Orders deprive the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people of their important right in the sphere of recruitment, promotion, etc. They really put many difficulties to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people in the way of recruitment, promotion, etc. I also really do not know whether the Supreme Court's order was at the back of all these orders. If it is so, then we should find some way out to cross the bar, if necessary, by some other amendment to the Constitution or through some orders. I cannot say how exactly it can be done. But, I think, that the Government should not waste any further time of giving this right back to our Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe brothers and sisters. This is my suggestion before the Parliament. I hope the Government will do the needful.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : Sir, rendering justice to the suppressed sections of the people is the duty of the Government. It is not the duty of the courts. The law passed by Parliament must be maintained by the courts alone.

Now, the orders, which were passed either by the present Government or by the past Government, are certainly affecting the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees at the national level. It is the voice of 30 per cent suppressed sections of the people. They are raising their voice for the past two years in each and every corner of the nation. Now, only it has come to the light of Parliament. This Government should not shift this burden to the court or to the past Government. The issue is in the hands of this Government. The Government must come forward to act speedily to rectify the errors of the orders already passed.

Sir, AIADMK, headed by our great leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, is always for reservation of the suppressed sectioned of the people.

Therefore, on behalf of our AIADMK Party, I urge upon this Government to take speedy action, if necessary to bring an amendment to the Constitution in Parliament. It will be supported by all the parties.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Sir, I support the issue raised by Buta Singh in the House, in connection with the people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. I think all the party do support it. I would like to say beyond this whether the purpose for which this enactment has been made is being fulfilled; whether those people get benefit? After fifty years, it requires to be reviewed. Buta Singh ji has given the figure of 30 crores, who are affected with this. I would like to know whether these 30 crores people got benefit of it. I think it should not be on this basis but it should be on the basis of economic condition. Now, farmers have been brought under the list of Dalits. So many people have been brought under reservation. But only 5% people of IAS and IPS category are getting benefit of it. In these circumstances, how minorities can get benefit of it. Therefore my suggestion is that a Parliamentary Committee should be constituted in this regard to ensure as to how these benefits can reach to 30 crore people. There is a need of paying attention and making amendments in this regard.

[English]

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me this opportunity to have my say on behalf of my party, Trinamul Congress, on an important, urgent and sensitive matter like reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Government services.

At the very outset, I would appeal that the reservation facilities which were available before 1997, should be restored and we should not divide the country on the basis of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, Minorities and so on. We request that the hon. Prime Minister should announce a policy statement on reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes today itself by revoking the five Office Memoranda of the Department of Personnel, etc. We know for certain that it may be necessary to go in for a Constitutional amendment, but that will take time. So, may we request, on behalf of everybody here, that the Government should think of promulgating an Ordinance to that effect?

The spirit and provision of the Constitution is very clear that the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes will get reservation in employment. Sir, if you look in this backdrop and the situation obtaining today, we find that the representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes indifferent categories of Government services is still very poor, even 51 years after independence. The Government has expressed its intention many a time to fill up the vacancies to bring the percentage in employment on par with their percentage in the population. Therefore, it is only fair and just that so long as representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in services does not come up to the level of percentage of population, the reservation in appointments as well as promotions should be continued, as it was in force up till 1997, before those five Office Memoranda came into effect. Therefore, we demand that those five Office Memoranda, referred to by Shri Buta Singh ji, should be withdrawn at once.

Yesterday our Hon'ble Prime Minister wanted to make a statement, but we did not listen to him. It is very sad. My only appeal, on behalf of my party, Trinamul Congress, is that let us keep this thing above everything else. The matter of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the matter of OBCs and the matter of Minorities should be kept above politics.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House is discussing the most sensitive issue, which

is of everybody's concern. The Office Memorandum issued by the Telecommunications Department is causing concern. Probably, the ruling party is handicapped because of the Court order. It is high time that cutting across party lines, all of us, whether on this side or on the other side, put our heads together and see that somehow or other the issue is circumvented and our brothers and sisters belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are rendered social justice without any further loss of time. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble members belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are distressed to note that the efforts have been made to defeat the benefit of the reservation which has been provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Indian Constitution; while this arrangement had been made by the efforts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. In 1997, the Government of National Front was in power and Congress Party was supporting it from outside. The five orders have been issued in 1997 to make ineffective the reservation. I think the Government of National Front did not take the right step. I would like to say to the people of the Congress Party that they should have been more attentive at that time in regard to the matter of Dalits and the exploited.

Sir, I feel that when these five orders have been issued to make ineffective the reservation, then why they were sleeping like 'Kumbhkaran', they realised it very late. But even then I thank them for this that at least they have realised it today. These five orders have defeated the cause of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I urge upon the present Government to withdraw these five orders.

Sir, I would like to request to the Government through you that the matter of reservation is very serious and attached to the interests of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. Today B.J.P. is in power, before that National Front was in power and in future other party may form the Government. I think Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Communities will be very grateful, if this matter should be enlisted in the ninth schedule of the Constitution so that nobody could dilute the provision of reservation in regard to the matters pertaining to the reservation. Alongwith this, when the matter of reservation is being discussed, here I have one more submission, that I had a chance to visit every corner of the country, and I felt that the castes which fall under Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe in a particular state, are

[Kumari Mayawati]

included in the Backward Classes in other state. The people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe are getting benefit of reservation in a State, but when they are included in the Backward Classes, they are deprived of benefit of reservation. Our sister Mamata ji will also have an experience of these things. When the people of West Bengal belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes came to settle down in Tarrai areas of U.P. to earn their livelihood, they did not get any benefit of reservation. When our Government was in power, then I referred this matter to the Union Government recommending this that they should be enlisted in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They are enlisted in the list of Scheduled Caste, and Scheduled Tribes, in one state, but not in other state. Therefore, when they go to another state, they do not get the whole benefit of reservation. I urge upon the Government through you that a commission should be set up in this regard and an enquiry should be made. If these castes are getting benefit of reservation in a particular state they should also be given benefit in another state too ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I support you.

KUMARI MAYAWATI : I thank you. My request is that the present Government should conduct a survey again in this regard, because when list of SC/ST was being prepared, at that time castism was prevailing at large scale in the country. Due to castism most of the castes concealed their castes and those people who disclosed their castes, they had been included in the schedule, but a number of castes could not be included in the scheduled. You should conduct a survey once again in the whole country in this regard to find out that the castes which is backward in the field of economic social and education like the SC/ST they should also be given benefit of reservation. For example, there is a Rajbhar caste residing in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh and its condition is bad in the field of economic, social and education like the SC/ST. Therefore my submission is that Rajbhar and other backward castes alike which have not been enlisted in the schedule, should be provided benefit of the reservation by including them in the scheduled list. Lastly my submission is that the order which had been issued by the Government of National Front, should be withdrawn. Today both the former Prime Minister were sitting here, during whose period these orders had been issued. One has gone out and other one is present in the House. I would like to know from them that under which conditions these orders had been issued. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words I conclude my speech and I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL (Jalandhar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity. I have heard with great deal of respect all the hon'ble Members from various parts of the House. I thank, on one issue where the nation stands unanimous is the issue of the reservations for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As my hon'ble friend, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, pointed out, some difficulty arose out of the Supreme Court judgment. I will not take your time by dwelling on that point because it will not be fair on my part to go only by my memory to give the details of that. At that time, during my Prime Ministership, we set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Paswan and that Committee came with a recommendation to issue an Ordinance to get over this difficulty which was coming in our way because of the Supreme Court judgment. The Ordinance, as Shri Buta Singh pointed, was drafted, and the Cabinet had approved it. Well, I am not going into the details of how the Government fell. But I wish that it did not fall before the Ordinance was issued. It did fall at that time. Therefore, that Ordinance drafted fully is there to cover the point. I think, steps should be urgently taken to meet the need and the demands of the entire House at the moment and safeguard the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I strongly support it.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (Tura) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. The issue of Office Memorandum notified by the Department of Personnel, Government of India, has been agitating the minds of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of this country, particularly by the educated section because they are the people who are directly affected by these Office Memoranda.

I would like to briefly inform the House as to what are those Office Memoranda. Though hon'ble Member, Shri Buta Singh, did point out, hearing from hon'ble Members, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee and Somnath Chatterjee himself, I have a feeling that the House is not fully aware of what those Memoranda are and what are their implications.

The first office memorandum which was issued on 30th January, 1997, speaks about the promotion of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates before they are due for promotion, and their seniority. It says:

"If a candidate belonging to SC/ST is promoted to an immediate higher post or grade against a reserved

vacancy earlier than his senior General or OBC candidate who is promoted later to the said immediately higher post or grade, the General or OBC candidate will regain his seniority over such earlier promoted candidate of the SC/ST in the immediate higher post."

This means, if an SC/ST candidate has been promoted earlier and a General candidate has been promoted later, by the time the General candidate is promoted, he gets his earlier seniority and the SC/ST candidate immediately loses his seniority. This is the first memorandum which is agitating the minds of people.

By the second memorandum, vacancy based reservation was changed to post-based roster whereby all recruitment of SC/ST candidates in Group C and D categories have almost stopped. This is the effect of the second memorandum.

The third memorandum has done away with the five per cent relaxation in the qualified marks for SC/ST candidates as compared in the General candidates. This relaxation which has been removed has affected a large number of SC/ST candidates who have no access to quality education. Because they have no access to quality education and because they have not yet reached a level where they can compete with the rest of the country this provision of relaxation was deliberately incorporated. Unfortunately by this office memorandum this has been removed.

By the fourth memorandum, reservation in promotion was restricted to lower rung in Group A posts. In the Seventy-Seventh Amendment to the Constitution of India, the House approved that the reservations shall not only apply at the entry point but will also apply to promotions. That is what the Seventy-Seventh Amendment to the Constitution is. Now, after the Supreme Court ruling, the so-called Sabharwal ruling, the administrative Ministry has interpreted it in such a manner that this promotion is not applicable to Group A posts. ...*(Interruptions)* This is the question now.

When Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister of the country, he had ordered that there should be special drive to recruit SC/ST candidates so that the backlog can be filled. This has been discontinued by these office memoranda.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, all these things have happened because the issue of reservation has all along been regulated by executive orders. We do not have a specific legislation passed in this Parliament on reservation

for SCs and STs. The Supreme Court ruling is subject to interpretation and, naturally, interpretation is not always correct. Therefore, my only submission is that if we have to solve this problem on a permanent basis, we will have to enact a legislation.

The Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes Reservation Act has to be enacted by this Parliament. If we continue with a tactics of regulation it with the executive orders, we are bound to face such problems in future also. Therefore, the immediate task before the Government at the moment is search for an immediate solution. All these OMs have to be withdrawn and *status quo ante* should be restored.

Secondly, the Government should come out with a legislation. I am not able to fully understand the former Prime Minister's point that in order to overcome this problem, there has been an ordinance drafted. But I do not think, it was required to solve the immediate problem of overcoming it. It was the question of only interpreting the Supreme Court ruling and issuing another OM. But if the former Prime Minister is talking about a legislation, I welcome that. And, after having this legislation passed, it should be put in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. That is the only solution for this problem, and on behalf of the Congress Party, I can assure this House that when we come to power, we shall bring a legislation to overcome this problem.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati) : Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I sincerely commit myself that I do not want to make this issue as a political one. This is above politics, and I do feel that this is an issue of national importance.

Sir, I do not feel shy in saying that these OMs issued by the DOPT are not the babies of the present Government. I do admit this. Facts remain the facts, how can we deny. These products are not the babies of the present Government. I do admit that these are the babies of the earlier Governments ...*(Interruptions)* I have stated it frankly. But it does not mean that the earlier Governments had committed some blunders and the present Government, those who claim to be a combination of the wisdom and political power, should justify it by saying that whatever the irregularities are there, they have been committed by the earlier Government.

So, Sir, I urge upon the Government that this is an issue of the national importance. The Chief Architect of the Constitution, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar once said that the safeguard provided in the Indian Constitution is

[Shri R.S. Gavai]

nothing but a compensation of the law to bring them on par. It is none of their fault that the society was kept aloof from the mainstream of the society.'

Now, Sir, it is our duty to bring them on par. I am very happy to say that yesterday, the hon'ble Prime Minister was quite ready to respond to it. I am very happy that today we are here discussing it. Sir, whatever OMs in this regard have been issued by the various Governments, they have been narrated by hon'ble Shri P.A. Sangma. I do not want to repeat them. But I would state that the spirit of these OMs is derogatory to the Constitution, derogatory to the judgements of the various courts, derogatory to the decision of the Parliament.

So, decisions are to be taken on merit if these OMs are derogatory to the spirit of the Constitution, derogatory to the spirit of the decisions of the House and derogatory to the spirit of the decision given by the Supreme Court. I do not want to take much time of the House. Sir, by giving an illustration of just one O.M. which has violated the spirit of the Constitution, spirit of the judgment and spirit of the decision taken by this august House, I will sum up my speech.

Sir, take this O.M. which is dated 1.11.1990. It has rejected the spirit of the judgement of the Supreme Court dated 10th August, 1990 relating to the matter of the Syndicate Bank, SC/ST Employees' Association Vs. Union of India. The judgement states that 'the reservation is very much available to SC/ST officers in promotions upto the highest level of Group (A) or Class (A).

Now another Memorandum dated 13th August stated that the existing promotion policy to Class-I violated the two judgements.

The third is the 77th amendment which was unanimously passed by this august House concerning Article 16(4) of the Constitution which is as follows:—

"Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the States."

This Office Memorandum is derogatory to the spirit of the judgement, to the spirit of the House and of the Administrative Orders. All these OMs are against the spirit of the Constitution.

Now it is a question of political will which may be lacking. The Prime Minister is there with political will. I urge upon the Prime Minister to see that the interest of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is safeguarded.

I support the opinion of Shri Buta Singh that this Administrative Order does not serve the purpose. There should be a comprehensive enactment passed by Parliament dealing with recruitment, promotion, reservation, de-reservation, carry forward and retirement and that should be put up in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

I thank you very much for giving me the time to speak.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity and I shall be very brief in expressing my views on this important matter.

It is my considered opinion that the rights once enjoyed by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution cannot be taken away by any means.

I also consider that Parliament is the highest and supreme authority and sovereign power to take up this matter and to pass this legislation in favour of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

I share the views of Shri Buta Singh and of Shri Purno A. Sangma.

The hon'ble Prime Minister is present here. He will be kind enough to assure the House of the best that the Government can do in the matter.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, it is a highly sensitive issue which is under discussion, it affects one third of our population. I associate myself with the views expressed by Shri Buta Singh and by other hon'ble Members of this House.

The duty of the Governments in power is to protect all the legitimate rights of the weaker sections of population. The Dalits and Adivasis have been enjoying some benefit and they wish to get the benefit always. But whatever relief has been given by the right hand has been taken away by the left hand. I may avail this occasion to bring to the notice of the Government and of

the House the sad plight of the largest minority of the world that India has, 15 per cent of the population that is, the Muslims. There is adequate provision in the Constitution for the Muslims.

Article 15(4) of the Constitution provides for the reservation of the section of the people who are educationally and socially backward. May I say that this minority in the country which is around 15 per cent of the population, the Muslims of this country are, by and large, barring a microscopic section of the community, socially and educationally backward? They also have every right to reservation. Even after 50 years of independence, what is the position in the Government of this country for representation of minorities? I would say without fear of contradiction that it is dismally poor. It is high time that the country think about this backward section of people, the Muslims also.

I would urge the Government to consider this point and also request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to withdraw the office memorandum that has been issued and which has negated whatever benefit was given to our Dalits, Scheduled Castes and Adivasis.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Sir, I must congratulate the vigilant members of Parliament, particularly belonging to Scheduled Caste communities, to have brought this to the notice of the nation. They had to, yesterday, stop the proceedings of the House because they have been waiting since January for action from the Government. The Government has not acted on the usual democratic process where they met the Prime Minister in a delegation and apprised him. No follow-up action was there. So, there was no other way for them to bring it to the notice of the House and they brought it very effectively yesterday.

I would like to say that this reservation is not an atonement or a concession by the upper castes to the Scheduled Castes. It is a part of a social contract signed by none less a person than Mahatma Gandhi in 1932 with Dr. Babasahed Ambedkar when he voluntarily, on behalf of the Scheduled Caste community, gave up separate electorate which the British had mischievously tried to bring and divide the country. That great act of sacrifice led to the Pune Pact and from there flows the reservation. Hence, reservation is not something that we are giving them. It is a part of a social contract and that contract must be honoured. It is because of honouring this contract that we are today such a united country.

The only other point that I would like to make is this. Shri Gujral has explained very clearly that the matter

was gone into, a sub-committee under Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was set up and an Ordinance was prepared, which was nearly issued. There is no more homework for the Government to do. All that the Prime Minister has to announce here is that the Ordinance which was prepared by the Gujral Government will be issued tomorrow, when the House is not in Session.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Sir, we have to examine the Ordinance first. How can we say what the spirit of that Ordinance is without examining it? ...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Let the Ordinance be brought forward. If we leave it to the Members, maybe, they can be consulted during the inter-session period.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, no Ordinance should be issued.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, let him say what he wants to say.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : But he wants to say that an Ordinance should be issued.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your suggestion is not wanted now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, there is no question of an Ordinance. A Bill should come before the House. ...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, people from Kerala are interrupting.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please sit down.

Dr. Swamy, I have told you not to provoke him. You are inviting problems.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : No Ordinance should be issued when the House is in Session. I have no grudge against all this because Dr. Swamy will speak almost anything.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Swamis can speak anything! Please do not interrupt.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : At least, the Prime Minister can announce the immediate withdrawal of the O.M. and also say that by the time the House meets after the recess, we can have this matter rectified.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR (Gopalganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not want to speak on this topic, but there is some purpose for which I have to speak. I would not take much time of the House. I will complete just in one minute. Today, the Congress Leaders and our BJP Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is present in the House. Hence, I would like to express my views as I really feel them. Mayawati has expressed her views. Right from the beginning when I joined politics till today, many leaders have expressed their views on this topic that this is not a political agenda? Shri Buta Singh met me in the way. He caught hold my shoulder and advised me to stand for a while. I accepted his advise and so I want the attention of all of you.

14.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I may be pardoned, if I commit any mistake. From the time I joined politics till now i.e. 1999, all the members have been repeatedly saying that amendment should be made in the Constitution. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was present in the House yesterday but he was not given time to speak. I do not blame any party, but I want to express my views which I feel at heart. What would had been the condition of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes if there had not been any reservation in Parliament and assemblies. I am absolutely against the policy of reservation. I am also against it that Supreme Court has done this or that or he has not been promoted. If we continue to follow the same path in 1999, where would we reach, where shall our thinking go?

I would like to ask you a question. Fortunately or unfortunately I belong to that community which is well-known and nobody has any grudge against it. Whatever I would speak, I would speak to the best of my heart. What is the idea behind the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Parliament and Assemblies? If this reservation had not been given, what would have happened? I think very few persons would have managed to reach here. In place of Constitution, why don't we find out fault with ourselves? My point is

that inspite of the passage of so many years, we do not admit the fact that any person belonging to Scheduled Castes has been elected from any general seat ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Dr. Bikram Sarkar is here. I can show him ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati) : I have been elected.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur) : Sir, In Maharashtra also it has happened.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am glad that Mamta ji has said that this has happened in her state. But this is not true for the whole India. For many days, it was stated that not any particular community should be pleased just for getting its votes. I would not like to stand in that category. But in this House I would openly declare that whether it is Mamata Banerjee or Mayawati, Kashi Ram or Samta Paty, CPI or CPIM, they would not rise without it. Every political party could do anything to show its performance in the world. Every political party should select some reserved candidates and get it elected and that political party would be the best party. I would like to congratulate Mamata Banerjee for being in the front line in this respect.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I remember an incident when some mishappening had occurred. At that time he stood up said something which changed my whole ideas about him. A BJP Member, who is leader of opposition, should stand up and tell that this is a very unfortunate incident. Sir, I feel very ashamed, erring persons should be punished. There are some unfortunate persons here. They are present in the House. Now, it is the present Prime-Minister of the country who when went to Pakistan, some people felt disturbed that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Nawaj Sharif are holding negotiations. So, India and Pakistan are becoming Friendly. They felt uneasiness that where would they go. I claim to be a follower of secularism. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a great leader. He belongs to B.J.P. Since he is a member of B.J.P. so such things are taking place. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not say this only to please him. When he was making such statements there, some mishappening occurred in India. I thought they would stand up and admit that he is wrong but nobody stood up to say so ...*(Interruptions)* a man on whom you and I relied upon... All these ideas were

in my mind. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not going into the details of Constitution as Shri Sangma was doing. I do not want to go into those details. I would like to tell you that when you are would be able to take a decision in this regard, all the difficulties will be removed and a new India will emerge. Every member of Parliament and member of assembly should be given this message that time have changed now. Forget all about the Ramayan and Mahabharat period. We are taking India to a new social order. We want to build a new India. I would like to request that every political party should get elected five candidates belonging to dalit and tribal category from general category seats. Only then, no S.C. or a person belonging to dalit section would have to make a demand for anything. It would transform the whole of India. I do not want to waste time. Shri Vajpayee has got an opportunity to wash away all the bad thoughts of our mind. This would enshrine his name throughout the world like the great presentation of Mahabharat. All the persons belonging to dalit category, whether they are associated with Samta Party or Congress or BJP, would cease to make demands. Today, Kumari Mamta Banerjee has tried to complete this work. ...*(Interruptions)* it is better if you do not speak ...*(Interruptions)* I am giving an advice. You should pay attention to my advice. You have got an opportunity ...*(Interruptions)* This is the job of the leader. I do not want to express my views regarding Muslims. Leave these petty matters. ...*(Interruptions)* Even if a clerk or a PA belongs to Muslim Community, please keep them employed. Unless the thoughts change, nothing will take place. Similarly, people are demanding debate on the matter of conversion. What would be the topic of debate? If someone goes to Ajmer, the teachings of Khwaja Saheb lay stress on the need of love and not on conversion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Uncle, Please pay attention to what P.M. says.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : One should do good to others. No one should either think or do bad for others. With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak and hope when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee answers this debate he would pay attention to these things.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, on behalf of my Party, the Kerala Congress Party, I strongly associate myself with the views and the sentiments expressed here. It is a fact that the courts also, while interpreting the Constitution as also various laws, do not take into account the views expressed very many times

by the House. I am sorry to say that the courts are not in consonance with the views expressed by the people of this country through the Constitution and other laws enacted by the Parliament. So, I would submit that the Hon'ble Prime Minister may at the earliest take the opportunity to withdraw all the Office Memoranda which have been formulated against the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to state that it had been decided in SC and ST forum that the debate in the House should continue the whole day. Yesterday, hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee came in the House twice and wanted to express his views. If this debate had started yesterday, we could have expressed our sentiments. Yesterday the whole day got wasted and today there is hurry. Politics should not have been involved but it was done. The M.Ps of BJP and all other parties had taken a decision that the House has been adjourned once but it should be run properly again. We may not be able to complete what we want to say but we would begin it today. I hope that I would be given an opportunity to express my views.

Why was such occasion allowed to occur? Why members of all political parties have joined hands to withdraw this office Memorandum? When this concept was under consideration, hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Gujral, Shri Devegouda, the leader of dalits, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and next to Prime Minister Shri Buta Singh were all present. But all of them kept quiet.

[Translation]

If that ugly thing which had happend at that time, would not have happend, this law could have been enacted. All these elderly people are responsible for the loss incurred by the Dalits in respect of promotions and reservation. They are responsible for sufferings and harassment faced by Dalits in jobs for four years ...*(Interruptions)* We are not supposed to be responsible for the mistakes committed by them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is talking of a time when I was not even a member. ...*(Interruptions)* He should not mislead the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : It is a thing of fifty years. ...*(Interruptions)* Today, you want to include in

[Shri Ratilal Kalidas Verma]

Schedule. The Congress has been in power for fifty years, why it has not been included in the Schedule before. ...*(Interruptions)* Why it was not rectified? ...*(Interruptions)* You commit mistakes and we are made responsible for it ...*(Interruptions)* You commit murders of Dalits. ...*(Interruptions)* and we are to face insult. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Forget about yesterday and come to the point of today.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Why don't you clear the issue which is lying pending for so many days? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Bhuria, please don't interrupt.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : When O.Ms were issued, the Congress and all others were remained silent. Dalit members of the B.J.P. are very happy that this good work will happen during the time of their Government. Dalits have been dejected for fifty years. They were hoping that the Government of B.J.P. would take place and if hon'ble Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who has been a poet, becomes the Prime Minister then their demand would be met. That is why the Bharatiya Janta Party consists of more SC and ST Members than any other side. Had the BJP not been sympathetic towards Dalits rather it would have been hostile to Dalits and had it been 'Manuvadi' then so many members of Parliament of the Bhartiya Janta Party would not have won. They have won and it is an evidence that this party is the protector of the interests of Dalits. ...*(Interruptions)*

Due to the O.M. issued the facility of promotion and reservation has been withdrawn with this, the Dalits staff are very frustrated. The judgement of the hon'ble Supreme Court was came on 16.11.1992 and according to the old rule it was applicable upto 16.11.1997 i.e. upto five years, it means the facility for promotion was available. But this facility has been withdrawn from July 1997 and due to these O.Ms. carry forward posts and backlog posts have been affected today. So, we too are saying that O.Ms. should be issued. The Congress didn't review the judgement of the Supreme Court regarding recommendations of the Mandal Commission. The Mandal Commission has given a wrong direction, there was no issue of SC, ST there. Injustice happened at that time. We were sitting in the opposition at that time, we were the members of BJP and we have given our cooperation and later Congress has made an amendment. BJP then did not oppose, BJP has never been against Dalits and BJP has always been with Dalits and wants to uplift them. Consequently, all are aware of the new schemes which are repeatedly coming. The O.Ms have been issued

surpassing the judgement given by the Supreme Court. That judgement was consisting of completion of reservation quota of twenty two and half per cent and carrying the 40 points roster to the 200 points, but because of the D.O.P.T. 200 point roster was issued. 200 point roster was issued while the old roster was yet to be completed. You were supposed to fill up the backlog, but nobody filled it up. Did BJP not fill it up? Because of these people this backlog remained vacant. If the backlog would have been completed in 50 years then these 25 thousand posts and the other two lakh vacant posts have not been remained vacant. They are responsible for this. It is right that there is B.J.P. Government, so all their mistakes would be rectified. A number of members have said that mistakes were committed by the previous Governments, but we will correct them for we have a poet like Prime Minister. The wearer best knows, where the shoe pinches ("Ghayal ki gati ghayal jane, our na jane ko"). The poet possesses compassion and only such a person becomes a poet as holds sympathy and mercy in his heart. Rest of all cannot become poets, they can become leaders.

I also support what hon'ble Sangmaji has said that an order was issued by the D.O.P.T. to dilute the point of reservation mentioned indirectly in the 70th Constitution Amendment. Due to this reason, this dilution affected the posts from grade A to the bottom level.

All of us were met the hon'ble Prime Minister all the S.C., S.T. members of Parliament were met and when we requested him in this regard on the very same day he had said that whenever such occasion arises he would support us and would remove our sufferings. He was already prepared for this, it is not so that he is getting ready on their request. It should be strengthened by giving it a place in the ninth schedule of the Constitution. Same is the belief of the members of Parliament of BJP too that frequent interference of the court should be stopped and Dalits and Adivasis be protected forever. The anti Dalit rules should be withdrawn. There is only one rule which is in favour of Dalits and when we requested the hon'ble Prime Minister he told us that he was in our favour. We just want that the favourable rule should be kept and the anti Dalit rule should be deleted.

In the end with four lines of poetry I shall finish my speech:

"Pradhanmantri the Gujral, Reservation ke mamle men,

*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Aaj S.C., S.T. bane hain behal, BJP kar degi, S.C., S.T. ko nihai.

Pradhanmantri the Devegauda, jinhone reservation ko bhi nahi chhoda,

Aur daal diya reservation men bada roda,

Lekin Ataiji ka dil hai bahut bada, ve jaroor hatayenge,

Beech men pada roda."

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL (Jalandhar) : Sir, I take a strong exception to this. I think this is derogatory and contrary to facts. It is also a deliberate effort to denigrate us. So, I appeal to you that this should be removed from the record of the House.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, I strongly recommend you to kindly delete this from the record. These are personal derogatory remarks and hence, these cannot be allowed to remain on record. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : It should be deleted from the proceedings, it is not proper.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): What is the need of personal attack in it? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, *Jahan na pahunche Ravi, vahan pahunche Kavi*. I have not said this to insult somebody, so it should not be taken otherwise ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is in Hindi and moreover, it is a poem. And you know my vocabulary in Hindi. I will look into it. If there is anything objectionable or derogatory, I shall try to remove it.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I fully support the views expressed by Shri Buta Singh and our former Speaker, Shri Sangma except that he said 'when the Congress will come to

power'. It is because I do not know when the Congress will come to power.

You may kindly remember that we were discussing the 30th Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the last Session and this point came up at that time also. But that discussion is not complete as yet because issues relating to SCs and STs are so unimportant in this august House.

I think, we will admit it, whether it is this party or that party, that whenever the issue of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes comes up, only a few Members are present in the House. This shows that we are not serious about it; we do not give any importance to it. And this issue is lingering on and on. This is the position.

According to our Constitution, under articles 16, 16(a), 335 and 338, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people enjoy certain privileges. By these five orders, it has been curtailed. Shri P.A. Sangma has correctly said that this should be brought under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. This matter has already been delayed. We should not delay it further.

Hence, I request that the hon. Prime Minister should take a decision immediately by revoking the five orders issued in 1997 and that this should be brought under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I don't want to make a speech, I just want to say one thing. Mr. Prime Minister is present here. I don't believe that the present Government and the Prime Minister have done such injustice regarding reservation in services for Dalits and tribal brothers. When I was Chief Minister I also had to face a similar situation in respect of Dalits and the tribal brothers. People went to the Courts, the judgment of the Punjab High Court came and the judgment of many other Courts also came and as a result of that the earlier system and privileges in respect of carry forward promotions in services for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been withdrawn. Every state Government was informed. Every State Government has informed the each and every department. On this question law and order situation has been deteriorated at many places. The points laid by Shri Buta Singh in the House are mandate of the Constitution and we are to abide by these points. Now, due to this a peculiar situation has arisen. It has reached to every office. A lot of noisy scene were created for two days in the House. Today,

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

we are discussing it in this House. The law and order situation may become tough for the country as well as the State Governments. This situation may lead to the possibility of tension in the society. I believe that Dalits and tribal fellows who used to get promotion in service and who were promoted, have also been downgraded. Those who had become Chief Engineers, again reverted to the posts of Superintending Engineers. Thus, all these people were insulted. The question of judgment of the Court is there in the House and on the other hand the question of supremacy of the Parliament is there. I believe that the Parliament is supreme. If the Court gives a judgment then I would like to tell the hon'ble Prime Minister that this is not a question for one day; it will go on far long. I don't want to see it as singled out. Whether it is a matter of social justice for the people by backward class, be it a matter of reservation in services or a question of reservation for women. I believe that these people get heart by all these things. The demand for reservation in judiciary has become intensive in this country. I don't agree that this is a question of only S.C. and S.T. Whenever the privileges for these people as well as backward classes are declared then acid is thrown at the faces of the children, buses and trains are set on fire. I don't want that those people who are deprived, exploited, tormented, back benchers, should remain as they were. It is the duty of all the political parties to bring all such people into main stream. I expect from the hon'ble Prime Minister that when he starts speaking, he should withdraw the said orders immediately and bring a legislation accordingly. All political parties will extend their full support to you in bringing this legislation. This question should not be avoided, it should be replied to in the House.

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : New, please state in brief about Smt. Champa Vishwas and her husband as to how that Dalit I.A.S. officer and his wife are being exploited. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the concern of the framers of the Constitution to remove the undulations in the social system in this country is to be found in the Preamble of the Constitution. The framers of the Constitution made the nation to commit that we will bring in equality and equality of opportunity. It is precisely with this objective that various provisions for reservations have been made so that, in the ultimate analysis, the society may achieve equality. The difficulty is—and I say with a little bit of anguish—that as the days are passing, that sympathy, which the

Constitution makers had for the weaker sections of the society, has been receding. That sympathy is not there to these classes which used to be there in the yesteryears and it is lack of this sympathy, in my submission, to these classes which is creating the complications in the present-day society.

Having said this, the question arises as to why this issue has been raised now. Rightly some friends have said that the matter is lying here from 1997. Why has it been raised now? The fact remains that the Confederation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes organisations brought to the notice of the Home Minister all these five Office Memoranda and wanted them either withdrawn or modified. When they did not find any sympathetic answer, they raised the issue in Parliament and let me bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister may be, the Hon'ble Prime Minister must not have gone through it, though, of course, the Department of Personnel, perhaps, belongs to him—that it is as late as on the 25th February, 1999, that this Parliament was told that we shall not withdraw, we shall not modify any of these Office Memoranda. It is that which brought in a little bit of agitation amongst all the Members.

Sir, the question was specifically asked and the answer has come. It is possible that the Hon'ble Prime Minister might not have looked into it. It must have been prepared at the official level. I am trying to blame the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

But the preparation by the officials of such a reply only shows how much less sympathy they have to these classes. I may bring to your notice, Mr. Prime Minister, one point. I have particularly gone through the judgement of the Supreme Court. It is also not correct to throw blame on the Supreme Court for everything. But I agree that possibly the lack of sympathy in the society also percolates. I am not going beyond this. But if you kindly look into the very first O.M., it determines the seniority of a Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe officer who is promoted to a higher rank and he is put down. Though he is promoted earlier, he is put down below the general category persons.

Now, Sir, this O.M. is in the teeth of the Constitution Seventy-seventh Amendment whereby article 16(4A) was added specifically so that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons, if they are promoted, their seniority should be maintained. Nothing is more than the Constitution. The Constitution is above everything. Now, what had happened? When this O.M. was issued, unfortunately, at that time, Sabharwal's Judgement was there. Based on

Sabharwal's Judgement, this O.M. was issued. Later on— it is a sorry state of affairs a different judgement came altogether and I am prepared to refer to that judgement also by a larger Bench which did not agree with the earlier judgement, that is on 5th May, 1997. This is O.M. of January, 1997. In 5th May, 1997 that judgement came and the Government does not want to review their earlier Order. This is the misfortune of the situation. What I am only saying is that if the judgement of Jagdish Lal is looked upto comes, I am prepared to quote it.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today is the last day of the sitting. There are so many issues to be discussed. He is quoting from the paper. I am not objecting to it. I am just drawing the attention of the Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Shiv Shanker, be brief.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Sir, I will be very brief. I will not take much time.

Having regard to the importance of the issue, having regard to the sensitivity of the issue, having regard to the fallout it has, if I am not given three or four minutes, it is unfortunate.

What I am submitting is that on 7th May, 1997, Jagdish Lal's case was decided. That is of a totally different approach from the other case. That should have been considered. That has not been considered. On the other question, namely the second O.M., dated 2nd July, 1997, that is a matter of quota, the percentage for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, the pre-1997 roster gave the Scheduled Caste Point No. 1 and Scheduled Tribe Point No. 3, in the roster, and Point No. 4 for the promotion of these classes. Now, what has happened is that the O.M. relegates these classes, Scheduled Castes from Point No. 1 to Point No. 7, Scheduled Tribes from Point No. 3 to Point No. 14; and promotion goes for beyond. Now that is what the objection is. What we are saying is that pre-1997 position must be maintained. What is being said is, if you see the other O.Ms, my submission is that the other O.M.s are of no consequence at all. In the Competitive Examination, five marks were given by way of weightage to them. The Sabharwal's judgement does not go to that extent. Why was this O.M. issued?

That only shows lack of sympathy to these classes. Equally 16(4) (a) is very clear.

"that in all promotions, when a Scheduled Caste man is promoted, his seniority should be maintained."

This is the Seventy-Seventh Amendment of the Constitution wherefrom the authorities bring that in Group-A we will not have it. That means in particular classes, you do not want them to come at all.

In Group-A, if they come and get their seniority, that means you are only doing real justice. In the ultimate analysis the concept of equal opportunity and equality will be affected. Equally, earlier to August 1997, there was a special drive for the recruitment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the posts were to be filled up by then. That has been discontinued. Therefore, if you kindly look into all these five OMs and if one were to objectively consider all these five, they do not stand the test of law at all. But still, they are being persisted.

As late as on 25th February, the authorities, I am sure, the Hon'ble Prime Minister or even the State Minister might not have gone so deeply into it, but there is a misleading, and they mislead the society and say, 'that we would not like to withdraw, nor even modify.' That is unfair.

Therefore, my submission is that it is high time that straightaway we should withdraw all these OMs and then whatever protection has to be given, that should be given at a later stage. But today, the withdrawal must be there, this is my submission and this is my appeal to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, with due regard to the whole House, I would like to submit the views of Shiv Sena before you in connection with the matter raised by the Hon'ble Buta Singh Ji. My submission is that promotion should be based on quality. If somehow I manage to know that I am going to get promotion, I will not carry out my duties honestly. Anyone who knows that he is going to get promotion, will not perform his work. So, all this should be done with administrative efficiency.

Sir, respecting what Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had said, I would like to state that at the time of making provision for reservation he had observed that whatever facilities are being provided, should be availed of by the concerned persons for 15 years but afterwards, their rights should be based on merit. Thus, the rights of other persons are being ignored.

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

Sir, I submit that if anything is to be done, first of all you are required to introduce the bill. In spite of belonging to the alliance party, I would like to submit the views of Shiv Sena. ...*(Interruptions)*. It is a question of subsistence of the poor; poverty should not be seen beyond the caste and religion. ...*(Interruptions)* I am in support of what Ghafoor ji has expressed. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Sir, I would like to speak for two minutes.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No please. Three speakers from your party have already spoken.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are independent Members also who want to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Sir, you please give us an opportunity to speak for two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I cannot do that. There are so many Independent Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Sir, we should get an opportunity to make our point.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Three speakers of your party have already spoken.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do you not understand, the Hon'ble Prime Minister is there to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No. Please co-operate with the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Sir, we should be given an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not a discussion under Rule 193.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : In this way, our emotions cannot be suppressed in this House. ...*(Interruptions)* That is why we are suffering today; nobody takes care of us. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I would like to speak for two minutes.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Kawade, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your two minutes, your five minutes, there is no end to speak like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is a limit. You cannot do that. Now, the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I seek the cooperation of the Members of the House. Now, it is two and a half hours nearly. There is a limit. Now, the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I seek the cooperation of the Members of the House. Shri Bhuria, please sit down. Please maintain the dignity of the House. There is a limit.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please hear the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not a full-time discussion. Shri Bhuria, this is a Zero Hour mention. Every party has represented.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is now 2.45 p.m. We have not even adjourned for Lunch. Will you please hear the Hon'ble Prime Minister?

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I have given a notice regarding the killing of a journalist, Mr. Irfan

Hussain. ...(Interruptions) Sir, you have said that you would allow me after this issue is over. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is a Calling Attention notice.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, a journalist has been killed. I have given a notice. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, Kumari Mamata Banerjee was insulted by a journalist. It is a very serious matter. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I do not know how the senior Members are speaking on their own. I just cannot understand how to conduct the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, we also approach you to give notice. ...(Interruptions) We do not get time to speak; we should be given justice in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it such a matter that I stop this matter and take up your matter? What are you talking?

...(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, a wrong impression has gone that 'Zero Hour' will be over with the Prime Minister's reply. If you kindly tell them that 'Zero Hour' will continue after the Prime Minister's reply, then there would not be any problem. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kumari Mamata Banerjee, please take your seat. Shri Jos, please take your seat. What is going on?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

14.47 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please keep quiet. The 'Zero Hour' is going to continue after this.

At this stage, Shrimati Usha Meena and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I appeal to you to allow me after the Prime Minister's reply. May I remind you that I had given a notice to raise the issue of the murder of a journalist, Shri Irfan Hussain? We have been waiting since morning to raise that issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now Kumari Mamata Banerjee. I have given the floor to her.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now the Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Sir, I wish to inform the House that the Cabinet has already considered the matter arising from the five Office Memoranda on reservations for SCs, STs and the OBCs that is agitating the hon'ble members. The Cabinet noted that these five Office Memoranda had been issued by the Department of Personnel and Training in 1997 after obtaining the approval of the then Cabinet.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go back to your seat. Shri Buta Singh, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

In view of the various representations that have been received from several quarters and the debate in the House, the Government has already started the process of reviewing of these Memoranda. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 3.30 p.m.

14.49 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Fifteen of the Clock

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete. Let the Prime Minister complete.

15.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-three minutes past Fifteen of the Clock

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Two of these Memoranda are currently under adjudication of the Supreme Court. We would welcome the formation of a Committee of Members of Parliament who could go into the subject and assist the Government in this regard. The Government is committed to maintain the system of reservations that has been followed so far and is prepared to bring forward a legislation even to amend the Constitution, if required to do so. ...(Interruptions)

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

15.33 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Buta Singh and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, I have to make two announcements.

...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 listed in the today's List of Business may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

15.33¹/₂ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

(I) Need to open Navodaya Vidyalaya in Pratapgarh district, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMY (Machhalishahar) : Sir, as per the policy of the Government, the Navodaya Vidyalayas are to be established in all the districts of the country. In almost all the districts of Uttar Pradesh, Navodaya Vidyalayas have been established. At present, the district of Pratapgarh is the most backward district from educational point of view which is deprived of this facility.

Keeping in view the backwardness of the rural area of the district of Pratapgarh, I request the Government of India to kindly take suitable action for establishment of Navodaya Vidyalaya there.

(ii) Need to declare Sant Kabirnagar-Ambedkar Nagar-Azamgarh-Jaunpur State highway in U.P. as National Highway

SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA (Khalilabad) : Sir, the eastern part (Poorvanchal Zone) of Uttar Pradesh is a backward area where Siddharth Nagar, Sant Kabirnagar, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Jaunpur are the main backward areas. The condition of roads is the worst in these areas. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is making efforts to ensure construction of roads with their limited resources. Despite this, the direct link road of Vansi (Siddharthnagar) Jaunpur is in neglected condition.

Therefore, we request the Government to declare the highway connecting Vansi (Siddharthnagar), Sant Kabirnagar, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Jaunpur as National Highway and ensure direct road by constructing the bridge on Bid Har ghat of the Saryu river so that the development of these districts can take place.

(iii) Need to release the balance amount due to U.P. Government under Family Planning Programme

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA (Etah) : The Family Planning Programme is run with the help of the Government of India and the State Government. In this programme, 20 per cent amount of expenditure is given by the State Government and 80 per cent of the expenditure is incurred by the Central Government. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is facing difficulties in running this programme due to lack of funds as the Central Government has not yet released its share to the State Government. As per the fixed plan, there was a balance of amount of rupees 330, 84.32 lacs on the Central Government in the beginning of the current year 1998-99 out of which an amount of rupees 12500 lacs has been received by the State Government and an amount of rupees 20584.32 lacs is still due. As a result, the Family Planning Programme is facing obstructions.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to release the above balance amount to the U.P. Government at the earliest.

(iv) Need for construction of a railway overbridge on Shikohabad-Bateshwar highway.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : In the Legislative Assembly constituency of Shikohabad falling under my Parliamentary constituency (Ferozabad), the rail accidents often take place on the Shikohabad-Bateshwar highway. Consequently the vehicles come to a halt in large numbers for hours on the Bateshwar highway and many women who could not reach the hospitals for delivery on time, died accidentally due to road blocks. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to accord his approval for construction of "Overbridge" on Shikohabad-Bateshwar highway so that the problem of that area can be solved and no accidents take place there.

(v) Need to provide adequate funds in 9th Plan for exploitation of oil and natural gas in Orissa

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Berhampur) (Orissa): It is a matter of great concern that exploitation of oil started by Oil India Company in the offshore of Bay of Bengal in Orissa in 8th Plan has not been completed so far. A sum of Rs. 70 crore was earmarked in the 8th

*Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

[Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik]

Plan for the exploitation of oil in the basins of Mahanadi and off-shore Bay of Bengal. Accordingly, digging of oil well had started at eleven places in the State. But suddenly the Oil India suspended the drilling work leaving it incomplete. Similar attempt was made by the officials of Oil India last year. But they continued the drilling of wells on the intervention of the then Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The then Minister has promised to continue the exploitation of oil and also not to shift the office of the Oil India from Bhubaneswar.

It is a matter of concern that the exploitation of oil has been suspended and shifting of the office to elsewhere from Bhubaneswar is allowed by the Government when the Geological Survey of India has discovered huge quantum of oil and natural gas deposits in the off-shore-on-shore Bay of Bengal and also in the Mahanadi Basin. When Oil India and other oil companies are laying great emphasis on the exploitation of oil in other States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Assam and Tamil Nadu, Oil exploitation has been suspended in Orissa. Even attempt is being made to shift the office of Oil India from Bhubaneswar. If the oil exploitation work is undertaken in the State in a systematic manner, the Oil India Company will be able to enhance the production of oil and natural gas, besides providing employment to lakhs of unemployed from the State. The State will also make very good progress.

As such, I demand that adequate fund provision should be made for Orissa for exploitation of oil and natural gas in 9th Plan. The Oil India Office should not be shifted from Bhubaneswar.

(vi) Need to clear the proposal of State Government of Maharashtra for organising exclusive women Dairy Cooperative Societies in the State

SHRI MADAN PATIL (Sangli) : The Government of Maharashtra through Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Duddh Mahasangh Maryadit, had prepared and submitted a project report for the entire State of Maharashtra for financial outlay of about 2 crore for organisation and development of exclusive women dairy cooperative societies in the State. The Women and Child Development Department in the Ministry of Human Resource Development has asked the State Government to prepare a phase-wise plan project for the same.

The Maharashtra Government has prepared a phase-wise plan of the same. In phase one, eight districts namely, Nasik, Sangli, Beed, Osmanabad, Nanded, Latur,

Buldhana and Kardha have been included. In these districts there are 17 taluks/districts milk unions which will implement the programme. The project is for three years. The Central Government has sanctioned to provide 90 per cent grants for the same.

In the second phase, the proposed financial outlay is Rs. 4.9 crore for four districts namely, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar, Solapur and Satara. In these districts about 133 women Dairy Cooperative Societies are expected to be organised and developed and about 9975 rural women milk producers are likely to be benefitted in terms of economic benefit and special development activities. Therefore, I request the Union Government to approve the required outlay plan of the State Government in this regard.

(vii) Need to clear the proposal of setting up of Urea Fertilizer Project by IFFCO at Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (Nellore) : Sir, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, have recommended to the Planning Commission to accord Public Investment Board the approval to IFFCO's proposal for setting up Ammonia urea fertilizer complex in Nellore district in A.P. The project authorities have apprised that their pre-project activities have been completed including invitation of international bids.

The Chief Minister had also taken up this matter with the then Prime Minister on 1st January, 1998. The Public Investment Board in its meeting held in January 1998 was to consider the proposal.

Sir, this matter is pending with the Government of India for a long time and no concrete steps in this regard have been taken so far, in spite of several reminders to the Union Government.

I appeal to the Union Government to take immediate action and clear the proposal of setting up of a Urea Fertilizer project by IFFCO at Nellore.

(viii) Need to introduce a Shatabdi train between Sealdah and New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED (Murshidabad) : Sir, Darjeeling is one of the best hill stations of our country. Both national and international tourists come to Darjeeling hill station throughout the year. Not only that, Siliguri under Darjeeling district is developing second to Calcutta. The State Government of West Bengal have

tried their best to develop Siliguri as an industrial zone. Hindustan Lever has already built up its factory and production has started. Other industrial houses are also coming up. But communication between Calcutta and Siliguri is in a horrible situation. There is no daily and frequent airlines service. There is a small train, called Darjeeling mail, which is taking nearly 17 hours from Calcutta to New Jalpaiguri. It is nearly seven hundred kilometres away from the capital of West Bengal. I urge upon the Government of India to introduce a Shatabdi train between Sealdah and New Jalpaiguri, which will attract more tourists and also help industrial development in this area.

- (ix) **Need to increase the duration of relay of Malayalam Programmes from Adoor and Perambur T.V. relay stations and open a relay centre at Kottarakara in Kerala**

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor) : There are two TV relay stations in my constituency at Adoor and Parambur. From there, every day TV programme, especially in Malayalam language, is relayed upto 8 p.m. only. So, the public is not being benefited by the TV programmes from those stations. If the time is extended upto full time for the relay of TV programmes including Malayalam, then only, the public will get the maximum entertainment.

Nowadays, the staff of these TV stations are leaving from their duty after 8 p.m. Sufficient staff are not available at present in those stations. So, it would be better to engage more staff urgently. Only then, the TV programmes can be relayed effectively.

Besides these, one more TV relay station should be opened urgently at Kottarakara, which is the centre of my constituency. Regarding this case, I have requested earlier to the Government but no action has been taken so far by the Government.

I request the Union Government to look into the matter.

- (x) **Need to restructure the LPG supply system with a view to mitigate the hardship being faced by rural consumers**

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the shortage of woods and the ever rising prices of kerosene oil have necessitated the use of

liquified Petroleum Gas in kitchens in the rural areas of the country. Today, the L.P.G. is being constantly used in kitchens in the rural areas of the country but the customers of the rural areas are facing difficulties because of prevailing system for supply of L.P.G. The L.P.G. distributors of the rural areas are not in the range of the rural customers. At some places, the customers cover a distance of 10-15 kilometers to get the gas cylinder and that, too, after paying several visits to the place. The problem of getting gas cylinders also give rise to the corruption.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to bring about thorough change in the existing distribution system for customers of the rural areas and start the mobile supply system so that the customer can get the gas cylinder easily.

- (xi) **Need to set up a full-fledged post and telegraph office at Marol in Andheri Assembly segment, Maharashtra**

[*English*]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): In Mumbai North-West Parliamentary Constituency, there is an Assembly segment called Andheri, in which there is a village, Marol. The biggest problem of this area is that it does not have a proper post office.

Marol, which is having a population of around 5 lakh, needs a full-fledged post and telegraph office. The residents of this village are facing difficulties and hardship due to non-availability of proper post office facilities. The residents are required to go as far as six kilometres.

Taking into account the density of population, business activities, educational institutions, commercial complex and employees residing in this area, the postal services are the need of the day.

MTNL has erected a telephone exchange in that area. However, the Ministry of Communications has not provided the facility of a full-fledged post office so far.

In view of this position, I request the Government to look into this dire need and provide the facility immediately.

- (xii) **Need to take steps for development of Ponnai Fishing Harbour in Malappuram district, Kerala**

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : The development of Ponnai Fishing Harbour in Malappuram

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

district of Kerala is a pressing need which is pending since long. The fishing harbour is in a miserable condition and the fishermen, who are the weakest section of the society suffer considerably due to the inordinate delay in the matter of its development and modernisation. Plans and projects are already pending with the Government since a long time. Let not technicalities hold up the much wanted work. I have also been taking up the matter with successive Governments. I request the Union Government to take up the due development of the Ponnai Fishing Harbour without any further delay.

15.34 hrs.

OBSERVATION RE: NEED TO FOLLOW TIME SCHEDULE IN RESPECT OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, as you are aware, the last two and a half hours on a Friday are allotted for the transaction of the Private Members' Business. These two and a half hours are utilised for consideration of Bills and Resolutions on alternate weeks. On the basis of ballot, only four Bills and three Resolutions respectively are listed for consideration by the House on a sitting earmarked for transaction of a particular type of business. The Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions generally allots two hours for discussion of a Bill or a Resolutions. However, it has been observed that this time-limit of two hours is not adhered to and time has to be extended by the House in almost every case. There have been occasions when discussion on a Bill or a Resolution has exceeded five hours or more. As a result, Members whose Bills or Resolutions next in priority are included in the List of Business are deprived of their chance to move their Bills or Resolutions. Consequently only a few Bills and Resolutions come up before the House for discussion.

Rule 296 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha provides that the time recommended by the Committee in respect of Bills and Resolutions as approved by the House shall take effect as if it were an order of the House. Several Members have been requesting from time to time that the provision of rule should be followed in letter and spirit.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : With a view to enabling more number of Members to move their Bills or Resolutions, I propose that henceforth the time as recommended by the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions and agreed to by the House may be strictly adhered to and time should not be extended in any case. I would like to impress upon the Members the need to follow the time schedule and I request the Members to be brief in their speeches.

...(Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : Yes.

15.36 hrs.

MOTION RE: SECOND AND THIRD REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Saifuddin Soz.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Second and Third Reports of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 10th and 17th March, 1999, respectively."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Second and Third Reports of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 10th and 17th March, 1999, respectively."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, kindly go to your seats. This is the time for Private Members' Business.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I request all of you to please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Prime Minister has already made a statement. There are other forms also available to raise this matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 12th April, 1999 at 11 a.m.

15.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 12, 1999/Chaitra 22, 1921 (Saka)

CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Thursday, March 18, 1999/Phalgun 27, 1920 (Saka)

<i>Col./line</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Read</i>
67 & 68	delete '34' in above first line.	
85, 86/2 (from below)	135.25.00	13525.00
87, 88/10	724.30	7124.30
89, 90/1, 2, 3 (from below)	61.25	110.00
93, 94/8, 9, 10	1669.19	1669.12
97, 98/7	70157	701.57
97, 98/16	250.194	250.94
99, 100/5	75373	75343
99, 100/9	183896	183895
99, 100/11	328.23	318.23
99, 100/11	364553	364552
103, 104/7	23989	13060
103, 104/9	4582	4572
174/27	PANNING	PLANNING

104