

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. II contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

G.C. Malhotra
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Dr. A.K. Pandey
Additional Secretary

Hamam Singh
Joint Secretary

P.C. Bhatt
Chief Editor

A.P. Chakravarti
Senior Editor

V.K. Chhabra
Editor

[ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.]

CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. II, Second Session, 1999/1921 (Saka)]

No. 1, Monday, November 29, 1999/Agrahayana 8, 1921 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS OF THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA	(v)—(xv).
OFFICERS OF THE LOK SABHA	(xvi)
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS	(xvii)—(xx)
NATIONAL ANTHEM - <i>Played</i>	1
MEMBERS SWORN	1
INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS	1
OBITUARY REFERENCES	2—3
REFERENCE BY SPEAKER Re: Fifty Years of Constitution of India	4—5
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:	
*Starred Questions Nos. 1—2	8—27
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:	
Starred Questions Nos. 3—20	27—68
Unstarred Questions Nos. 1—230	68—513
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	513—539
ELECTION TO COMMITTEE	
National Shipping Board	539
BILL—INTRODUCED	
Foreign Exchange Management Bill	540—549
RE: INVESTIGATION IN BOFORS CASE	556—563
RE: ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF CHIEF MINISTER OF NAGALAND	566—568

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	568—575
(i) Need to take over Gopalpur Port in Orissa and develop it into an All-Weather Port	
Shri Anadi Sahu	568
(ii) Need for early construction of a tunnel beneath Rohtang Darra in Himachal Pradesh	
Shri Maheshwar Singh	569
(iii) Need to formulate a plan for rehabilitation of people displaced due to construction of Narora Atomic Energy Plant and NTPC in U.P.	
Shri Ashok Pradhan	569
(iv) Need to send a Central Team to explore the possibilities of development of tourism in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh	
Shri Suresh Chandel	570
(v) Need to assist State Government of Andhra Pradesh to prevent spread of the deadly Japanese Encephalitis Disease	
Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy	571
(vi) Need to make a comprehensive Master Plan for All-Round Development of Raiganj of Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal	
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	571
(vii) Need for early completion of Narmada Project with a view to solve drinking water problem of Gujarat	
Shri Shankersinh Vaghela	572
(viii) Need to have cordial relations between locals and paramilitary forces along borders in West Bengal	
Shri Moinul Hassan	572
(ix) Need to look into pollution being caused by industries in Peddapalli Parliamentary Constituency in Andhra Pradesh	
Dr. (Shrimati) C. Suguna Kumari	573
(x) Need to strengthen the rail track between Farrukhabad and Shikohabad in U.P.	
Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh	574
(xi) Need for early laying of railway line between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi in Bihar	
Shri Nawal Kishore Rai	574
(xii) Need to proscribe the book titled 'The Company of Women' published by Penguin Books India, 1999	
Shri G.M. Banatwalla	575

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	
Loss of life and Property due to Super Cyclone in Orissa and the need to declare it as a National Calamity	575—652
Shri Ravi Prakash Verma	575
Shri Trilochan Kanungo	577
Shri Madhavrao Scindia	586
Shri Anadi Sahu	594
Shri Hannan Mollah	600
Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarty	606
Shri K.P. Singh Deo	611
Shri Prabhat Samantray	621
Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee	626
Shri Bikram Keshari Deo	628
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	631
Shri Jagannath Mallik	635
Shri Arjun Sethi	637
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	639
Shri N. Janardhana Reddy	641
Shri Rajesh Pilot	642
Shri Nitish Kumar	643

**ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS
OF
THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA**

A

A. Narendra, Shri (Medak)
Abdullah, Shri Omar (Srinagar)
Abdullakutty, Shri A.P. (Cannanore)
Acharia, Shri Basu Deb (Bankura)
Acharya, Shri Prasanna (Sambalpur)
Adhi Sankar, Shri (Cuddalore)
Aditya Nath, Yogi (Gorakhpur)
Adsul, Shri Anandrao Vithoba (Buldana)
Advani, Shri L.K. (Gandhi Nagar)
Ahamed, Shri E. (Manjeri)
Ahmad, Shri Daud (Shahabad)
Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar (Mayiladuturai)
Ajaya Kumar, Shri S. (Ottapalam)
Alva, Shrimati Margaret (Canara)
Alvi, Shri Rashid (Amroha)
Ambareesha, Shri (Mandya)
Ambedkar, Shri Prakash Yashwant (Akola)
Amir Alam, Shri (Kairana)
Ananth Kumar, Shri (Bangalore South)
Angle, Shri Ramakant (Marmagao)
Argal, Shri Ashok (Murena)
Arya, Dr. (Shrimati) Anital (Karol Bagh)
Athawale, Shri Ramdas (Pandharpur)
Atkinson, Shri Denzil B. (Nominated)
Azad, Shri Kirti Jha (Darbhanga)

B

Baalu, Shri T.R. (Madras South)
Babban Rajbhar, Shri (Salempur)
Babbar, Shri Raj (Agra)
'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat (Almora)
Badnore, Shri V.P. Singh (Bhilwara)
Baghel, Prof. S.P. Singh (Jalesar)
Bainda, Shri Ramchander (Faridabad)
Bais, Shri Ramesh (Raipur)
Baitha, Shri Mahendra (Bagaha)
Balayogi, Shri G.M.C. (Amalapuram)
Baliram, Dr. (Laigunji)
Banatwalla, Shri G.M. (Ponnani)
Bandyopadhyay, Shri Sudip (Calcutta North West)
Banerjee, Kumari Mamata (Calcutta South)
Banerjee, Shrimati Jayashree (Jabalpur)
Bangarappa, Shri S. (Shimoga)
Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar (Chandigarh)
Bansiwal, Shri Shyam Lal (Tonk)
Barman, Shri Ranen (Balurghat)
Barwala, Shri Surendra Singh (Hissar)
Basavaraj, Shri G.S. (Tumkur)
Basu, Shri Anil (Arambagh)
Bauri, Shrimati Sandhya (Vishnupur)

Baxla, Shri Joachim (Alipurduars)
Begum Noor Bano (Rampur)
Behera, Shri Padmanava (Phulbani)
Bhadana, Shri Avtar Singh (Meerut)
Bhagat, Prof. Dukha (Lohardaga)
Bhagora, Shri Tarachand (Banswara)
Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal (Jaipur)
Bhatia, Shri R.L. (Amritsar)
Bhaura, Shri Bhan Singh (Bhatinda)
Bhuria, Shri Kantilal (Jhabua)
Bishnoi, Shri Jaswant Singh (Jodhpur)
Biswas, Shri Ananda Mohan (Nabadwip)
Bose, Shrimati Krishna (Jadavpur)
Botcha, Shri Satyanarayana (Bobbili)
Brahmanarah, Shri A. (Machilipatnam)
Brar, Shri J.S. (Faridkot)
Bundela, Shri Sujjan Singh (Jhansi)
Bwiswmuthiary, Shri Sansuma Khunggur (Kokrajhar)

C

C. Suguna Kumari, Dr. (Shrimati) (Peddapalli)
Chakraborty, Shri Ajoy (Basirhat)
Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh (Howrah)
Chakravarty, Shrimati Bijoya (Guwahati)
Chandel, Shri Ashok Kumar Singh (Hamirpur, U.P.)
Chandel, Shri Suresh (Hamirpur, H.P.)
Chandra Shekhar, Shri (Ballia, U.P.)
Chatterjee, Shri Somanth (Bolpur)

Chaturvedi, Shri Satyavrat (Khajuraho)
Chaubey, Shri Lal Muni (Buxar)
Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai (Banaskantha)
Chaudhary, Shri Ram Raghunath (Nagaur)
Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal (Ranchi)
Chaudhary, Shrimati Nisha (Sabarkantha)
Chaudhari, Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai (Bulsar)
Chauhan, Shri Bal Krishna (Ghosi)
Chauhan, Shri Nandkumar Singh (Khandwa)
Chauhan, Shri Shriram (Basti)
Chautala, Shri Ajay Singh (Bhiwani)
Chennithala, Shri Ramesh (Mavelikara)
Chikhalia, Shrimati Bhavnaben Devrajibhai (Junagarh)
Chinnasamy, Shri M. (Karur)
Choudhary, Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram (Barmer)
Choudhary, Shri Nikhil Kumar (Katihar)
Choudhary, Shrimati Reena (Mohaniaiganj)
Choudhary, Shri Padam Sen (Bahraich)
Choudhury, Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan (Malda)
Choudhury, Shri Samar (Tripura West)
Chouhan, Shri Nihal Chand (Sriganganagar)
Chouhan, Shri Shivraj Singh (Vidisha)
Chowdhary, Shri Adhir (Berhampore, West Bengal)
Chowdhary, Shrimati Santosh (Phillaur)
Chowdhury, Shri Bikash (Asansol)
Chowdhury, Shrimati Renuka (Khammam)

D

D' Souza, Dr. (Shrimati) **Beatrix (Nominated)**
Daggubati, Shri Ramanaidu (Bapatla)
Dahal, Shri Bhim (Sikkim)
Das, Shri Nepal Chandra (Karimganj)
Dasmunsi, Shri Priya Ranjan (Raiganj)
Dattatreya, Shri Bandaru (Secunderabad)
Deepak Kumar, Shri (Unnao)
Delkar, Shri Mohan S. (Dadra and Nagar Haveli)
Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari (Kalahandi)
Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan (Silchar)
Devi, Shrimati Kailasho (Kurukshehra)
Dhikale, Shri Uttamrao (Nasik)
Dhinakaran, Shri T.T.V. (Periyakulam)
Diler, Shri Kishan Lal (Hathras)
Diwathe, Shri Namdeo Harbaji (Chimur)
Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra (Birbhum)
Dudi, Shri Rameshwar (Bikaner)
Dullo, Shri Shamsher Singh (Ropar)
Durai, Shri M. (Vandavasi)

E

Eden, Shri George (Ernakulam)
Elangovan, Shri P.D. (Dharmapuri)

F

Farook, Shri M.O.H. (Pondicherry)
Fernandes, Shri **George (Nalanda)**

G

Gadde, Shri Ram Mohan (**Vijayawada**)
Gadhavi, Shri P.S. (Kutch)
Galib, Shri G.S. (Ludhiana)
Gamang, Shrimati Hema (Koraput)
Gamlin, Shri Jarbom (Arunachal West)
Gandhi, Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal (**Ahmednagar**)
Gandhi, Shrimati Maneka (Pilibhit)
Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia (Amethi)
Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar (Bareilly)
Gautam, Shrimati Sheela (Aligarh)
Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya (Nandurbar)
Gavit, Shri Ramdas Rupala (Dhule)
Gawali, Kumari Bhavana Pundikrao (**Washim**)
Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram (**Ratnagiri**)
Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand (Shajapur)
George, Shri K. Francis (Idukki)
Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh (Dibrugarh)
Giluwa, Shri Laxman (Singhbhum)
Goel, Shri Vijay (Chandni Chowk)
Gogoi, Shri Tarun (**Kaliabor**)
Gohain, Shri Rajen (Nagaon)
Govindan, Shri T. (**Kasargod**)
Gowda, Shri G. Putta Swamy (Hassan)
Gudhe, Shri Anant (Amravati)
Gupta, Prof. Chaman Lal (**Udhampur**)
Gupta, Shri Indrajit (**Midnapore**)

H

Hamid, Shri Abdul (Dhubri)
Handique, Shri Bijoy (Jorhat)
Hansda, Shri Thomas (Rajmahal)
Haokip, Shri Holkhomang (Outer Manipur)
Haque, Mohammad Anwarul (Sheohar)
Hassan, Shri Moinul (Murshidabad)
Hussain, Shri Syed Shah Nawaz (Kishanguni)

I

Indora, Dr. Sushil Kumar (Sirsa)

J

Jadhav, Shri Suresh Ramrao (Parbhani)
Jaffer Sharief, Shri C.K (Bangalore North)
Jag Mohan, Shri (New Delhi)
Jagannath, Dr. Manda (Nagar Kurnool)
Jagathrakshakan, Dr. S. (Arakkonam)
Jai Prakash, Shri (Hardoi)
Jain, Shri Pusp (Pali)
Jaiswal, Dr. M.P. (Bettiah)
Jaiswal, Shri Jawahar Lal (Chandouli)
Jaiswal, Shri Shankar Prasad (Varanasi)
Jaiswal, Shri Shriprakash (Kanpur)
Jalappa, Shri R.L. (Chikaballapur)
Jatiya, Dr. Satyanarayan (Ujjain)
Javiya, Shri G.J. (Porbandar)
Jayaseelan, Dr. A.D.K. (Tiruchendur)

Jha, Shri Raghunath (Gopalganj)
Jigajinagi, Shri Ramesh C. (Chikkodi)
Jos, Shri A.C. (Trichur)
Joshi, Dr. Murl Manohar (Allahabad)
Joshi, Shri Manohar (Mumbai North Central)

K

Kaliappan, Shri K.K. (Gobichettipalayam)
Kamal Nath, Shri (Chhindwara)
Kamble, Shri Shivaji Vitthalrao (Osmanabad)
Kannappan, Shri M. (Tiruchengode)
Kanungo, Shri Trilochan (Jagatsinghpur)
Karunakaran, Shri K. (Mukundapuram)
Kashyap, Shri Bali Ram (Bastar)
Kaswan, Shri Ram Singh (Churu)
Katara, Shri Babubhai K. (Dohad)
Kataria, Shri Rattan Lal (Ambala)
Kathiria, Dr. Vallabh bhai (Rajkot)
Katiyar, Shri Vinay (Faizabad)
Kaur, Shrimati Preneet (Patiala)
Kaushal, Shri Raghuvir Singh (Kota)
Khabri, Shri Brijlal (Jalaun)
Khaire, Shri Chandrakant (Aurangabad, Maharashtra)
Khan, Shri Abul Hasnat (Jangipur)
Khan, Shri Hassan (Ladakh)
Khan, Shri Mansoor Ali (Saharanpur)
Khan, Shri Sunil (Durgapur)
Khandelwal, Shri Vijay Kumar (Betul)

Khandoker, Shri Akbor Ali (Serampore)
Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. (Garhwal)
Khanna, Shri Vindo (Gurdaspur)
Khunte, Shri P.R. (Sarangarh)
Khurana, Shri Madan Lal (Delhi Sadar)
Kriplani, Shri Shrichand (Chittorgarh)
Krishnadas, Shri N.N. (Palghat)
Krishnamraju, Shri (Narsapur)
Krishnamurthy, Shri K. Balarama (Ongole)
Krishnamurthy, Shri K.E. (Kurnool)
Krishnan, Dr. C. (Pollachi)
Krishnaswamy, Shri A. (Sriperumbudur)
Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh (Mandala)
Kumar, Shri Arun (Jhanabad)
Kumar, Shri V. Dhananjaya (Mangalore)
Kumarasamy, Shri P. (Palani)
Kumaramangalam, Shri P.R. (Tiruchirapalli)
Kuppusami, Shri C. (Madras North)
Kurup, Shri Suresh (Kottayam)
Kusmaria, Dr. Ramkrishna (Damoh)
Kyndiah, Shri P.R. (Shillong)

L

Lahiri, Shri Samik (Diamond Harbour)
Lepcha, Shri S.P. (Darjeeling)

M

M. Master Mathan, Shri (Nilgiris)
Mahajan, Shri Y.G. (Jalgaon)

Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra (Indore)
Mahale, Shri Haribhau Shankar (Malegaon)
Mahant, Dr. Charan Das (Janjgir)
Maharia, Shri Subhas (Sikar)
Mahato, Shri Bir Singh (Purulia)
Mahatab, Shri Bhartruhari (Cuttack)
Mahato, Shrimati Abha (Jamshedpur)
Makwana, Shri Savshibhai (Surendranagar)
Malaisamy, Shri K. (Ramanathapuram)
Malhotra, Dr. Vijay Kumar (South Delhi)
Mallik, Shri Jagannath (Jajpur)
Mallikarjunappa, Shri G. (Devangere)
Malyala, Shri Rajaiah (Siddipet)
Mandal, Shri Brahma Nand (Monghyr)
Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar (Joynagar)
Mandlik, Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba (Kothapur)
Mane, Shri Shivaji (Hingoli)
Mane, Shrimati Nivedita (Ichalkaranji)
Manjay Lal, Shri (Samastipur)
Manjhi, Shri Parsuram (Nowrangpur)
Manjhi Shri Ramjee (Gaya)
Mann, Shri Simranjit Singh (Sangrur)
Mann, Shri Zora Singh (Ferozepur)
Maran, Shri Murasoli (Madras Central)
Marandi, Shri Babu Lal (Dumka)
Mayawati, Kumari (Akberpur)
Meena, Shri Bherulal (Salumber)

Meena, Shrimati Jas Kaur (Swai Madhopur)

Mehta, Shrimati Jayawanti (Mumbai South)

Mishra, Shri Ram Nagina (Padrauna)

Mishra, Shri Shyam Bihari (Bilhaur)

Mohale, Shri Punnu Lal (Bilaspur)

Mohan, Shri P. (Madurai)

Mohite, Shri Subodh (Ramtek)

Mohol, Shri Ashok N. (Khed)

Mollah, Shri Hannan (Uluberia)_

Mookherjee, Shri S.B. (Krishnagar)

Moorthy, Shri A.K. (Chengalpattu)

Mukherjee, Shrimati Geeta (Panskura)

Munda, Shri Kariya (Khunti)

Muni Lall, Shri (Sasaram)

Muniyappa, Shri K.H. (Kolar)

Muraleedharan, Shri K. (Calicut)

Murmu, Shri Rupchand (Jhargram)

Murmu, Shri Salkhan (Mayurbhanj)

Murthi, Shri M.V.V.S. (Visakhapatnam)

Murthy, Shri M.V. Chandrashekhara (Kanakpura)

Murugesan, Shri S. (Tenkasi)

Muttemwar, Shri Vilas (Nagpur)

N

Nagmani, Shri (Chatra)

Naik, Shri A. Venkatesh (Raichur)

Naik, Shri Ali Mohd. (Anantnag)

Naik, Shri Ram (Mumbai North)

Naik, Shri Shripad Yasso (Panaji)

Narah, Shrimati Ranee (Lakhimpur)

Nayak, Shri Ananta (Keonjhar)

Nishad, Capt. Jai Narain Prasad (Muzzaffarpur)

Nitish Kumar, Shri (Barh)

O

Ola, Shri Sis Ram (Jhunjhunu)

Oram, Shri Jual (Sundargarh)

Osmani, Shri A.F. Golam (Barpeta)

Owaisi, Shri Sultan Salahuddin (Hyderabad)

P

Padmanabham, Shri Mudragada (Kakinada)

Pal, Shri Rupchand (Hoogly)

Palanimanickam, Shri S.S. (Thanjavur)

Pandey, Shri Ravindra Kumar (Giridh)

Pandeya, Dr. Laxminarayan (Mandsaur)

Pandiyan, Shri P.H. (Tirunelveli)

Panja, Dr. Ranjit Kumar (Barasat)

Panja, Shri Ajit Kumar (Calcutta North East)

Paranjpe, Shri Prakash (Thane)

Parste, Shri Dalpat Singh (Shahdol)

Parthasarathi, Shri B.K. (Hindupur)

Pasi, Shri Suresh (Chail)

Passi, Shri Raj Narain (Bansgaon)

Pawan, Dr. Sanjay (Nawada)

Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas (Hajipur)

Paswan, Shri Ramchandra (Rosera)

Paswan, Shri Sukdeo (Araria)	Patwa, Shri Sundar Lal (Hoshangabad)
Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar (Bhubaneswar)	Pawaiya, Shri Jaibhan Singh (Gwalior)
Patel, Dr. Ashok (Fatehpur)	Pawar, Shri Sharad (Baramati)
Patel, Shri Atmaram Bhai (Mehsana)	Phoolan Devi, Shrimati (Mirzapur)
Patel, Shri Chandresh (Jamnagar)	Pilot, Shri Rajesh (Dausa)
Patel, Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhabhai (Daman and Diu)	Ponnuswamy, Shri E. (Chidambaram)
Patel, Shri Deepak (Anand)	Potai, Shri Sohan (Kanker)
Patel, Shri Dharm Raj Singh (Phulpur)	Prabhu, Shri Suresh (Rajapur)
Patel, Shri Dinsha (Kaira)	Pradhan, Dr. Debendra (Deogarh)
Patel, Shri Mansinh (Mandvi)	Pradhan, Shri Ashok (Khurja)
Patel, Shri Prahlad Singh (Balaghat)	Pramanik, Prof. R.R. (Mathurapur)
Patel, Shri Tarachand Shivaji (Khargone)	Prasad, Shri V. Sreenivasa (Chamrajanagar)
Pathak, Shri Harin (Ahmedabad)	Prasada, Shri Jitendra (Shahjahanpur)
Patil, Shri Amarsinh Vasantrao (Belgaum)	Premajam, Prof. A.K. (Badagara)
Patil, Shri Annasaheb M.K. (Erandol)	Puglia, Shri Naresh (Chandrapur)
Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe (Kopergaon)	R
Patil (Yatnal), Shri Basangouda R. (Bijapur)	Radhakrishnan, Shri C.P. (Coimbatore)
Patil, Shri Bhaskarrao (Nanded)	Radhakrishnan, Shri Pon (Nagercoil)
Patil, Shri Danve Raosaheb (Jalna)	Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala (Chirayinkil)
Patil, Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad (Beed)	Rai, Shri Nawal Kishore (Sitamarhi)
Patil, Shri Laxmanrao (Satara)	Raja, Shri A. (Perambalur)
Patil, Shri Prakash V. (Sangli)	Rajbangshi, Shri Madhab (Mangaldai)
Patil, Shri R.S. (Bagalkot)	Raje, Shrimati Vasundhara (Jhalawar)
Patil, Shri Shivraj V. (Latur)	Rajendran, Shri P. (Quilon)
Patil, Shri Shrinivas (Karad)	Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, Shri (Purnea)
Patil, Shri Uttamrao (Yavatmal)	Rajukhedi, Shri Gajendra Singh (Dhar)
Patnaik, Shri Naveen (Aska)	Ram Sajivan, Shri (Banda)

Ram, Shri Braj Mohan (Palamu)	Reddy, Shri Gutha Sukender (Nalgonda)
Ramaiah, Dr. B.B. (Eluru)	Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana (Narasaraopet)
Ramaiah, Shri Gunipati (Rajampet)	Reddy, Shri N.R.K. (Chittoor)
Raman, Dr. (Rajnandgaon)	Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal (Miryalguda)
Ramachandran, Shri Gingee N. (Tindivanam)	Reddy, Shri Y.S. Vivekananda (Cuddapah)
Ramshakal, Shri (Robertsganj)	Renu Kumari, Shrimati (Khagaria)
Ramulu, Shri H.G. (Koppal)	Riyan, Shri Baju Ban (Tripura East)
Rana, Shri Kashiram (Surat)	Rizwan Zahir, Shri (Balrampur)
Rana, Shri Raju (Bhavnagar)	Rongpi, Dr. Jayant (Autonomous District Assam)
Rao, Shri Ch. Vidyasagar (Karimnagar)	Roy, Shri Subodh (Bhagalpur)
Rao, Shri D.V.G. Shankar (Parvathipuram)	Roy Pradhan, Shri Amar (Coochbehar)
Rao, Shri Ganta Sreenivasa (Anakapalli)	Rudy, Shri Rajiv Pratap (Chhapra)
Rao, Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana (Rajahmundry)	S
Rao, Shri Y.V. (Guntur)	Sahu, Shri Anadi (Berhampur, Orissa)
Rashtrapal, Shri Pravin (Patan)	Sahu, Shri Tarachand (Durg)
Rathwa, Shri Ramsinh (Chhota Udepur)	Sai, Shri Vishnudeo (Raigarh)
Rau, Shrimati Prabha (Wardha)	Saiduzzama, Shri (Muzaffarnagar)
Ravi, Shri Sheesh Ram Singh (Bijnor)	Samantray, Shri Prabhat (Kendrapara)
Rawale, Shri Mohan (Mumbai South Central)	Sanadi, Prof. I.G. (Dharwad South)
Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh (Ajmer)	Sanghani, Shri Dileep (Amreli)
Rawat, Shri Pradeep (Pune)	Sangma, Shri Purno A. (Tura)
Rawat, Shri Ramsagar (Barabanki)	Sangtam, Shri K.A. (Nagaland)
Ray, Shri Bishnu Pada (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)	Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh (Sonapat)
Reddy, Shri A.P. Jithender (Mahabubnagar)	Sankeshwar, Shri Vijay (Dharwad North)
Reddy, Shri B.V.N. (Nandyal)	Sankhwar, Shri Pyare Lal (Ghatampur)
Reddy, Shri Chada Suresh (Hanamkonda)	Sar, Shri Nikhilananda (Burdwan)
Reddy, Shri G. Ganga (Nizamabad)	Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed (Gulbarga)

Saroj, Shri Tufani (Saidpur)	Singh, Capt. (Retd.) Inder (Rohtak)
Saroj, Shrimati Sushila (Misrikh)	Singh, Ch. Tejveer (Mathura)
Saroja, Dr. V. (Rasipuram)	Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad (Vaishali)
Sathi, Shri Harpal Singh (Haridwar)	Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhan (Bhind)
Sayeed, Shri P.M. (Lakshadweep)	Singh, Kunwar Akhilesh (Maharajganj, U.P.)
Scindia, Shri Madhavrao (Guna)	Singh, Kunwar Sarv Raj (Aonla)
Selvaganpathi, Shri T.M. (Salem)	Singh, Rajkumari Ratna (Pratapgarh)
Sen, Shrimati Minati (Jalpaiguri)	Singh, Sardar Buta (Jalore)
Sengupta, Dr. Nitish (Contai)	Singh, Shri Ajit (Baghpat)
Seth, Shri Lakshman (Tamluk)	Singh, Shri Bahadur (Bayana)
Sethi, Shri Arjun (Bhadrak)	Singh, Shri Balbir (Jalandhar)
Shah, Shri Manabendra (Tehri Garhwal)	Singh, Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan (Gonda)
Shahabuddin, Mohd. (Siwan)	Singh, Shri C.N. (Machhlishahar)
Shaheen, Shri Abdul Rashid (Baramulla)	Singh, Shri Chandra Bhushan (Farrukhabad)
Shakya, Shri Raghuraj Singh (Etawah)	Singh, Shri Chandra Pratap (Sidhi)
Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dr. Dhani Ram (Shimla)	Singh, Shri Chandra Vijay (Moradabad)
Shanmugam, Shri N.T. (Vellore)	Singh, Shri Charanjit (Hoshiarpur)
Shanta Kumar, Shri (Kangra)	Singh, Shri Chhatrapal (Bulandshahar)
Sharma, Capt. Satish (Raebareli)	Singh, Shri Digvijay (Banka)
Sharma, Vaidya Vishnu Datt (Jammu)	Singh, Shri Jai Bhadra (Sultanpur)
Shashi Kumar, Shri (Chitradurga)	Singh, Shri Khel Sai (Sarguja)
Shervani, Shri Saleem I. (Badaun)	Singh, Shri Lakshman (Rajgarh)
Shinde, Shri Sushil Kumar (Solapur)	Singh, Shri Maheshwar (Mandi)
Shukla, Shri Shyamacharan (Mahasamund)	Singh, Shri Prabhunath (Maharajganj, Bihar)
Sikdar, Shri Tapan (Dumdum)	Singh, Shri Radha Mohan (Motihari)
Singh Deo, Shri K.P. (Dhenkanal)	Singh, Shri Rajo (Begusarai)
Singh, Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari (Bolangir)	Singh, Shri Ram Prasad (Arrah)

Singh, Shri Ramanand (Satna)

Singh, Shri Ramjivan (Balia, Bihar)

Singh, Shri Rampal (Domariagani)

Singh, Shri Sahib (Outer Delhi)

Singh, Shri Th. Chaoba (Inner Manipur)

Singh, Shri Tailakhari Prasad (Kodarma)

Singh, Shri Vishvendra (Bharatpur)

Singh, Shrimati Kanti (Bikramganj)

Singh, Shrimati Shyama (Aurangabad, Bihar)

Sinha, Shri Manoj (Gazipur)

Sinha, Shri Yashwant (Hazaribagh)

Sivakumar, Shri V.S. (Thiruvananthapuram)

Solanki, Shri Bhupendrasinh (Godhra)

Somaiya, Shri Kirit (Mumbai North East)

Sorake, Shri Vinay Kumar (Udupi)

Sreenivasan, Shri C. (Dindigul)

Srikantappa, Shri D.C. (Chickmangalore)

Srinivasulu, Shri Kalava (Anantapur)

Subba, Shri M.K. (Tezpur)

Sudarsana Natchiappan, Shri E.M. (Sivaganga)

Sudheeran, Shri V.M. (Alleppey)

Suman, Shri Ramji Lal (Firozabad)

Sunil Dutt, Shri (Mumbai North West)

Suresh, Shri Kodikunnil (Adoor)

Swain, Shri Kharabela (Balasore)

Swami, Shri Chinmayanand (Jaunpur)

Swami, Shri I.D. (Karnal)

T

Thakkar, Shrimati Jayaben B. (Vadodara)

Thakur, Dr. C.P. (Patna)

Thakur, Shri Chunni Lal Bhai (Bhandara)

Thakur, Shri Ramsheth (Kulaba)

Thirunavukarasu, Shri (Pudukkottai)

Thomas, Shri P.C. (Muvattupuzha)

Tiwari, Shri Lal Bihari (East Delhi)

Tiwari, Shri Narayan Datt (Nainital)

Tiwari, Shri Sunder Lal (Rewa)

Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand (Hapur)

Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran (Barrackpore)

Tripathee, Shri Ram Naresh (Seoni)

Tripathi, Shri Prakash Mani (Deoria)

Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore (Puri)

Tur, Shri Tarlochan Singh (Tarantaran)

U

Uma Bharati, Kumari (Bhopal)

V

Vaghela, Shri Shankersinh (Kapadvanj)

Vaiko, Shri (Sivakasi)

Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari (Lucknow)

Varma, Sh. Ratilal Kalidas (Dhandhuka)

Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai D. (Bharuch)

Veerappa, Shri Ramchandra (Bidar)

Venkataswamy, Dr. N. (Tirupati)

Venkateshwari, Shri B. (Warangal)

Venkateswarlu, Prof. Ummareddy (Tenali)	Y
Venugopal, Dr. S. (Adilabad)	Yadav Dr. (Shrimati) Sudha (Mahendragarh)
Venugopal, Shri D. (Tiruppattur)	Yadav, Dr. Jaswant Singh (Alwar)
Verma, Prof. Rita (Dhanbad)	Yadav, Shri Balram Singh (Mainpuri)
Verma, Shri Beni Prasad (Kaisarganj)	Yadav, Shri Bhal Chandra (Khalilabad)
Verma, Shri Rajesh (Sitapur)	Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad (Jhanjharpur)
Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash (Kheri)	Yadav, Shri Devendra Singh (Etah)
... Vetriselvan, Shri V. (Krishnagiri)	Yadav, Shri Dinesh Chandra (Saharsa)
Vijaya Kumari, Shrimati D.M. (Bhadrachalam)	Yadav, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan (Madhubani)
Vijayan, Shri A.K.S. (Nagapattinam)	Yadav, Shri Jagdambi Prasad (Godda)
Virendra Kumar, Shri (Sagar)	Yadav, Shri Mulayam Singh (Sambhal)
Vukkala, Dr. Rajeshwaramma (Nellore)	Yadav, Shri Ramakant (Azamgarh)
Vyas, Dr. Girija (Udaipur)	Yadav, Shri Sharad (Madhepura)
W	Yerrannaidu, Shri K. (Srikakulam) .
Wadiyar, Shri S.D.N.R. (Mysore)	Z
Wanga, Shri Chintaman (Dahanu)	Zahedi, Shri Mahboob (Katwa)
Wangcha, Shri Rajkumar (Arunachal East)	Zawma, Shri Vanlal (Mizoram)

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

The Speaker

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI

The Deputy Speaker

SHRI P.M. SAYEED

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN*

Shri Basu Deb Acharia

Shrimati Margaret Alva

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh

Shri Beni Prasad Verma

Shri K. Yerrannaidu

Secretary General

SHRI G.C. MALHOTRA

*Nominated in 2.12.1999.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Members of the Cabinet

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	—	The Prime Minister and also incharge of the Ministries/ Departments not specifically allocated to the charge of any Minister viz: (1) Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (2) Planning (3) Statistics and Programme Implementation (4) Atomic Energy (5) Space
Shri L.K. Advani	—	The Minister of Home Affairs
Shri Ananth Kumar—		The Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports
Shri T.R. Baalu	—	The Minister of Environment and Forests
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	—	The Minister of Railways
Shri Sukh Dev Singh Dhindsa	—	The Minister of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation
Shri George Fernandes	—	The Minister of Defence
Shri Jag Mohan	—	The Minister of Urban Development
Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya	—	The Minister of Labour
Shri Ram Jethmalani	—	The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs
Shri Manohar Joshi	—	The Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi	—	The Minister of Human Resource Development, Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Ocean Development.
Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam	—	The Minister of Power
Shri Pramod Mahajan	—	The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information Technology
Shri Murasoli Maran	—	The Minister of Commerce and Industry
Shri Ram Naik	—	The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Shri Nitish Kumar	—	The Minister of Agriculture
Shri Jual Oram	—	The Minister of Tribal Affairs
Shri Ram Vilas Paswan	—	The Minister of Communications
Shri Naveen Patnaik	—	The Minister of Mines and Minerals

(xviii)

Shri Sundar Lal Patwa	—	The Minister of Rural Development
Shri Suresh Prabhu	—	The Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Shri Kashiram Rana	—	The Minister of Textiles
Shri Shanta Kumar	—	The Minister of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution
Shri Jaswant Singh	—	The Minister of External Affairs
Shri Rajnath Singh	—	The Minister of Surface Transport.
Shri Yashwant Sinha	—	The Minister of Finance
Dr. C.P. Thakur	—	The Minister of Water Resources
Shri Sharad Yadav	—	The Minister of Civil Aviation

Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi	—	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Shri Arun Jaitley	—	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Shri M. Kannappan	—	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources
Shri Dilip Ray	—	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Steel
Shrimati Vasundhara Raje	—	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries, Minister of State in the Department of Personnel and Training, Department of Pensions and Pensioners Welfare of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Departments of Atomic Energy and Space.
Shri N.T. Shanmugam	—	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
Kumari Uma Bharati	—	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Tourism

Ministers of State

Shri Ramesh Bais	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources
Shri Shriram Chauhan	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.
Shri Bandaru Dattatreya	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Urban Development

(xix)

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad Patil	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development
Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation
Shri Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain	—	The Minister of State in the Department of Food Processing Industries of the Ministry of Agriculture
Dr. Vallabh bhai Kathiria	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
Shri Bangaru Laxman	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development
Shri Subhash Maharia	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
Shri Babu Lal Marandi	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests
Shrimati Jayawanti Mehta	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Power
Shri Muni Lall	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour
Shri Omar Abdullah	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Shri Ajit Kumar Panja	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs
Shri Harin Pathak	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence
Dr. Debendra Pradhan	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Surface Transport
Shri E. Ponnuswamy	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Shri A. Raja	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
Shri O. Rajagopal	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
Dr. Raman	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles

(xx)

Shri Ch. Vidyasagar Rao	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana Rao	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture
Shri Arun Shourie	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning, Minister of State in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Minister of State in the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	—	The Minister of State in the Department of Science and Technology of the Ministry of Science and Technology
Shri Tapan Sikdar	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications
Shri Digvijay Singh	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
Shri Th. Chaoba Singh	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports
Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution
Shri I.D. Swami	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
Prof. Rita Verma	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines and Minerals
Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav	—	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, November 29, 1999/Agrahayana 8, 1921 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was played.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Secretary-General may now call the names of Members to take oath or make affirmation.

11.02 hrs.

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri Abdul Hamid (Dhubri)

Shri Thomas Hansda (Rajmahal)

Shri Subodh Ray (Bhagalpur)

Shrimati Renu Kumari (Khagaria)

Shri Holkhomang (Outer Manipur)

Shri Suresh Pasi (Chail)

Shri Denzil B. Atkinson (Nominated)

Dr. (Shrimati) Beatrix D'Souza (Nominated)

11.08 hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I wish to introduce to you and through you to the august House my colleagues who have recently joined the Council of Ministers.

Shri Rajnath Singh

— The Minister of Surface Transport

Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa

— The Minister of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation

Dr. C.P. Thakur

— The Minister of Water Resources

Minister of State

Shri Arun Shourie

— The Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning, Minister of State in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Minister of State in the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

11.11 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of two of our former colleagues Sarvashri M. Sankarapandian and L. Krishnaswami Bharathi.

Shri M. Sankarapandian was a Member of First and Second Lok Sabhas from 1952 to 1962 representing Sankaranayinarkovil and Tenkasi Parliamentary Constituencies of erstwhile Madras State.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Sankarapandian worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Sankarapandian worked for the welfare of the labour class and farmers and never

lost any opportunity to put forward their problems before the House. He was a member of Estimates Committee from 1958 to 1960.

Shri M. Sankarapandian passed away on 8 October, 1999 at Puliangudi, Tamil Nadu at the age of 81.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi was a Member of the Constituent Assembly from 1946 to 1950 and Provisional Parliament from 1950 to 1952 representing erstwhile the Madras State.

Earlier, he was a Member of erstwhile Madras Legislative Assembly in 1937 of the then Madras Presidency.

An active freedom fighter, Shri Bharathi was imprisoned for participating in Satyagraha movements in 1932 and 1940.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Bharathi was a member of All India Language Experts Conference during 1949-50 and member of Committee for Translating the Constitution into Tamil language in 1951.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi passed away on 31 October, 1999 at Chennai at the age of 95.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

Hon. Members may recall that this House passed a resolution during the last session expressing deep sense of shock at the devastating cyclone that hit the coastal areas of Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh on 29 October, 1999. As the events have unfolded, the devastation has far exceeded any such calamity suffered by this country ever before. More than 10,000 persons have reportedly lost their lives and almost half of the population of Orissa affected in the tragedy:

We deeply mourn the loss of these lives.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

11.13 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence for
a short while*

11.15 hrs.

**REFERENCE BY SPEAKER
RE: FIFTY YEARS OF CONSTITUTION
OF INDIA**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to make one more observation, as agreed in the Leaders' meeting.

Hon. Members, I refer to the successful completion of 50 years of the Constitution of India. Twenty-sixth November is a significant and an important day for our country. It is on this day, fifty years ago, that the Constituent Assembly adopted our Constitution. The demand, that India's political destiny should be determined by Indians themselves, had been put forward by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi as early as in 1922. His much cherished dream came true when we adopted our Constitution.

As the Members are aware, the Constituent Assembly of India met for 166 days spread over a period of 2 years, 11 months and 18 days. By the time the Constitution was adopted on the 26th November, 1949, the Members of the Assembly had discussed threadbare each and every one of its provisions in the light of the experiences elsewhere while, of course, keeping in view our requirements and realities.

As our experience of the last fifty years demonstrates, our Constitution has been a dynamic document of national self-actualisation. In every sense of the term, the Constitution reflects the soul of the nation and symbolizes the unity of our people and sovereign will.

The adaptability of the Constitution to the ever-changing reality has effectively made it a vehicle of social change, the process being substantially facilitated by our Parliament. Till date, as many as 78 amendments have been adopted, many of them going a long way in realizing the people's hopes and aspirations. A Constitution is basically a people's covenant, their Charter of freedom and the blue print for their future.

The spirit of the entire Constitution is reflected in the preamble itself, which declared the resolve of the people to constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and Democratic Republic.

The preamble, as has been widely acclaimed, reflects the broad framework of ideas which are deeply ingrained in our ancient heritage and are part of the Indian ethos for which the Constitution stands and the fundamentals on which it has been founded.

The framers of our Constitution were people with vision and laid down certain parameters. In the fifty years of existence, our Constitution has withstood the pulls and pressures of a democratic society. Its basic structure has remained the same as envisaged by our founding fathers. Our Constitution remains the most important document in our nation's life, which guides, and encourages us to rise to its hoary ideals. As inheritors of a great legacy, it is for us to translate the founding fathers' vision into reality. To that end, let us rededicate ourselves.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia); Sir, I have given a notice for suspension of the question Hour to take up the issue of cyclone in Orissa. We want suspension of Question Hour...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 1.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the issue of cyclone should be taken up immediately. It is a very important issue. So, the Question Hour should be suspended...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 1—Shri Adhir Choudhary.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, I have given notice of suspension of Question Hour to take up the situation arising out of the cyclone in Orissa. What happened to that?

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that we have discussed this issue in the Leaders' Meeting also. You have all agreed to discuss the Orissa cyclone issue today itself. Let the Question Hour continue now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: We have given notice of an Adjournment Motion. What is your ruling?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Government has also agreed to discuss the matter.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): We are discussing it at Two of the Clock today...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): The Orissa cyclone is a very serious subject. We have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that last time also, we had discussed it. Today also, we have agreed to discuss it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair is cooperating with you. We have decided in the Leaders' Meeting today about it. The Government has also no objection to discuss the matter. Immediately after Lunch, we are discussing the Orissa cyclone issue. Shri Pilot, we have agreed to discuss the issue today itself.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: This is a very serious tragedy...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, you are unnecessarily objecting to this. As I said, we have agreed to discuss the subject today itself. Please take your seat.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, what is your ruling on the Adjournment Motion?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We have given a notice on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. When the House is going to discuss the issue today itself, you are not cooperating. What is this? This is very unfortunate.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Is this the way to make your point?...*(Interruptions)* Please let me make my point...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): What is your ruling on our Adjournment Motion?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Let the Prime Minister say something about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let the hon. Prime Minister reply to it.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to know as to what the Government have done regarding Orissa? We want a reply from the Government in this regard?...(Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire House, entire country and if I may say so that whole world is concerned about the loss of lives and property suffered due to cyclone in Orissa. Today we are meeting for the first time since then. It is natural and necessary that the situation prevailing in Orissa should be discussed later in the session. The Government is ready for the discussion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is upto you to decide as to when discussion should take place.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: What about our adjournment motion?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Question Hour should be suspended. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Question Hour should be suspended and the Adjournment Motion on Orissa cyclone should be taken up immediately. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have already discussed the matter in the Leaders' meeting and we have decided to discuss the matter today itself at two o'clock. The government also have no objection. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is your ruling on the Adjournment Motion?

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving my ruling. In view of the decision taken in the Leaders' meeting, I have already disallowed the Adjournment Motion. We are taking up the discussion today itself at two o'clock. Please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, what happened to our notice for the Adjournment Motion? We should be informed of that. What action have you taken on our notice for the Adjournment Motion?

MR. SPEAKER: It has already been rejected. Since we are taking up the discussion on Orissa cyclone today itself, the notice for the Adjournment Motion has, already, been rejected.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is an hour of public importance. That is why, your notice is disallowed. Please take your seat.

Q. No. 1. Shri Adhir Choudhary.

11.26 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Illegal Pak Immigrants

*1. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Pak immigrants are staying illegally in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether their stay is adversely affecting our economy and security; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to check such illegal immigration in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) As per available information, as on 31.7.1999, regarding Pak nationals who visited India, a total of 11,327 Pak nationals were reported to have not returned after their authorised stay. Of these, 8,700 have overstayed and 2,627 are reported untraced.

The State-wise breakup is as follows:—

Sl.No.	Name of State	Overstaying	Untraced	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21	29	50
2.	Bihar	23	36	59
3.	Delhi	07	90	97
4.	Gujarat	621	20	641
5.	Haryana	611	—	611
6.	Karnataka	01	68	69
7.	Kerala	284	112	396
8.	Madhya Pradesh	869	231	1100
9.	Maharashtra	244	1172	1416
10.	Orissa	24	8	32
11.	Punjab	137	—	137
12.	Rajasthan	4658	75	4733
13.	Tamil Nadu	97	20	117
14.	Uttar Pradesh	670	400	1070
15.	West Bengal	329	362	691
16.	J&K	94	4	98
17.	Goa	10	—	10
Total		8700	2627	11327

The Central Government is in constant dialogue with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on the subject of tracing out such Pak nationals and to deport them. Steps taken to check such illegal immigration include border fencing, flood-lighting, construction of patrolling tracks, upgradation of intelligence capabilities at the border and improved border management including multi-tiered deployment of army, CPMFs and State police for checking of infiltration at the LOC/border.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say, with all humbleness, that I am not at all satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Home Minister with regard to my question. A sheer digression is evident in his reply.

Sir, we are all aware that illegal immigration of Pakistan is not only jeopardizing our national security, but also adversely affecting our economy and we may safely regard it as synonymous with the I.S.I. activities in India with an eye to destabilize our country by bleeding into death. In the wake of the Kargil conflict, the arrival of Pakistanis is reported to have increased significantly much to the consternation of the peace loving people of India.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question? You need not elaborate. The hon. Minister will give the answer. You have to ask only the question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, in his reply, the Home Minister has stated about floodlights, border fencing, intelligence upgradation and so many other rigmaroles only to be debunked while confronting the ground realities. Despite having elaborate security networks, immigration laws and all other required wherewithals, I would like to ask the hon. Home Minister as to how it is possible for those illegal Pak immigrants to turn India into a safe haven. Do you think that there is an existence of unholy nexus between illegal immigrants and security personnel at the command of the Minister of Home Affairs?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, the hon. Member has referred to the case of people who come to India with valid passports, valid visas and who have overstayed.

There are two aspects. The other aspect of illegal immigration or illegal infiltration is a separate matter. This particular question, as framed, would seem to deal with those Pak-immigrants who are staying illegally in various parts of the country. The details have been given of those who have overstayed and those who have subsequently disappeared and are untraced. Both these figures have been given.

Though the laws that govern immigration and deportation are Central laws but the authority to execute them has been delegated to the State Governments.

Over a period of time, the number of immigrants from Pakistan who have overstayed or who have disappeared is really large. The Government has been in constant touch with the State Governments to ensure that they are traced and deported.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: May I remind the hon. Minister of Home Affairs a proverb that one who sleeps too much in summer shall have to weep in winter? Before the elections, the hon. Minister had promised to the people of India that a White Paper on ISI activities would be published. Where is your White Paper?

I must say that the illegal immigration is very much related to ISI activities. This should be noted.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Once again, I would say that there are two classes. One class is of those persons who overstay and their presence is known and they are being given due notices, etc. But the other class is that which disappears, mixes with the population, and is untraced and not in the notice of the State Governments or the Union Territory authorities. It is they who might be indulging in objectionable or obnoxious activities. Some of them may be connected with the ISI.

So far as the proposal for White Paper on ISI is concerned, it is still under consideration with the Government. At a proper time, the Government would make an announcement.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Respected Speaker, Sir, I have seen the statement which the hon. Minister has laid on the Table. So far as the figures are concerned, I have seen that in Rajasthan, the number of overstaying Pakistanis is 4,658 and that of untraced Pakistanis is 75. The total is 4,733.

The part (a) of my question is this. What message has gone from the Government of India to the State Government of Rajasthan to check or take action against overstaying and untraced Pakistanis? Is there any reaction on behalf of the Government of Rajasthan? This is the first part of my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hassan, you can ask only one supplementary and not two.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: It is clubbed together.

MR. SPEAKER: You can club part (a) with part (b) and put one supplementary.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Is there any proposal to extend the bus service between India and Pakistan? That is part (b).

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The first question is related to it; the second question should be a separate question. But so far as the first question is concerned, in the matter of Rajasthan, where the number of immigrants who have disappeared is relatively not large but the number of immigrants who have overstayed is large. But they are in the know of Government of Rajasthan. We have been in constant touch even with the Rajasthan Government as with all other Governments to see that this matter is expedited...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: In the case of Karnataka, it is different...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, it is totally evasive. He has not replied to anything at all...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs...*(Interruptions)* In his reply to the question the hon. Minister has given figures regarding overstay by the Pakistani immigrants and those Pak nationals who are untraceable. As the hon'ble Members have just said that large number of such people are in Rajasthan. May I know whether the Government are aware that in my constituency i.e. Ajmer, Pakistani immigrants are overstaying on one pretext or the another? They indulge in anti-national activities and their intention is to create disturbance in border district of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jalore and thus they cause danger to the life of local people. Is the Government aware of it and whether it would assure the House that overstaying of Pak nationals would be identified and stern steps would be taken to deport them?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the number of such Pakistani immigrants is high in border districts. The hon. Member is giving information pertaining to his district. I can only assure that we will definitely ask the State Government of Rajasthan to take stern and prompt steps in this matter.

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Home Minister has pointed out a very core problem in this issue that the national security is a national responsibility, but law and order happens to be with the State.

I see that 691 cases of illegal immigrants are there in West Bengal and as we know, among them are ISI Agents also. We are not an adjoining State of Pakistan. So, these people must have taken a lot of time and networking to come there.

The problem, as the hon. Home Minister has stated is that the two agencies, the State and the Central, have to work together. Would the hon. Minister consider having some coordinating agency for that?

The hon. Minister has said that he is continuing the dialogue, but the dialogue does not seem to be enough. I would like to know whether he thinks that a coordinating agency should be there to coordinate what the State is doing and what the Centre is doing. Maybe a warning should be given to the Centre and when some people are arrested, both the Centre and the State should work together.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The answer that I have given in reply to the main question did not relate to the fact that law and order is a State Subject. In this particular case, although the laws which govern these immigrants are Central laws, the authority to execute those laws has been delegated to the State Government and it is by virtue of this delegation that the State Government is empowered to take action. They do take action. But it is true that in West Bengal, the number of Pakistanis who have overstayed their Visa is not as large as the number of Pakistanis who seem to have merged themselves in the population and disappeared. It is a large number.

Only recently, I had a longish discussion with the Home Minister of West Bengal in respect of the threat posed by anti-national elements in that State. In that context, we would pursue this particular matter again with the State Government.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Sir, it is not the question as to how many Pakistani intruders have come to India and have been detained here. The main question which I would like to know is how many intruders have come and have ultimately disappeared.

It is the main question. The hon. Home Minister knows it better. In the northern part of West Bengal and

in the North-Eastern Region—the eight sister organisations from Assam to Tripura—the ISI activities is going to be more and more and they are likely to destabilise the country. I would like to know it very clearly whether you have set up any coordinating agency between the States and the Centre in these areas.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Once again I would like to emphasise that this question is somewhat separate from the question which you have just posed. This gives you the figure of just 11,327 Pakistanis; of whom, 2,627 Pakistanis have disappeared but the number of influx of illegal immigrants whose entry also is not known and who have mixed with the population runs into lakhs. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Particularly the disappeared persons are indulging in the activities sponsored by the ISI. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: This number may be in very many lakhs, in million really. In this particular case, I can only say that there is no need of a permanent coordinating agency. The Home Secretary has been in constant touch with the State Governments because these people are not confined to the State Capitals. They are spread in the districts.

So far as the Central Government is concerned, it has certain apparatus, outfits relating to Intelligence particularly, but in very limited places. Principally it is through the State Governments and the Union Territories that we can implement a law of this nature.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: May I know from the hon. Home Minister in regard to a comprehensive policy between the State and the Union pertaining to checking the infiltrators in India, whether any specific mechanism has been adopted where the comprehensive surveillance from the Government of India could be considered? Why I have raised this issue to the hon. Home Minister is that during the elections, I have confronted in my constituency that several innocent patriots of the Muslim community have been harassed by the police in the name of infiltrators and ISI agents but they are not at all so. They are patriots and Indian citizens. I brought it to the notice of the State Home Minister. And no less a reputed person, than Dr. Mahmood of Malda town had to issue a public leaflet that this was the kind of treatment that he was getting. If you leave the matter to the grassroot police station, they are taking advantage and trying to persecute, for their own personal rivalries, innocent Muslims and causing thereby panic. On the day of Gaisal railway accident, I was in my constituency. It was in the border of my

constituency. On that day, the news had spread that the Muslims of the village would be arrested because they had caused the accident and they were all ISI agents and infiltrators. Fortunately enough the District Magistrate ruled it out that it was an accident not caused by the infiltrators. These kind of things are being perpetrated everyday by the local police station. I want to know from the hon. Home Minister as to what kind of assurance the Government of India can give that a comprehensive surveillance will be free from this kind of persecuting the innocent people and the patriots of the Muslim community.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The hon. Member's question once again refers to the problem of illegal immigration and infiltration. I can only say that whenever the Central Government has asked any State Government—this relates mainly to the State Governments on the border—to take action against illegal immigration or infiltration, we have also emphasised that *bona fide* Indian citizens must not be harassed under any circumstances and care should be taken to see that a *bona fide* Indian citizen, only because of his religion, is not harassed. The case of this kind—because he happens to belong to the Muslim faith and, therefore, he is harassed—should be scrupulously avoided and if any such case comes to your notices, you must take salutary action against those who indulge in this.

Dilapidated Condition of National Highways

+
*2. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the National Highways in the country are in a dilapidated condition for the want of proper maintenance and lack of funds;

(b) if so, the details of such National Highways, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for not having proper arrangements of maintenance;

(d) the details of action plan formulated by the Government for keeping National Highways in good condition; and

(e) the funds allotted for the purpose during the last three years and current year, State-wise?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. Although funds available for the maintenance of National Highways have been inadequate,

they are being maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Government has drawn a programme for undertaking special repairs of National Highways in a phased manner. 8000 Km of National Highways are to be provided with a renewal cost in this financial year.

(e) Details are given in the enclosed *Annexure*.

ANNEXURE

Statement Indicating Allocation of Funds under Maintenance & Repairs (Rs. in Lakhs) in Various States

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (upto Nov. 99)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3545.34	3898.00	4568.40	2642.26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
3.	Assam	1006.87	1162.55	2815.51	2632.44
4.	Bihar	2193.95	3410.77	3336.97	4399.64
5.	Chandigarh	45.00	71.00	48.04	32.20
6.	Delhi	207.00	330.20	210.00	100.44
7.	Goa	325.36	450.39	617.08	319.04
8.	Gujarat	2731.50	3758.96	3296.94	1646.17
9.	Haryana	885.24	772.34	1239.42	1311.70
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1516.80	2034.32	2256.01	1272.82
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	103.37	87.40	129.65	244.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Karnataka	2457.80	3002.90	3111.75	2727.90
13.	Kerala	1073.27	2268.11	2090.63	1608.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3176.72	3313.78	3945.04	4721.56
15.	Maharashtra	3277.04	5157.68	4957.67	2938.63
16.	Manipur	276.00	277.03	365.59	657.08
17.	Meghalaya	553.70	584.54	625.80	638.89
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	299.00
19.	Nagaland	14.00	37.11	382.90	355.63
20.	Orissa	1981.73	2522.00	2761.15	2382.24
21.	Pondicherry	35.88	29.96	6418	63.00
22.	Punjab	1182.13	1357.75	1538.81	1443.86
23.	Rajasthan	2669.08	3841.71	3718.19	3404.00
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	2413.14	2981.87	3740.00	3117.15
26.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3373.40	4949.19	6128.44	4671.49
28.	West Bengal	2081.68	3264.94	2757.83	2440.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
29.	Joggigoppa Bridge	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
30.	Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
31.	BRDB	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
32.	NHAI	70.00	375.00	274.00	0.00
33.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
34.	Other Institutions	—	13.00	—	0.00
Total		37200.00	49750.00	54980.00	46093.14

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has said in this reply that funds available for maintenance of the national Highways are inadequate and in reply to the second part of the question he has said that the National Highways are not in bad condition anywhere. However, if survey is conducted in this regard, we will come to know that condition of the National Highway at several places in each state is really bad.

At several places pits have been developed on roads due to heavy rain and at some places approach roads are blocked and at several places roads are not in a condition to bear the burden of ever increasing traffic. In this context, I would like to cite the example of the National Highway number four. Due to heavy traffic in Pune and Mumbai there are frequent traffic jams between Devu Road to Lonawala and Lonawala to Sopoli on the National Highway number four as a result of which passengers have to sit in the bus for as long as eighteen hours. I understand that the government of Maharashtra have submitted a proposal in regard to conversion of the two lane highway from Devu Road to Sopoli into four lane highway. Will the Government consider this proposal?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: In the reply I have not said that the condition of roads is bad. I have said that the condition of all roads is not bad. Condition of some roads is definitely bad.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently a major accident occurred in Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand, the hon'ble Minister is giving reply for the first time in the House. Please understand that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: The hon'ble Member wanted to know about the condition of the National Highway number four. The length of this portion of the National Highway number four is 13.54 kilometres. It is not true that this road is not worth bearing additional traffic load. However, at some places the condition of the highway is certainly bad. We have decided to construct this road during the financial year 1999-2000.

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as compared to 1997-98 the Government have curtailed the funds to be provided to Maharashtra in 1998-99 for maintenance of the National Highway whereas the amount should have been increased. This year only Rs. 2938

lakhs have been given so far. I want to know as to how much funds have been allocated to Maharashtra for the maintenance of the Highways during the current year?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking with regard to Maharashtra.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that our department needed Rs. 1250 crores for maintenance of the National Highways. Had we been allocated Rs. 1250 crores, we would have been able to make the national highways worthy of bearing the additional load of traffic. But due to some unavoidable circumstances only Rs. 703 crores were allocated to us against the requirement of Rs. 1250 crores. As far as Maharashtra is concerned, Rs. 2938 lakhs have been sanctioned for Maharashtra for the year 1999-2000. It is a fact that this amount is less as compared to the financial year 1998-99. The reason for this curtailment is that we got only Rs. 703 crores as against our requirement of Rs. 1250 crores.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, detail pertaining to Bihar has been given for three years. I thank Shri Nitishji for allocating more funds this time. He has allocated Rs. 4399 lakhs for 1999. The condition of all the roads in Bihar is pitiable. You have said that 8,000 kilometers long highway will be constructed this year. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what is length of the highways in kilometres that is going to be constructed in Bihar out of this 8000 kilometers and the names of the roads which are likely to be constructed?

Ranchi is a big city and its population is about 15 lakhs. Bypass roads have been constructed in small towns. I have been drawing the attention of the Union Government repeatedly towards this as lot of inconvenience is being experienced in the absence of a bypass at Ranchi.

The roads connecting Ranchi-Patna, Ranchi-Tata or Ranchi-Gumla are in very poor condition. The Government have given it in writing that due to scarcity of funds, this task could not be done. You will be surprised to know that the G.T. road in Bihar has got potholes at several places which are 3-4 feet wide. Till now, they have not been repaired. Besides Bihar, the roads of other States like Uttar Pradesh, Bengal are in much better condition...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This question does not pertain to Bihar, but to national highways.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the time by which the national highways of Bihar which are in very poor condition, would be repaired? Also by when the Government is going to construct by pass road in Ranchi?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: It is true that the condition of roads in Bihar is not as good, as it should be. But in current financial year, we have kept provision for the maintenance of 307 kilometre of roads and special repair of 361 kilometres of roads. The hon'ble Member has asked by when the by-pass will be constructed in Ranchi. The hon'ble Member has brought this to my notice, I will see what I can do in this regard.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the hon'ble Minister. He has been assigned a very important portfolio. I hope that he will do justice to his job, this sector is very important for the country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Your cooperation is required...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: In this department, demand has always been more than the means. It is a fact that the National Highway Authority was established in 1986 with a view to providing more resources as existing resources were not adequate to fulfill the demand of the country. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister what steps he is taking to provide additional resources? The issue of cess was raised. In past, our Government had approved cess on petrol, but I agree that it could not be implemented. I want to know whether this Government is considering it? Because, resources can not be provided without tax-collection, whether it is a highways tax or cess on petrol.

All colleagues had demanded in the House that the funds sanctioned to the P.W.D. are not fully and properly utilized. Therefore, the National Highways Authority was set up to monitor it, to make it accountable, and to make it transparent. We do not want that we should not be able to ask the P.W.D. about the utilization of funds sanctioned to them. What steps the department has taken in this regard after setting up of National Highway Authority. So as to increase resources, to fulfill all demands and to monitor how P.W.D. is spending the funds sanctioned to it? We had taken some initiatives in that direction, we had carried out some reforms. I want to know whether they are effective or not so as to benefit his sector.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Sir, the department has prepared a work plan for the maintenance, repair and

development of national highways. If the hon'ble Members wants, I shall provide him information in this regard.

We have decided to take up for resurfacing 20 percent of the total number of highways, every year. Earlier, we used to take roads of 2 to 4 kilometres for resurfacing, now we have decided to increase this length, and will resurface roads from 10-15 kilometres. The improvement is required in the machines used for the construction of roads. The new technology should be used for this purpose. Therefore, a scheme has been prepared for it. We have allowed to make imports duty-free. We have made a provision under which they can get 10 percent in advance to purchase the machines. We will collect Rs. 5000 crores approximately from the cess of Rs. one levied on diesel, but of which Rs. 2500 will be spent on rural development, and 30% of remaining Rs. 2500 crore will be given to the State from where cess has been collected, and the rest of the amount will be given to the National Highways Authority or the Department to be spent on the maintenance, repair and development of roads.

I would like to inform the House about the dream project of our hon'ble Prime Minister, which has just now been mentioned by an hon'ble Member. This dream project is about constructing 13000 km long four lane roads, and connecting four metropolitan cities with each other. The plan is to connect Delhi with Mumbai, Madras and Calcutta. The work has already started in this direction. We have begin work involving an outlay of Rs. 670 crore. In the last week of December, we have invited tenders, and by March, the work will be completed to the tune of Rs. 300 crore.

[*English*]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: My question is not answered Sir.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the date from which the Ministry of Surface Transport is getting these Rs. 5000 crore from the Ministry of Finance? The Ministry of Finance has said, they are providing it since many days, but from which date the Ministry of Surface Transport is getting it?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: I said, the cess on diesel has been recently imposed.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Will it be given in this budget?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Due to imposition of cess, we will get Rs. 5000 crore, but from it Rs. 2500 crore will be spent on rural development, and 30% of the remaining Rs. 2500 crore will go to the State from where the cess has been collected. The rest of the amount will definitely go to the department.

[*English*]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, I am happy that the hon. Minister has accepted that most of the Highways are not in good condition. It is not only the roads but most of the bridges on the National Highways are also not road worthy. These bridges, I think, are outlived. They are more than 100 years old. On NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh, there is a bridge between Vijayawada and Ongole at Chilakaluripet which has collapsed and the traffic has been diverted through State Highways. This situation is there for the past six months but the bridge has not been repaired. I would like to know specifically from the hon. Minister by which time this particular bridge is going to be repaired and the traffic is going to be allowed on it. That is part (a) of my question part (b) of my question is whether any state-wise survey has been conducted with regard to the number of outlived bridges on the National Highways, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and if so, what are the steps that the Government is going to take for replacing them with new bridges?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: I will enquire about the condition of the bridge mentioned by the hon'ble Member. With your permission, I will provide information in this regard to the hon'ble Member. Moreover, in future plans, we have decided to strengthen 7000 bridges.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the attention is paid towards the maintenance of national highways or funds are sanctioned for them according to their importance, or according to the major cities it covers.

12.00 hrs.

Besides this, there is one other aspect also, to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister. Some national highways are important from defence point of view. There is one such road in my constituency-Haridwar-Rishikesh-Badrinath road, which is not only the national highway, but also important from defence point of view. This road is maintained by Border Road Organisation. Being located in the hilly area this road is often blocked due to rain and national calamities. I would

like to know two things from the hon'ble Minister—First, whether he will make available special funds and make special arrangement for this highway, which is related with the defence of the country so that it could be properly maintained? Second; this road is often blocked by natural calamities, will the hon'ble Minister consider handing over maintenance of by-pass roads to the BRO?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Sir, the roads mentioned by hon'ble Members are maintained by the Border Roads Organisation. Since the hon'ble Member has brought this to my notice, I will look into this matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A.C. Jos, you have to ask a very pointed question because we have only half-a-minute.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me this chance. Sir, I welcome the new Minister, but I have to inform him that as far as national highways are concerned, there is a State called Kerala in India, which is the Southern-most State of the country, where national highways are in a very primitive stage. We have only two national highways. National Highway 47 is working. National Highway 17 is not at all decided. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would take steps to finally...*(Interruptions)* Sir, what is this? I cannot ask my question....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Government take steps to finalise National Highway-17 from Edappally up to Kodungallur?

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over. The Minister can send the reply.

Please take your seat.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Disinvestment of GAIL

*3. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the process of disinvestment shares of Gas Authority of India Ltd. were sold at the prices much below than the expected prices to the foreign investors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total number of shares sold by GAIL so far;

(c) whether earlier the Government withheld the sale of shares and the expected price was not forthcoming;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the pricing mechanism being followed for fixing share prices of GAIL;

(f) the justification for under valuing the shares for the foreign buyers; and

(g) the estimated loss suffered/sustained by GAIL in the deal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. No shares have been sold by Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). However 27 crore shares out of Government's Equity in GAIL have so far been sold, since 1991 by Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Global Depository Receipt (GDR) issue of GAIL was launched in October 1997 with a mandate to sell upto 20 crore shares of face value of Rs. 10 per share at the minimum price of Rs. 125 per share, against the domestic price of Rs. 160 per share at the time of approval. On account of extremely low demand even at the prices below the minimum approved price, the issue was withdrawn.

(e) The pricing of the GAIL shares is based on Book Building process. This process essentially means market driven prices *i.e.* the price which the investors are prepared to pay for a particular share at a given point of time. This process is being followed for deciding the issue price for GDR markets.

(f) There is no under valuation of these shares. The Book value of a GAIL share is about Rs. 48 (Forty eight) while its face value is Rs. 10 (Ten.) In February 1999, Government offered around 8 crore shares to domestic investors of which only 3 crore shares could be sold at a price of Rs. 60 (Sixty) per share. The price of Rs. 70

per share at which disinvestment has been carried out in GDR Market recently in November 1999 is 17 (Seventeen) percent higher than the domestic issue price of Rs. 60/- (sixty) in February 1999.

(g) The question of loss by GAIL does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Container Capacity of Major Ports

*4. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the present container capacity of the major ports in the country;

(b) the progress made in regard to increasing their capacity during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the container capacity of Ports in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and efforts being made to increase their capacity during this plan so far;

(e) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of the container terminals made available or exported on the basis of BOT;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to give extra berth to the private organisations on the basis of BOT; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) Total container handling capacity of major ports in the country as on 31.3.99 is 22.90 million tonnes.

(b) During 8th plan 1992-97, the container handling capacity of major ports has been enhanced from 6.83 million tonnes to 19.30 million tonnes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the 9th Five Year Plan, the container handling capacity of Major Ports is being enhanced by 13 million tonnes. So far, an additional container handling

capacity of 3.60 million tonnes has already been created during the 9th Plan.

(e) The BOT projects are in construction/partially commissioned stage. Their performance is reviewed after they are fully commissioned.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) One container terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port for 7.8 million tonnes of capacity and one terminal at Tuticorin Port with 3.6 million tonnes capacity have been awarded on BOT basis and agreements between the Port Trusts and the private parties signed on 3.7.1997 and 15.7.1998 respectively. The BOT proposal for container terminal at Kandla Port has recently been approved. The BOT proposal for container terminal at Chennai is under consideration and bids have been invited from Private Sector for expansion of existing container terminal and developing a transshipment terminal at Cochin.

[*English*]

New Telephone Connections

*5. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is unduly long list of people waiting for telephone connections in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the States where the list is longer as compared to other States;

(c) the number of persons on the waiting lists of new telephone connections in the country particularly in Tripura as on October, 1999, State-wise and U.T.-wise;

(d) the number of telephone connections allotted during the last three years, State-wise and U.T.-wise;

(e) whether the Government have evolved any scheme for the speedy allotment of telephone connections in the country;

(f) whether the Government are formulating any action plan to enable the applicants to get the telephone connections within one month from the date of submission of their applications;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which the telephone connections are likely to be provided on demand throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The number of persons waiting for telephone connections for long period is large in the State of Kerala. The number of persons on the waiting list in the country as on 31.10.99 is 3286545 including 5287 for Tripura. The details are as per enclosed Statement-I.

(d) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) to (h) The Government has planned to provide telephone connections on demand in the country by the end of the 9th Five Year Plan (31.3.2002). This objective will be achieved by the joint efforts of Deptt. of Telecom Services and private basic service providers.

Statement I

The number of persons on the waiting lists of new telephone connections in the country as on October, 1999, State-wise and U.T.-wise:

Sl. No.	State	Waiting lists as on 30.10.1999
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	801736
2.	Assam	25211
3.	Bihar	95100
4.	Gujarat	184741
5.	Daman & Diu (U.T.)	2179
6.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli (U.T.)	837
7.	Haryana	107315
8.	Himachal Pradesh	45497
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	38033
10.	Karnataka	150355
11.	Kerala	673658
12.	Lakshadweep (U.T.)	1643
13.	Madhya Pradesh	31175
14.	Maharashtra (including Mumbai)	259179
15.	Goa	6655
NORTH EAST		
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	2118
17.	Manipur	4275
18.	Meghalaya	2496
19.	Mizoram	2699
20.	Nagaland	1521
21.	Tripura	5287
22.	Orissa	22232
23.	Punjab	196586
24.	Chandigarh (U.T.)	1342
25.	Rajasthan	130564

1	2	3	1	2	3
26.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai)	226759	30.	Sikkim	2474
27.	Pondicherry (U.T.)	8436	31.	Andaman & Nicobar	1948
28.	Uttar Pradesh	109548	32.	Delhi	28761
29.	West Bengal (including Calcutta)	116185	Total		3286545

Statement II

The number of telephone connections allotted during the last three years, State-wise and U.T.-wise

Sl.No.	State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	153606	216487	404989
2.	Assam	18003	36477	50375
3.	Bihar	52368	66294	103128
4.	Gujarat	161681	211541	251523
5.	Daman & Diu (U.T.)	599	1774	1511
6.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli (U.T.)	773	009	2354
7.	Haryana	60800	73081	96170
8.	Himachal Pradesh	31452	40176	43217
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	15945	20819	18501
10.	Karnataka	189608	254378	237002

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Kerala	172071	228357	267210
12.	Lakshadweep (U.T.)	704	1653	3855
13.	Madhya Pradesh	75541	102692	140352
14.	Maharashtra (including Mumbai)	440760	489147	483505
15.	Goa	17500	12294	18624
NORTH EAST				
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	1576	3542	7135
17.	Manipur	3154	2506	2533
18.	Meghalaya	2733	4014	6314
19.	Mizoram	3639	3022	4615
20.	Nagaland	1556	2605	5502
21.	Tripura	5398	7341	9017
22.	Orissa	32505	67178	68175
23.	Punjab	133295	157489	186214
24.	Chandigarh (U.T.)	20265	8480	7255
25.	Rajasthan	113518	147632	171445
26.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai)	283502	358201	471591
27.	Pondicherry (U.T.)	6580	6345	8647

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Uttar Pradesh	216912	313918	341602
29.	West Bengal (including Calcutta)	142469	235262	276521
30.	Sikkim	1400	2878	5224
31.	Andaman & Nicobar	1183	2012	7501
32.	Delhi	203160	180941	90392
Total		2564256	3259045	3791990

ISI/Terrorist Activities

*6. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of terrorist outfits operating in the country and the number out of them enjoying the support of foreign countries;

(b) the number of ISI agents/terrorists arrested/killed during the last five years till date year-wise, region-wise;

(c) the number of persons killed/injured by them during the said period, year-wise region-wise;

(d) whether the families of victims were given compensation;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the total quantum of RDX seized during the last three years till date, year-wise and the number of persons arrested/punished in this regard;

(g) the number of ISI agents/terrorists punished during the last three years till date alongwith the nature of action taken against them;

(h) the steps being taken to curb the ISI and terrorist activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) As per available information, the following are the major terrorist outfits operating in the country and some of them are enjoying support of foreign countries:—

1. Hizb-ul-Mujahideen
2. Harkat-ul-Majahideen
3. Lashker-e-Toiba
4. Al-Barq
5. Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front
6. Al-Jehad
7. Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen
8. Tehrik-ul-Mujahideen
9. Tehrike-e-Jehad
10. Al-Badar
11. Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami
12. Al-Umar

13. Babbar Khalsa International
14. Dal Khalsa International
15. International Sikh Youth Federation (Rode)
16. International Sikh Youth Federation (Chaheru)
17. Khalistan Commando Force (Panjwar)
18. Khalistan Zindabad Force
19. Khalistan Liberation Force
20. Khalistan National Army
21. Kama Gata Maru Dal
22. United Liberation Front of Assam
23. National Democratic Front of Bodoland
24. Bodo Liberation Tiger
25. National Liberation Front of Tripura
26. All Tripura Tribal Force
27. National Socialist Council of Nagaland (I/M&K)
28. Naga National Council
29. Manipur Peoples Liberation Front
30. United National Liberation Front
31. Peoples Liberation Army
32. Al-Ummah
33. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam

(b) to (g) Central Government does not maintain information in this regard.

(h) Government has been regularly sensitizing all State Governments and concerned agencies regarding the activities of ISI. Intelligence is shared on continuous basis and support is provided by way of financial assistance for modernizing the State Police and deployment of Central Para-Military Forces. In order to prevent infiltration, border fencing and flood lighting has been undertaken along stretches of the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh

border, besides patrolling. Through coordinated action, several modules of the ISI have been neutralized all over the country. Diplomatic initiatives have also been taken with the concerned countries to curb cross border terrorism.

Clearance to Development Projects

*7. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of development projects in the country are pending clearance of the Union Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the last three years;

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

(c) the number of such projects sanctioned, rejected and sent back to the State Governments for one reason or the other during last three years;

(d) the time by which these development projects are likely to be cleared;

(e) whether Government propose to delegate some powers in regard to according approval to projects to the State Governments; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Out of the 2416 total number of development proposals received during the last three years (1996, 1997 and 1998) from different States/Union Territories, so far, 1646 number of proposals have been approved, 170 number of proposals rejected on merit and 40 number of proposals were either returned, the proposals being incomplete or withdrawn by the State Governments/Union Territories. Apart from this, 162 number proposals have been rejected as the wanting information(s) from the concerned State Governments was not furnished within the time period of 90 days as stipulated in the guidelines framed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. These proposals can be reopened subject to the State Government furnishing complete information alongwith satisfactory reasons for delay in submission of information. 259 number of proposals are pending with the various State Governments for furnishing of essential details/additional information sought by the Ministry. As and when complete information

is furnished by the State Government, these proposals will be expeditiously processed in accordance with the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Rules and Guidelines thereof. Besides these, 139 number of proposals are under various stages of processing with the Ministry.

A statement showing State-wise status of proposals received during the last three years under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is annexed.

(e) and (f) Subsequent to the recommendations made by the Sarkaria Commission for delegation of powers to the State Governments to divert upto 5 hectares of forest land needed for specific public purposes, the issue is under active consideration of the Ministry and final view will be taken after sometime in view of the ongoing Public Interest Litigation in the Supreme Court of India titled "T.N. Godavaman Thirumulpad Vs. Union of India and others in which interpretation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is the main issue.

Statement

Clearance to Development Projects

S.No.	State	No. of Proposals Received	Sanctioned	Rejected on merit	Rejected for want of information on	Returned/withdrawn by states	Under consideration of ministry	Pending with States for wanting information
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Assam	138	101	14	0	12	8	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	22	14	1	0	0	3	4
3.	Andhra Pradesh	82	47	22	8	2	1	2
4.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Bihar	72	43	2	4	2	1	20
6.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	56	51	0	5	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	215	188	3	9	3	1	11
8.	Haryana	109	84	2	0	1	0	22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9.	Himachal Pradesh	158	78	8	0	3	0	69
10.	Manipur	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Meghalaya	12	12	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Mizoram	7	7	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Chandigarh	5	2	0	0	0	0	3
14.	Delhi	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
15.	Goa	12	7	1	2	0	1	1
16.	Punjab	154	104	4	0	1	0	45
17.	Orissa	110	87	10	4	1	3	5
18.	Madhya Pradesh	158	114	12	16	1	9	6
19.	Maharashtra	250	174	16	36	1	5	18
20.	Rajasthan	309	148	36	15	5	88	17
21.	Karnataka	102	47	17	26	0	6	6
22.	Kerala	28	15	2	7	0	1	3
23.	Tamil Nadu	31	20	2	0	0	0	9
24.	Tripura	43	37	0	0	1	4	1
25.	Sikkim	20	18	0	0	1	0	1
26.	West Bengal	14	12	1	1	0	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	297	226	17	29	6	8	11
Total		2416	1646	170	162	40	139	259

Power to Forest Officers

*8. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forest officers have been demanding power under the Indian Arms Act for the use of the weapons against the poachers or timber mafia who have been denuding the forests;

(b) if so, the reasons for the government not acceding to their demand;

(c) the details of cases relating to poaching and timber mafia that have come to notice of the Government, during the last three years State-wise; and

(d) the action taken in those cases?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Forest officers have requested for protection against prosecution for use of force against poachers and timber mafias, on the lines it is available to paramilitary forces. The State Governments are competent to make amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure to the effect that no cognizance shall be taken of any offence alleged to have been committed by a forest official while acting or purporting to act in discharge of his official duties except with the previous sanction of the State Government.

(c) and (d) The basic responsibility of dealing with timber mafias vests with the State Government. The

Central Government has intervened in respect of large-scale fellings in North-Eastern States. State-wise details of the illegally felled timber found in these States are given in Statement-I to this statement. Subsequently, 50 wagons allegedly containing illegal timber mixed with legally felled timber has been seized by the Central Government in Assam. The details of the cases of poaching detected and the action taken in these cases is given in Statement-II.

Statement I*Position of Illegal Timber Inventorised in the North-Eastern States*

State	Qty. in cubic metres
Mizoram	368.000
Tripura	2881.107
Manipur	18579.000
Assam	47452.000
Meghalaya	3715.239
Arunachal Pradesh	81615.000
Grand Total	154610.346

Statement II*Details of poaching cases that have come to the notice of this Ministry and action taken*

Name of the State	Year	Cases detected	Cases filed in court	Cases under investigation	Cases compounded	Cases where final decision has been taken/closed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	1997-98	6	5	1	—	—
	1998-99	10	6	3	—	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bihar	1996-97	4	—	—	—	4
	1997-98	7	—	—	—	7
	1998-99	1	—	—	—	1
Delhi	1996-97	35	20	3	4	8
	1997-98	26	10	10	2	4
	1998-99	31	13	12	—	6
Goa	1996-97	8	—	4	—	4
	1997-98	14	—	5	—	9
Gujarat	1996-97	38	14	3	21	—
	1997-98	36	6	3	27	—
	1998-99	43	14	6	23	—
Haryana	1996-97	307	72	81	154	—
	1997-98	350	112	117	121	—
Karnataka	1996-97	58	—	58	—	—
	1997-98	81	—	81	—	—
	1998-99	22	—	22	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	1996-97	312	234	—	—	78
	1997-98	190	130	—	—	60
	1998-99	135	83	—	—	52

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maharashtra	1996-97	7430	1347	5950	120	13
	1997-98	8578	1648	6815	101	14
	1998-99	3978	745	3168	54	11
Meghalaya	1996-97	6	5	—	—	1
	1997-98	10	10	—	—	—
	1998-99	6	4	—	—	2
Mizoram	1996-97	8	—	—	4	4
	1997-98	4	—	2	—	2
	1998-99	8	—	3	5	—
Orissa	1996-97	53	22	—	—	31
	1997-98	35	12	—	—	23
	1998-99	83	35	—	—	48
Punjab	1996-97	215	174	28	13	—
	1997-98	235	199	31	5	—
	1998-99	214	194	20	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	1996-97	407	31	231	—	145
	1997-98	861	50	599	—	212
	1998-99	709	61	457	—	191

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sikkim	1996-97	3	—	—	1	2
	1997-98	3	—	—	2	1
	1998-99	4	—	1	1	2
Tamil Nadu	1996-97	86	17	9	—	60
	1997-98	51	17	5	—	29
	1998-99	38	12	1	—	25

Making of Voting Mandatory in Elections

*9. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is being considered by the Government to make voting mandatory in the elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) The proposal is being considered as a part of overall Electoral Reforms. However, no decision has so far been taken in the matter. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate the time frame by which a final decision will be taken.

Chakma Refugees

*10. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Chakma Refugees camping at Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh as on August, 1999;

(b) whether any negotiations have been made with the Government of Bangladesh for their deportation; and

(c) if so, the time by which they are likely to be deported to their home country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) As per the survey conducted by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh during April, 1998, there were 37,959 Chakma Refugees in Arunachal Pradesh. There are no reports of any Chakma refugees in other North-Eastern States.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Infiltration in J&K

*11. DR. S. VENUGOPAL:
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether infiltration by armed militants into J&K from across the LoC has been on the increase and consequently large scale attacks by the militants on the people are on the rise;

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

(c) whether these militants have now started attacking military camps, BSF and police camps almost all over the State;

(d) if so, the details of the officials of the Army and, other security forces killed in these attacks;

(e) whether any inquiry committee have been set up in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the challenge posed by the militants?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) There have been continued efforts on the part of Pak ISI and pro-Pak militant outfits to induct more mercenaries from across the border into J&K with a view to carrying out terrorist activities. It is difficult to precisely ascertain the exact level of infiltration.

During the current year 748 civilians and 945 militants have been killed in terrorist incidents upto 15.11.99 as against 867 civilians and 999 militants killed during the previous calendar year.

Some incidents of attacks on the camps of Security Forces personnel have been reported during the current year. A total number of 295 Security Force personnel have been killed in militant actions during the current year (upto 15.11.99).

(e) and (f) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered on the incident of attack on the BSF campus in Bandipora in Baramulla district on the intervening night of 12th/13th July, 1999.

Army has ordered Courts of Inquiry into two incidents (a) attack on the PRO office of the Badamiyabagh cantonment on the 3rd November, 1999 and (b) unsuccessful attack on one of the Army post in Kupwara district on 6th August, 1999.

(g) With a view to tackling the problems of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, *inter-alia*, strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of the militants by proactive action against them in the hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through an institutional framework

of Operations Groups and Intelligence Groups of the UHQ at all levels, improved technology, weapons and equipments for Security Forces.

Steps are being taken afresh to flush out militants and curb militant activities including closer vigil on the border, establishment of more naka parties in depth areas to check infiltration/exfiltration, more pickets, intensive patrolling and extensive cordon and search operations.

Import of Recyclable Plastic

*12. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is importing recyclable plastic every month from Europe despite the proposed ban on the use of carrybags;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the progress made in regard to finding biodegradable substitute as an alternative to the plastic carrybags?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999. These rules prohibit use of carrybags and containers made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging of foodstuffs and do not impose a blanket ban on the manufacture and use of plastic carrybags in the country.

The import of plastics waste and scrap is being regulated in accordance with the Public Notice dated 1st January, 1997 issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India which lay down detailed safeguards and ensure that no toxic/hazardous material is imported.

Environment friendly materials such as biodegradable plastics are at various states of research and development in the country. The technology for the manufacture of biodegradable plastics is not yet fully commercialised in the country.

Changes in Judicial System

*13. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a), whether the Government are considering overhauling the present judicial system in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) Changes/reforms in judicial system are a continuous process. Bills to comprehensively amend the Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code with a view to expedite disposal of cases to eliminate delays in disposal of civil and criminal cases have already been introduced in the Parliament.

For encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution, special tribunals and the Lok Adalats have been set up. The Lok Adalats have been vested with powers of Civil Court.

In addition, various measures have been taken by the Government including appointment of number of Special Magistrates and Special Metropolitan Magistrates for petty criminal cases. The Chief Justice of India while declaring 1999 as an "Year of Action", has requested all High Courts to take necessary steps for filling up of all vacant posts of Judges in District Courts.

The posts of judges in the High Courts have also been increased. The Supreme Court and High Courts have also taken a number of steps for expeditious disposal of cases, viz; grouping and classification of cases involving similar questions of law, setting up of specialised benches, computerisation of listing of cases etc.

Ecological Imbalances due to Cyclone

*14. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of damage caused to environment and forest wealth and ecology by the recent cyclonic storm that recently hit the coastal areas of Orissa; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to make good the damage?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) A devastating super cyclone was witnessed on the 29th & 30th October, 1999 along the eastern coast of Orissa. The cyclone has severely affected the life and property.

There has been damage to the environment and forests in the affected areas. As reported by the State Government, the entire vegetation in the coastal districts from Balasore to Ganjam was severely ravaged. The coastal shelter belt plantations (43,000 ha) have been wiped out from most parts of the coast. The available information indicate that natural forests and plantations have been badly damaged over an area of 93558 ha. Large number of trees/bamboo clumps that provided livelihood and shelter in the coastal districts has been either uprooted or damaged. The avenue plantations and green cover in cities like Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur and along highways, District roads/ Panchayat roads etc. have also been badly damaged or ravaged.

(b) Steps contemplated to mitigate the damage are:

- Plantations over 43,000 ha. area, (Coastal shelter belt & Mangrove)
- Distribution of 15 crore seedlings
- Creating avenue plantation over 1500 km
- City plantations by planting 10 lakh seedlings
- Restocking of forest blocks over an area of 25,000 ha
- Restoration of wildlife habitats.

Fraudulent Encashment of Saving Certificates

*15. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Postal audit reveals Rs. 152 crore fraud" appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated October 30, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter and also to streamline the working of the Postal Department?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The Department of Posts procures and sells Savings Certificates on behalf of the Ministry of Finance as a part of its agency functions. Savings Certificates are printed at India Security Press (ISP), Nashik under the control of the Ministry of Finance and transported to various Circle Stamp Depots (CSDs) across the country through Railways. The certificates are booked by ISP, Nashik as consignments in properly sealed and packed wooden boxes and cartons with the Railways as per the procedure prescribed in the Financial Handbook Volume-2 on Free On Railways (FOR) basis. The booked consignment contains bundles of blank savings certificates having notional value. These booked consignments are transported by Railways in ordinary goods trains from one loco shed to the other till they reach the destination junction. This method of transportation resulted in delay of booked consignments. Sometimes it takes months together to reach the destination junctions.

The Savings certificates were lost in transit from the custody of Railways during the years 1994-97 while being transported from ISP, Nashik to Circle Stamp Depots across the country before their delivery to the Department of Posts.

Some instances of fraudulent encashment of such lost certificates were detected by the Department of Posts in December, 1996 and May-June, 1997 and necessary investigations were undertaken besides reporting the cases to State Police immediately. Subsequently, the Central Audit brought these out in its report received in July, 1997.

The Hindustan Times report dated 30th October 1999 indicates a loss of savings certificates amounting to Rs. 152 crore in transit from the custody of Railways in the 3 Postal circles of Delhi, West Bengal and UP. It also indicates fraudulent encashment of these lost savings certificates during the period 1997-99 to the tune of Rs. 30.87 lakhs in Delhi circle and Rs. 99.47 lakhs in UP circle.

The factual position of the entire country in the case as on date is that the total face value of savings certificates including Indira Vikas Patras, Kishan Vikas Patras and National Savings Certificates lost in transit

from the custody of Railways during 1994-98 in all the 19 Circles is Rs. 487 crores with the following break up:—

Circle	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
Andhra Pradesh	Nil
Assam	173.1500
Bihar	39.7000
Delhi	0.0810
Gujarat	0.0001
Haryana	13.0200
Himachal Pradesh	0.0006
J & K	0.0421
Karnataka	Nil
Kerala	Nil
Madhya Pradesh	0.0023
Maharashtra	Nil
North East	Nil
Orissa	0.0212
Punjab	0.2000
Rajasthan	Nil
Tamil Nadu	0.0045
Uttar Pradesh	108.3100
West Bengali	151.7900
Grand Total	487.0800 Crore

The factual position of total amount of fraudulent encashments in the country till date out of lost Saving Certificates of face value amounting to Rs. 487 crores in all the 19 Circles is Rs. 4,709 crores during the period 1994-98 with the following Circle-wise break up:—

Circle	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
Delhi	3.54
Uttar Pradesh	0.9947
Haryana	0.1750
Grand Total	4.7097

Following corrective measures have been taken by the Department to check the loss of certificates in transit and their fraudulent encashments:—

- (i) The Department of Posts has circulated the numbers and series of the savings certificates lost in transit from the custody of Railways till date to all the post offices in the country so as to guard against their fraudulent encashment from any of the post office.
- (ii) Department has also informed Reserve Bank of India about the complete details of the lost certificate so that RBI in turn can circulate the series nos. to various nationalized, cooperative and private banks in the country for averting fraudulent pledging of these certificates to get loans.
- (iii) The matter has also been reported to the CBI which is actively investigating the case. CBI has revealed that they have been able to bust a gang in Delhi area which were involved in fraudulent encashment of certificates from Mangolpuri (Ashok Vihar H.O.) Post Office in Delhi. Four of the miscreants from outside the Department have been arrested and are presently in jail and two of them are absconding. Seven of the Departmental officials have been arrested and one is absconding. Two of bank officials involved in the case have also been arrested. Thirty seven of the departmental

officials have been proceeded against for imposition of major penalty under the conduct rules. The matter is being vigorously pursued with the CBI for expediting the investigation so as to apprehend all the culprits.

- (iv) Department has also circulated instructions from time to time to all the Circles and Post Offices to guard against any such fraudulent payments in future. The staff has been directed to strictly follow the laid down procedures and rules while disbursing the encashments of savings certificates.
- (v) Department has also proposed changes in the mode of transportation of the savings certificates from ISP Nashik to various Circle Stamp Depots. The proposal for transportation by using Express Parcel Post has been agreed to by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
- (iv) Presently the consignments are being transported from ISP, Nashik to various CSDs in the country by road under escort from concerned circle and there has been no loss in transit of consignment despatched from ISP, Nashik since 1998.
- (vii) The payment on discharge of certificates over Rs. 20000 to any single party has been ordered to be made through a cheque rather than by cash from post office.

Availability/Demand of Petrol/Diesel/LPG

*16. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of availability and demand of Petrol/Diesel/LPG in the country;
- (b) the steps taken to meet the demand of Petrol/Diesel/LPG; and
- (c) the steps taken to attain self-sufficiency in the oil sector?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The estimated availability and demand of Petrol/Diesel/Liquid Petroleum

Gas (LPG) in the country during 1999-2000 is given below:—

(Figures in MMT)

Product	Availability		Demand (including Inventory)
	Imports	Domestic	
1. Petrol	Nil	7.343	5.873
2. Diesel	3.956	36.948	40.904
3. LPG	1.263	4.644	5.907

To meet the gap between the demand and domestic availability, products are sourced through imports.

(c) Steps are being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, better understanding of reservoir behaviour, development new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector. The refining capacity is also being increased in the country by expansion of existing refineries in the public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector.

Foreign Funding

*17. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in the country being funded by the foreign countries;

(b) whether the Government have a fool-proof mechanism to monitor the receipt of foreign contributions by all these bodies in the country;

(c) if so, the details of funds received by these organisations, State-wise and organisation-wise; and

(d) the measures being taken to ensure that the funds are utilised for the purposes for which they are meant?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Details of foreign contribution received by voluntary associations under the provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, have been published in the Annual Report brought out by the Ministry of Home Affairs (Foreigners Division). Copies of the Annual Report (upto 1997-98) have been placed in the Parliament Library. The Annual Report for 1998-99 is being compiled.

(b) Under Rule 4(1)(a) of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 1976, associations coming under the purview of the said Act, are required to furnish intimation in regard to receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution by them on yearly basis, duly certified by a Chartered Accountant, to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The monitoring of foreign contribution is done through a process of scrutinising these returns, submitted by such associations.

(d) The Government of India are empowered to order an inspection of accounts or records under section 14, or audit books of accounts of such associations under section 15-A, if it has any grounds to suspect that any provision of the Act has been or is being contravened.

Construction of New Ports

*18. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct new ports to boost the exports during Ninth Five Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the targets set up for constructing new ports during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) to (c) A new port at Ennore, 25 kms. north of Chennai, is being constructed at an estimated revised cost of Rs. 927.10 crores with assistance from Asian Development Bank with a capacity to handle 16 million tonnes of coal. The port is expected to be commissioned by July, 2000.

Steps have also been taken to create additional capacity in the existing major ports under various Plan schemes to meet the growing demand of the trade.

Pending Cases and Strength of Judges

*19. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending in the Supreme Court and various High Courts of the country at present and during the last three years, Court-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the pendency of cases in the courts and ensure expeditious disposal of litigation;

(d) current position of sanctioned posts of judges in the Supreme Court and different High Courts of the country;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the strength of judges in the Supreme Court and different High Courts particularly in Mumbai High Court for the early disposal of pending cases;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) The available information is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) The pendency of cases is due to various complex factors which include inadequate strength of Judges, increased institution of cases, rise in population, radical change in the pattern of litigation, awareness of rights on the part of the citizens, etc.

(c) Various measures have been taken by the Government including amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of other alternative modes of dispute resolution. In addition, the Supreme Court and High Courts have taken a number of steps for expeditious disposal of cases, viz; grouping and classification of cases involving similar question of law, setting up of specialised benches, computerization of listing of cases, etc.

(d) The present sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court is 26 including Chief Justice of India. The sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts is 590 permanent/Additional Judges.

(e) to (g) The sanctioned strength of Judges of Supreme Court is considered by the Government of India as and when a proposal in this regard is received from the Chief Justice of India. No such proposal has been received. In respect of High Courts it has been decided to create 28 new posts of permanent/Additional with effect from the dates these posts are actually filled up. Mumbai High Court has not qualified for increase in its Judge strength on the basis of guidelines/yardsticks finalised for the purpose on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India.

Statement

Pendency of cases in Supreme Court and various High Courts during the last three years and at present

		1996	1997	1998	1999
Supreme Court		23,246	19,032	19,806 (10/98)	20,306 (2/99)
Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Number of cases pending as on 31st December			
		1996	1997	1998	
1	2	3	4	5	
1.	Allahabad	865455	758,968	796129	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	135621	133,211	145851	

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bombay	234058	237,618	252526
4.	Calcutta	264312	282,209	295158
5.	Delhi	153537	163,430	173020
6.	Gauhati	33018	34,165	35667 (9/98)
7.	Gujarat	123108	122,966	121532
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17166	13,352	11391
9.	J & K	96414	98,645	93256
10.	Karnataka	150965	135,389	90072
11.	Kerala	217823	250,261	284231
12.	Mahdya Pradesh	82294	83,131	93551
13.	Madras	310640	326,619	341369
14.	Orissa	66820	84,897	102402
15.	Patna	93310	84,666	82818
16.	Punjab & Haryana	161562	170,671	171837
17.	Rajasthan	97768	98,416	107265
18.	Sikkim	88	95	472
Total		3103959	29,97,472	3198547

Village Public Telephone Scheme

*20. SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural telephone system has not been successful in the country and the Government are not satisfied with the progress made with regard to village Public Telephone Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons for not improving the telephone services qualitatively and quantitatively in the rural areas as compared to the urban areas despite several announcements made by the Government to this effect; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the telecom services in the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The rural telephone system comprises telephone exchanges, telephone connections and village public telephones. There are 19,584 rural exchanges with an equipped capacity of 51,68,633 and 38,80,707 telephone connections. There are also 344,508 village public telephones as on 1.11.1999. All rural telephone exchanges are electronic. All MARR systems also are electronic. Operational problems have been encountered in respect of village public telephones on MARR. Government is aware of the problem and several remedial measures have been initiated. These are:—

- (i) Annual maintenance contract for maintenance of MARR equipment to supplement developmental efforts.
- (ii) Replacement of faulty batteries and missing solar panels.
- (iii) Training of technical staff to maintain MARR equipment.
- (iv) For future village public telephone programme, new technologies such as Wireless Local Loop, C-DOT/PMP and Satellite systems are being introduced.
- (v) Reliable transmission media is being provided for all Circles progressively.

Operational performance of rural telecommunication service particularly village public telephones is adversely affected due to lack of basic infrastructure facilities particularly commercial power and efficient road communication in rural areas in most of the States. These factors also have slowed down the development programmes. Apart from this, rural network being highly spread out significantly, more efforts are required to maintain the services.

Border Dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka

1. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka has not been solved as yet;

(b) if so, the latest position of the dispute;

(c) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has been requesting the Government to intervene in the matter and resolve the dispute; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government to ease the situation between the two States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka has been pending since the reorganisation of States in 1956. The differences between the two States still persist.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of India is of the view that the dispute is to be resolved primarily by the State Governments concerned through discussions and mutual accommodation.

Dues of States to NTPC

2. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain State Governments owe dues to the National Thermal Power Corporation;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to recover these dues; and

(d) the results achieved thereby, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total outstanding dues payable by State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) amounts to Rs. 11717.02 crores as on October 31, 1999 which includes surcharge of Rs. 4142.53 crores. SEB-wise details of dues are given as Statement.

(c) and (d) The NTPC and Government are taking up various measures regarding recovery of outstanding dues of NTPC as indicated below:—

- (i) The NTPC management is pursuing recovery of dues with concerned SEB/State Government.
- (ii) The Special Incentive Scheme is given by NTPC since September, 1994 to provide incentive to States which establish Letter of Credits (LC) to cover full amount of current monthly bills.
- (iii) NTPC at times also resorts to regulation to the defaulting states. Recently, notices for such regulation of power supply were issued to WBSEB, BSEB and GRIDCO in the Eastern Region effective from 11.11.1999. Also, notices were issued to UPSEB, HVPN and J&K in

Northern Region effective from 1.12.1999 for UPSEB and 12.12.1999 for HVPN and J&K. Favourable responses have been received in these cases.

- (iv) In case of new projects, NTPC is making efforts for payments safeguards in the Power Purchase Agreements signed for its new projects. These include back up of State Government guarantee for the LC.
- (v) The position is also reviewed periodically by Ministry of Power and the matter is taken up at the level of Chief Secretary/Chief Minister.
- (vi) There is also a dispensation under which dues as on 31.12.1996 are being recovered directly by Ministry of Finance through Central appropriation and paid directly to NTPC.
- (vii) A proposal for securitization for liquidating part of the dues payable to Central Public Sector Power Utilities is also under consideration.

Few defaulting States/SEBs have responded favourably to the above measures. GRIDCO have enhanced LC to Rs. 42 crores. BSEB has released Rs. 100 crores and has agreed to enhance LC to Rs. 40 Crores. BSEB has enhanced LC to Rs. 25 Crores and also released Rs. 20 Crores.

Statement

NTPC Outstanding Dues as on 31.10.1999

(Rs. in lakhs)

STPS/SEB	Outstanding as on date	Surcharge billed	Total outstanding
1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh SEB	166784	61672	228456
Delhi Vidhyut Board	130212	95492	225704
Bihar SEB	148186	66401	214587
West Bengal SEB	85968	26561	112529
Grid Corporation of Orissa	50495	10105	60600

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh EB	25376	24918	50294
Jammu & Kashmir	12772	31999	44771
Damodar Valley Corporation	24976	18644	43620
Maharashtra SEB	27440	12996	40436
Gujarat EB	26020	13675	39695
HVPN	12463	23504	35967
Tamil Nadu EB	12524	6246	18770
Rajasthan SEB	11439	5074	16513
Kerala EB	8038	4802	12840
Karnataka SEB	4816	3052	7868
APTRANSCO	2254	5210	7464
Assam SEB	3499	716	4215
Sikkim	1820	535	2155
Pondicherry	1541	163	1704
Punjab SEB	32	1082	1114
Himachal Pradesh SEB	38	925	963
Daman & Diu	515	127	642

1	2	3	4
Goa (Western Region)	188	254	442
Goa (Southern Region)	277	100	377
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
Union Territory of Chandigarh	-24	0	-24
Total	757449	414253	1171702

Abbreviation:

SEB	— State Electricity Board.
HPVN	— Haryana Vidhyut Prasaran Nigam.
APTRANSCO	— Andhra Pradesh Trans Company.

*[Translation]***Shifting of Telephone Office**

3. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the telephone cases pertaining to Raigarh district of Maharashtra are being settled from Mumbai-Santacruz Telecom circle instead of Raigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to shift the concerned office from Santacruz Raigarh district to provide better telephone facilities to the subscribers of Raigarh; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said office is likely to be shifted and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) Registration for new telephone connections, their release, shifting, provision of accessories, bill enquiry issue of duplicate bills etc. are dealt by the respective officers in various talukas of Raigarh district.

*[English]***Assam Accord**

4. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assam Accord provides for safeguards to protect the cultural social and Linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people;

(b) if so, whether any proposals are under consideration of the Government for implementation;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) whether there are any objections to these proposals; and

(e) if so, the details of the objections and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Clause 6 of Assam Accord provides that "Constitutional legislative and administrative safeguards as may be appropriate shall be provided to protect preserve and promote the cultural Social linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people".

(b) to (e) On the basis of the proposal received from Government of Assam, Government has already sanctioned and released Rs. 18.85 crores and Rs. 8.79 crores for establishment of Srimanta Shankaradeva Kalashetra Complex and Jyoti Chitran Film Studio. Subsequently, the State Government of Assam and All Assam Students Union have submitted some proposals. The proposals submitted deal *inter-alia* with amendment to the Articles 3, 11 16(3), 30, 35, 170(3), 249, 258 and 347 of the Constitution of India, Register of Citizens. Proper Utilisation of Water Resource Optimum Utilisation of Oil and Natural Gas, Creation of Second Chamber in the Legislature of State, amendment of Citizenship Act, 1985 Reservation of seats to Parliament, State Legislature etc. Government would not have any objection to relevant proposals if they are legally sustainable and administratively feasible.

Improvement in PLF

5. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Plant Load Factor (PLF) has improved significantly during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of Plant Load Factor, State-wise for the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to further improve the Plant Load Factor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The all India Plant Load Factor of Thermal Power Stations during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 is given below:—

Year	PLF (%)
1996-97	64.6
1997-98	64.7
1998-99	64.6

(b) State-wise/system-wise Plant Load Factor (PLF) of Thermal Power Stations from 1996-97 to 1998-99 is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) The measures being undertaken to further improve the PLF include higher utilisation of installed capacity, reduction in auxiliary power consumption, additional generation from the existing power station through Renovation and Modernisation and life extension, construction of missing transmission links and system improvement.

Statement

All India/Year-wise/Sector-wise PLF(%) of Thermal

Stations	Plant Load Factor (%)			
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 Apr' 99-Oct' 99
1	2	3	4	5
All India	64.4	64.7	64.6	65.2
Central Sector	71.1	70.4	71.1	70.7
Private Sector	71.2	71.2	68.3	70.8
State Sector	60.3	60.9	60.7	61.7

1	2	3	4	5
Delhi Vidyut Board	41.8	47.0	38.2	48.8
Haryana Power Generation Corpon.	47.7	49.5	48.8	53.0
Rajasthan State Electricity Board	75.7	82.1	78.1	74.2
Punjab State Electricity Board	65.6	69.0	69.4	77.5
U.P. State Electricity Board	49.2	48.7	48.9	48.5
Gujarat Electricity Board	64.9	65.6	63.6	64.8
Maharashtra State Electricity Board	68.9	68.3	68.4	67.9
Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board	62.3	66.1	67.2	65.0
Andhra Pradesh Generation Corpn.	78.3	81.9	76.8	80.5
Tamil Nadu Electricity Board	72.4	68.0	65.9	70.1
Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd.	70.2	75.2	81.6	80.3
Bihar State Electricity Board	15.3	16.0	22.5	18.7
Orissa Power Generation Corpn.	69.3	66.2	76.2	84.7
West Bengal State Electricity Board	39.1	39.9	36.8	38.5
West Bengal Power Development Corporation	56.3	52.7	60.7	54.0
Durgapur Proeject Ltd. (W.B.)	29.5	25.2	17.6	23.5
Assam State Electricity Board	27.1	21.3	18.7	17.8

Secret/Extra-judicial Killings

6. DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently there had been public outcry in Assam about the alleged secret killings or extra-judicial executions by the law enforcement agencies;

(b) if so, the number of such deaths during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Special Recruitment Drive

7. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to fill up the posts lying vacant in the Scheduled Tribe areas through a "Special recruitment drive";

(b) if so, whether the Postal Department have made recruitments in the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh, but the Telecommunication Department could not do so as yet;

(c) if so, the reasons for not launching such drive by the Telecommunication Department; and

(d) the time by which the vacancies are likely to be filled there through the special drive by Telecommunication Department in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of above.

(c) - Do -

(c) - Do -

[English]

High Court Bench at Kannur

8. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for setting up a bench of High Court at Kannur for the benefit of the people of Malabar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Dilapidated condition of Bridge over Rapti River

9. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bridge constructed over Rapti river between Bansgaon - Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh is in dilapidated condition which may cause fatal accident at any time;

(b) whether the Government have received requests from the public representatives or the citizens for constructing a new bridge there during last five years till date; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon and the progress made so far in this regard, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the existing bridge over river Rapti in Gorakhpur town on NH-28. The bridge is not in dilapidated condition and it is open to all types of traffic.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The work for construction of additional two lane bridge has been included in the Annual Plan 1999-2000 of the Ministry.

**Vacant Posts of Judges in Rajasthan
High Court**

10. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of judges lying vacant in Rajasthan High Court as on date;

(b) whether the Government propose to fill up these posts;

(c) if so, the time by which these are likely to be filled up; and

(d) if not; the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (d) As on 24.11.1999, against the sanctioned strength of 32 permanent/Additional Judges, 20 permanent Judges were in position in the Rajasthan High Court leaving 12 vacancies of permanent/Additional Judges to be filled up.

The process of consultation among the concerned constitutional authorities to fill up the existing vacancies of Judges in the Rajasthan High Court is on. It is, however, not possible to indicate the time by which these are likely to be filled up.

[English]

Mobile Cellular Telephone Link Facilities

11. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide mobile cellular telephone link facilities in Malda, Raiganj and Islampur region of West Bengal during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up appropriate tower for the same; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) There is no proposal of Department of Telecom Services to provide mobile Cellular Telephone link facilities in Malda, Raiganj & Islampur region of West Bengal during 1999-2000. However, a licence has been given to M/s Reliance Telecom Limited for operation of Cellular Mobile Telephone Circle. The Cellular Service is being provided by the Private operator as per the terms and condition of the licence and its own business plans. So far the Cellular service has not been provided in Malda, Raiganj and Islampur by Reliance Telecom Ltd.

STD/ISD/PCOs Booths in Tamil Nadu

12. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCOs/STD/ISD booths installed in Tamil Nadu during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) the number of applications lying pending for sanction of such booths in the State; and

(c) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The information is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) 50,186 applications are lying pending for allotment of STD/ISD PCOs in Tamil Nadu.

(c) Allotment of STD/ISD PCOs is a continuous process and those are being allotted on first come first served basis. The pending applications would be cleared progressively as and when spare capacity in the exchange is available.

Statement

Number of STD/ISD/PCOs installed in Tamil Nadu, SSA-wise (Telecom. District) during the last three years

S. No.	Name of SSA	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Coimbatore	344	78	12
2.	Madurai	42	3	19
3.	Tiruchirappalli	43	5	4
4.	Salem	19	351	5
5.	Thanjavur	12	4	—
6.	Vellore	124	102	—
7.	Cuddalore	50	109	5
8.	Tirunelveli	101	146	64
9.	Dharmapuri	42	132	11
10.	Nagercoil	107	31	202
11.	Tuticorin	80	129	—
12.	Karaikudi	48	74	—
13.	Chengalpattu	100	40	160

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Kumbakonam	19	—	—
15.	Coonoor	1	—	68
16.	Chennai	2546	925	953
17.	Erode	122	222	188
18.	Virudhanagar	6	100	107

[*Translation*]

Naxalism

13. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the States affected by Naxalite activities;

(b) the number of violent Naxalite incidents involving the loss of life and property during each of the last three years State-wise;

(c) the details of the financial assistance given to Naxalite affected Bihar and other States during each of the last five years; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet the situation arising out of Naxalite violence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa are affected by Naxalite activities.

(b) The information as per available reports is as under:—

*Left Wing Extremist Violence
(incidents/deaths)*

	1996	1997	1998
Andhra Pradesh	933(86)	863(234)	736(205)
Bihar	564(320)	470(325)	373(206)
Madhya Pradesh	113(23)	102(14)	179(59)
Maharashtra	39(11)	35(9)	43(3)
Orissa	23(—)	24(—)	11(5)

*The numbers in brackets indicate deaths.

(c) A statement indicating the funds released to the affected States under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces, during the years 1994-95 to 1998-99 is attached.

(d) Ministry of Home Affairs has set up a Coordination Centre headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the States affected by left wing extremism as its members. Among the important decisions taken are that the States should prepare Action Plans have so far been received from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa only and have accordingly been forwarded to the Planning Commission. The Government has also formulated a scheme for reimbursement to the extent of 50% of the Security Related Expenditure incurred by States in tackling the problem of left wing extremism, covering the period from 11.4.1996 to 31.3.2001. So far, under this Scheme, amounts of Rs. 10 crores, Rs. 3.58 crores and Rs. 1.96 crores approximately, have been released to the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra respectively.

Statement

Scheme for Modernisation of State police Forces—funds released to various State Governments during the period 1994-95 to 1998-99

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	Funds released during				
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Andhra Pradesh	104.780	309.560	709.560	1209.560	709.560
Bihar	116.560	308.120	333.120	783.120	633.120
Madhya Pradesh	287.180	237.820	478.820	387.820	437.820
Maharashtra	125.640	251.290	251.290	Nil	324.915
Orissa	144.610	104.610	200.00	164.610	104.610

[English]

CLB Decision in Respect of Non-Payment of Deposits

14. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2817 on July 6, 1998 and state:

(a) the names of the Directors/Officials of M/s. Helios Corporation Ltd., Patna, who have been appearing on behalf of the Company before the Company Law Board (CLB), East Region, Calcutta, in connection with the non-payment of interest and principal amount taken as fixed deposits by the company, alongwith the details of the cases so far filed, decided and pending; and

(b) the details of the orders that have been passed by the CLB, Calcutta, during 1998 and 1999 alongwith the next dates fixed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) No

Directors/officials of M/s. Helios Corporation Ltd., Patna appeared before Company Law Board, Eastern Region Bench. The Company was represented by an Advocate before the Company Law Board in connection with the hearing of complaints for non-refund of fixed deposits.

All the 160 complaints filed under section 45QA of the RBI Act, 1934, against M/s. Helios Corporation Ltd. were finally decided on 7.10.99 by the Company Law Board. No further complaints are pending.

By an order dated 7.10.99, the Company Law Board directed the abovenamed company to repay the deposits alongwith upto date interest at the contracted rate and filling fees in the following manner:—

- (i) Deposits upto Rs. 5,000/- in one instalment by 31.12.99.
- (ii) Deposits above Rs. 5,000/- and upto Rs. 25,000/- in two instalments by 31.1.2000 and 30.4.2000 respectively.
- (iii) Deposits above Rs. 25,000/- in three instalments by 29.2.2000, 31.5.2000 and 31.8.2000 respectively.

Opening up of New Telephone Exchanges

15. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for opening up of new telephone exchanges in Uluberia region in Howrah District of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard and the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Proposal for opening 13 exchanges namely (Gardiara, Kulgachia, Bhatara, Jaypur, Jhikira, Sonatala, Khalisani, Baniban, Banharisipur, Gar-Chumuk, Haturia or Udang, Jaynagar and Singti) in Uluberia region of Howrah District, West Bengal has been received.

(c) Telephone exchange at Khalisani has already been set up. At Jaypur Udang and Jhikira, new exchanges are expected by 31.3.2000.

At other places mentioned above, exchanges will be considered during the next financial year if there is sufficient demand for telephones at these places.

In this area 3 more exchanges *i.e.* at Daspur, Bhandergacha and Nunti-Mugkalyan have been planned for the current financial year.

M.C. Road in Kerala

16. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for converting the M.C. Road in Kerala to a National Highway; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The proposal cannot be considered due to constraint of funds and the fact that parallel national highway exists.

Cochin Refinery

17. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin Refineries had submitted proposal for a Power Project at Cochin;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the concerned ministries have given their clearances; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In February 1997, Government had conveyed first stage clearance to Cochin Refineries Limited (CRL) for incurring an expenditure of Rs. 2.5 crores for preparation of Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for the project. CRL submitted the DFR to the Government in December, 1997. Since clearance from Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is required for setting up the project, approval of the Government was conveyed to CRL in April, 1999 for incurring an expenditure under Rs. 10 crores for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for obtaining such clearance.

Apart from this, in November, 1998, Government's approval was conveyed to CRL to selection of consortium of Cochin Ambalamugal Energy Company, Larsen & Toubro and Kerala State Electricity Board as JV partner by CRL for implementation of this project.

Further, in October, 1999 Government's approval has also been conveyed to investment of Rs. 10,000 by CRL as a part of pre-project activity within the approved DPR cost of Rs. 10 crores for formation of JV company for implementation of the said project, subject to project investment approval by PIB/Government and that expected damage on account of liquidation etc. of the JV Company should be confined to Rs. 10,000 only which should be agreed to by other JV partners.

The following clearances have also been obtained by CRL for the project:

(i) 'in-principle' clearance from the Central Electricity Authority in December, 1995.

(ii) Environmental clearance for the project from the Ministry of Environment & Forests in May, 1999.

Construction of Super Highway

18. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved in the matter of construction of the super highway between the North-South and East-West corridors under the National Highway Development Programme;

(b) whether the Indian construction companies are participating in the said highway development programme;

(c) the amount of funds available to the National Highways Authority of India for the purpose and the sources of such funds; and

(d) the amount of cess collected by way of levy on petrol and diesel so far and made available to the National Highways Authority of India for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) The work on North-South and East-West Corridors under National Highway Development Project has started. Contracts for upgradation of 220 Kms. at an estimated cost of Rs. 670 crores have already been awarded.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Adequate funds are available with NHAI for the programmes under implementation. The funds are provided from budgetary grants, by way of investment by Government of India to NHAI.

(d) Allocation to NHAI can be made after the creation of the Dedicated Fund.

Revival of Shipping Industry

19. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shipping industry is in a bad shape at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to help the shipping industry to revive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Shipping being a cyclical industry is influenced by prevailing trend of trade and commerce world over. Currently, it is passing through a recessionary phase and having a depressed freight market.

In order to give a continued impetus to the growth and development of shipping industry, step taken by Government includes the introduction of automatic approval for acquisition of ships, placing import of large vessels in OGL, relaxation of age norms for acquisition of second hand vessels and to extent freedom to time charter out Indian ships to foreign companies for employment in international cross trade. Government have also initiated action to formulate a long term perspective plan by evolving the National Shipping Policy.

[Translation]

National Himalayan Park in Kullu

20. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in setting up of the great national Himalayan Park at Rola in Kullu district in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the work of resettlement of the displaced persons of the villages at an alternative place has been completed;

(c) if so, the date on which the said work was completed;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(e) the total amount provided for setting up the above park?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Final notification of Great Himalayan National Park, Kullu has been issued *vide* Govt. of Himachal Pradesh notification No. FFE-B-F(3)-2/99 dated the 28th May, 1999.

(b) The award of the Collector stipulates payment of compensation only and does not involve any resettlement.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) The stipulated amount of compensation in the award is Rs. 1,55,18,023.

[English]

Small Road Projects to Private Companies

21. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small projects like by-pass and road over bridges given to private companies during the last three years in Karnataka;

(b) the total amount involved in these projects and the number of proposals pending at present; and

(c) the criteria adopted for awarding these projects to private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) One project namely construction of Hubli-Dharwad Bypass.

(b) The estimated cost of this project is approximately Rs. 68 crores.

(c) The projects are awarded on competitive tenders basis and bidder is selected on the principle of lowest cost to the user.

Disposal of Cases

22. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of disposal of cases in each of the High Courts per day per judge;

(b) whether there are any norms for the High Court Judges for the disposal of cases; and

(c) if so, the number of judges who have failed in the year 1998-99 to come upto these norms?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (c) No such information is maintained by the Government.

(b) There are no fixed norms for disposal of cases by the Judges of High Courts. However, as per available information, during 1997 the average rate of disposal of cases per Judge was 1697 main cases.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges

23. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) number of Electronic and Non-Electronic telephone exchanges functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to convert all the Non-Electronic Telephone Exchanges into the Electronic ones;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the amount likely to be incurred thereon and the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) At present 24604 electronic and 15 non-electronic exchanges are functioning in the country. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

The exchanges functioning in Union Territories are electronic. State-wise list of places where non-electronic exchanges are functioning is given in Statement.

(d) An amount of Rs. 74.9 Crores is likely to be incurred thereon and the work is likely to be completed by 31-3-2000.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of electronic telephone exchanges	No. of non-electronic telephone exchanges	Places where non-electronic exchanges are functioning	Amount likely to be incurred Rs. in crore
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2237	1	Hyderabad	7.0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	81	—	—	—
3.	Assam	378	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	901	—	—	—
5.	Delhi	172	—	—	—
6.	Goa	75	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	1782	5	Ahmedabad (2 exchanges) Rajkot, Baroda, Surat	22.76
8.	Haryana	849	—	—	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	651	—	—	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	265	—	—	—
11.	Karnataka	2261	1	Bangalore	9.25
12.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep)	857	1	Trivandrum	7.94
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2791	1	Jabalpur	7.0

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Maharashtra	2243	4	(Amaravati, Satara, Dhulia, Malegaon)	15.63
15.	Manipur	33	—	—	—
16.	Meghalaya	54	—	—	—
17.	Mizoram	46	—	—	—
18.	Nagaland	37	—	—	—
19.	Orissa	802	—	—	—
20.	Punjab	1121	1	(Mandi-Gobindgarh)	2.31
21.	Rajasthan	1809	1	Jaipur (Urban)	3.61
22.	Sikkim	36	—	—	—
23.	Tamil Nadu (including Pondicherry)	1641	—	—	—
24.	Tripura	55	—	—	—
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2402	—	—	—
26.	West Bengal (including Andaman & Nicobar)	1025	—	—	—
Total		24604	15	—	74.9 crore

Damage to Telecom Buildings by Naxalites

24. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Naxalites blasted Telecom buildings in some of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the total losses suffered by the Government as a result thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect these exchanges; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The telecom. buildings in the state of Andhra Pradesh have been blasted by Naxalites.

(b) The information is given in Statement.

(c) The following steps have been taken to protect these exchanges in Andhra Pradesh State:—

1. Protection to the exchange in such areas is provided by the state police.
2. The damaged telephone exchange are being revived in the building situated near the police stations.

Statement*List of Exchanges damaged by Naxalites during last 3 years*

Sl. No.	SSA Exchange Name	Exchange Type	Capacity	Damage Date	Cost of Damage
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Yellareddy	PAM	200	04/11/96	100000
2.	Seitipalli	64P MILT	56	04/13/96	407050
3.	Gowraram	256P CDOT	184	04/15/96	1665000
4.	Gutiapalli	MAX III	25	05/04/96	43100
5.	Bhoopalapalli	2x56P CDOT	184	04/13/96	10000
6.	Vennampalli	64P MILT	56	06/09/96	337000
7.	C C Complex	2x256P CDOT	336	07/21/96	1000000
8.	Ingurthy	64P MILT	56	07/30/96	313000
9.	Chelpur	MAX III	25	08/07/96	183000

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Nizamabad	MAX III	25	09/07/96	198000
11.	Narella	64P MILT	56	09/22/96	161000
12.	Ganeshpally	64P MILT	56	01/06/97	382000
13.	Koyalagudem	256P CDOT	184	01/14/97	947000
14.	Weepanagandla	64P MILT	56	02/24/97	450700
15.	Tunika Kalasa	64P MILT	56	03/18/97	265000
16.	Bhaminj	64P MILT	56	03/30/97	339100
17.	Varni	256P CDOT	184	04/24/97	1157000
18.	Narsingh	156P CDOT	184	04/29/97	586500
19.	Rajampet	256P CDOT	184	05/09/97	700000
20.	Bachannape I	256P CDOT	184	05/12/97	1232899
21.	Douttabad II	64P MILT	56	06/02/97	663000
22.	Gandhari	128P CDOT	88	06/02/97	800000
23.	Seethampet	64P MILT	56	06/02/97	630000
24.	Penugonda	64P MILT	56	06/02/97	225000
25.	MPR Dam	64P MILT	56	06/10/97	800000
26.	Kanagai	128P CDOT	88	06/21/97	780000

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Masaipet	256P CDOT	184	06/28/97	160000
28.	Kolanoor	64P MILT	56	12/29/97	500000
29.	Kodimial	256P CDOT	184	01/16/98	1562000
30.	Atmakup	64P CDOT	56	02/14/98	35000
31.	Duddeda	128P CDOT	88	04/21/98	746100
32.	Ramaipalli	64P MILT	56	04/29/98	350000
33.	Govindaraopet	128P CDOT	88	05/04/98	1161000
34.	Kothapaley	64P MILT	56	05/09/98	450000
35.	Hiramandalam	2x256P CDOT	280	05/12/98	7162500
36.	Kadthal	256P CDOT	184	08/06/98	3000000
37.	Kasimpet	128P CDOT	88	08/25/98	375000
38.	Kamidalapally	256P CDOT	184	08/28/98	35000
39.	R. V. Nagar	64P MILT	56	08/29/98	410000
40.	Mulkanoor	2x256P CDOT	356	09/06/98	500000
41.	Devapur (T)	64P MILT	56	10/27/98	530000
42.	Indurtily	64P MILT	56	11/12/98	500000
43.	Gundrampally	256P CDOT	184	12/11/98	1200000
44.	Perur	64P MILT	56	03/13/99	580000
TOTAL			4995		33946949

Gas Reserves in Andhra Pradesh

25. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total reserves of gas estimated in Andhra Pradesh by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation;

(b) whether time bound exploration of gas is not being done by ONGC in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the system of monitoring activity of ONGC in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The balance recoverable reserves of gas in Andhra Pradesh, estimated by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), as on 1.4.99 is 37.35 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM).

(b) and (c) ONGC follows time bound programme for the exploration of oil & gas in the Krishna-Godavari basin of Andhra Pradesh. The exploration programme is continuously monitored by ONGC through periodical reviews at project, region and headquarters level and through Exploration Board meetings.

Increase in Price of Diesel

26. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have increased the prices of diesel and LPG recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have now decided to review the diesel price by the end of this month in view of the further spurt in international oil prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The ex-storage point price of diesel has been increased effective 6th October 1999 from Rs. 6882.15/Kilolitre to Rs. 9634.60/Kilolitre. The increase in the retail selling prices varies from State to State depending on freight, local taxes and other levies.

(c) and (d) As per the current approved policy of the Government, the ex-storage point prices of HSD are to be fixed on import parity normally within a period of 30-60 days from the previous price revision.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections in Jamnagar

27. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths working in Jamnagar District of Gujarat as on October, 99, village-wise;

(b) the number of said booths proposed to be installed during 1999-2000 in the said district, location-wise;

(c) the number of persons on the waiting list of telephone connections in the district at present;

(d) the number of telephone connections allotted in the district during the last three years; and

(e) the number of telephone connections likely to be provided there during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 1139 STD/ISD/PCO booths are working in Jamnagar district as on October, 1999. Exchange-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) At present it is proposed to install additional STD/ISD/PCO booths during 1999-2000 as per the Annexure.

(c) 5148 persons are waiting for telephone connection in the Jamnagar district.

(d)	Year	No. of connections provided
	1996-97	4507
	1997-98	3664
	1998-99	9807
(e)	Year	Target
	1999-2000	10,000
	2000-2001	9,000

Statement		
Name of Exchange/ Station	No. of STD PCO working	Present Proposal for STD/PCO in 1999-2000
1	2	3
Balachadi	02	—
Balambha	01	01
Dhrol	22	02
Jodia	11	—
Kalavad	16	22
Aliavada	02	—
Lalpur	09	11
Moti	02	—
Bhanugar	—	—
Moti Khavdi	16	01
Naghedi	02	—
Sikka	50	05
Bhatia	09	06
Kalyanpur	01	05
Jam	58	14
Khambhalia	—	—
Jam Raval	06	02

1	2	3
Salaya	08	03
Vadinar	10	04
Bhanvad	21	17
Jam Jodhpur	25	09
Verad	01	—
Dwarka	45	11
Mithapur	32	23
Okha	36	04
Jamnagar	754	100
Total	1139	240

[English]

CNG Facilities in Andhra Pradesh

28. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited has received representations to set up more CNG facilities centres in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether GAIL has not properly organised its CNG division; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to streamline CNG operations in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. GAIL had received

a representation from Member, National Road Safety Council, Andhra Pradesh to open CNG outlets in 8 Municipal towns of West Godawari District and in 2 Municipal towns and adjacent areas in East Godawari District to utilise the Natural Gas available in the Godawari Basin.

(c) and (d) Creation of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) facilities require gas distribution network in the area where such projects are to be set up. Presently, GAIL has no city gas distribution project in the KG Basin area.

[*Translation*]

Irregularities Committed by LPG Dealers

29. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG distributors against whom the Government have not taken any action for committing various irregularities during the last three years;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the irregularities are increasing even after taking action against the distributors and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Regular check of the LPG distributors are carried out by Officers of the Oil Companies at different levels. If any of the distributor is found indulging in any malpractice/irregularities, action is initiated against such distributor for the established malpractice/irregularity, depending upon its nature, as per the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/distributorship agreement in vogue. The details of inspections carried out at LPG distributorships during the last three year are given below:—

Year	Inspections conducted	Irregularities/ Malpractices detected	Action taken	Fine imposed (Rs.)
1996-97	24471	922	898	1064600
1997-98	25373	844	828	1827091
1998-99	19326	613	512	1632000

It is evident from the above table that the instances of irregularities/malpractices of the LPG distributors have declined over the last 3 years.

[*English*]

Ecological and Environmental Protection of Uttaranchal

30. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for the ecological and environmental/protection of the lake region in the Uttaranchal of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any grants or assistance from the environment agencies from United Nations or the United States of America or any other Foreign countries or agencies in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A pre-feasibility report on conservation of Nainital Lake has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 46.35 crores under National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP). However, NLCP has not been approved so far.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Telecom Facility in Rajasthan

31. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom services provided in Rajasthan particularly in Jaisalmer, Bhaniyana, Phalsuno, Fatehgarh districts is unreliable and out of order;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard and to provide STD facility in the said districts;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to provide STD facility through satellite system instead of existing open wire system at Ramgarh, Mohangarh,

Chandan, Ramdevra, Phalsund, Nachna districts in Rajasthan and to supply necessary material and machinery;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) 7 stations out of 20 in Jaisalmer District have STD facility. The remaining 13 stations will be provided STD facility after providing reliable media. MCPC (Multi channel per carrier) has been installed at Phalsund and is likely to be commissioned by March 2000. OFC (Optical Fiber Cable) system is likely to be commissioned by March 2000 in Fatehgarh and Bhaniyana. STD to these stations will be provided after provisioning of reliable media, as above.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. MCPC (Multi channel per carrier) has been installed at Phalsund, Ramgarh, Mohangarh and Nachana and is likely to be commissioned by March 2000. Ramdevra and Chandan are planned on OFC (Optical Fiber Cable) in 2000-2001 and likely to be completed by March, 2001.

Bench of Chennai High Court in Madurai

32. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of building to house the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court has begun at Ulaganeri near Madurai;

(b) whether the funds have not been allocated for the purpose by the State Government; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Centre to set up the Bench at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) Madras High Court in its Full Court meeting on August 31, 1995 resolved, in principle, to establish a Circuit Bench of the High Court at Madurai on fulfilment of certain conditions relating to infrastructure etc. The Government of Tamil Nadu intimated in August, 1998 that the proceedings for the acquisition of 75 acres of land for establishing the

High Court Bench at Madurai were nearing completion and a sum of Rupees 2.5 crores had been sanctioned for the purpose. Thus it is for the Government of Tamil Nadu and Madras High Court to expedite setting up a Bench of the High Court at Madurai.

[Translation]

Registration of FIRs

33. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:
SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether FIRs have not been registered by the Police in many cases in Delhi particularly in the North-East police district;

(b) if so, the total number of requests received from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament/Citizens from 1.1.1999 to 10.11.1999 by the Delhi Police Commissioner including Deputy Police Commissioners of various districts in Delhi and Station House Officers regarding filling of F.I.R. in Police stations;

(c) the number of such requests rejected alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) the norms being followed by the police for registering FIRs in Delhi; and

(e) whether the Union Government propose to issue guidelines to the Delhi Police for strict compliance of these norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In fact, Delhi Police registered 58,998 FIRs during 1999 (upto 30.10.99) which included 4163 FIRs registered by the North-East District Police. However, Delhi Police received 1914 requests during the period from 1.1.1999 to 10.11.1999 from Hon'ble Members of Parliament/Citizens for registering their complaints as FIRs.

(c) The number of such requests received, district-wise, and the number of requests rejected are given in the attached *Statement*.

The requests are rejected when it is found that the complaints are of civil nature and no cognizable offence is made out or the matter only relates to apprehension of breach of peace for which necessary preventive action has been taken or the complaints are found to be without substance.

(d) and (e) The norms for registering FIRs have been already laid down in Section 154 of the Cr. P.C. which

provides that FIRs shall be registered on receipt of information of a commission of cognizable offence.

Statement

Name of the District	No. of Requests Received from Hon'ble MPs/Citizens	No. of Requests Rejected/Filed	No. of FIRs Registered After Enquiry	No. of Complaints pending Enquiry
New Delhi	27	20	7	NIL
North East	406	391	15	NIL
East	281	234	12	35
North	14	9	5	NIL
North West	89	54	35	NIL
Central	22	14	4	4
South	887	726	161	NIL
South West	26	12	13	1
West	86	21	63	2
IGI Airport	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Crime & Railways	63	NIL	NIL	63
Vigilance	13	4	3	6
Total	1914	1485	318	111

Action against Defaulter Companies

34. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after conducting enquiry into the complaints received against the companies in regard to protection of interests of the shareholders any action has been taken in this regard during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names of companies against whom the action has been taken along with the nature of action taken thereof during the said period and as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) The Department of Company Affairs has an Investors Protection Cell which deals with complaints relating to non-refund of application money, non-receipt of shares after allotment/transfer and non-receipt of dividend warrants etc. All such complaints are acknowledged and taken up with the concerned companies for prompt redress through a fully computerized system.

The Department has directed Registrar of Companies to initiate penal action against 325 erring companies under section 73 (allotment of Shares and Debentures), section 113 (Time Limit for issue of Certificates) and section 205/207 (Non payment of Dividend) of the Companies Act, 1956, during the last three years. The names of these companies are given in the Statement enclosed.

In addition, the inspections of the companies u/s 209A of the Companies Act, 1956 were ordered in 135 cases during 1996-97, in 187 cases during 1997-98 and in 127 cases during 1998-99 based on complaints or on *suo-moto* basis. Necessary legal action was also initiated for violations observed during the inspections.

Statement

Names of the companies against which penal action has been ordered under the Companies Act, 1956 during the last three years

1996-97

1. M/s. Dynamatic Forging India Ltd.
2. M/s. Revathi Fiscal Services Ltd.
3. M/s. Hanil Era Textiles Ltd.
4. M/s. Bombay Silk Mills Ltd.
5. M/s. Bonanza Durgs & Chem. Ltd.
6. M/s. Citicorp Securities & Invt. Ltd.
7. M/s. Kunststoffe Industries Ltd.
8. M/s. Ensa Steels & Developers Ltd.
9. M/s. Gleitelager (India) Ltd.
10. M/s. Libra Filaments Ltd.
11. M/s. Leela Packagings Ltd.
12. M/s. Vatsa Industries Ltd.
13. M/s. Videocon International Ltd.
14. M/s. Nath Pulp & Paper Mills Ltd.
15. M/s. Orkay Industries Ltd.
16. M/s. Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd.
17. M/s. Raymond Ltd.
18. M/s. Surlux Mediquip Ltd.
19. M/s. Zee Telefilms Ltd.
20. M/s. Shipping Credit & Invt. Co. of (I) Ltd.
21. M/s. Simco Industries Ltd.
22. M/s. Shukra Diamond Exports Ltd.
23. M/s. Vikrant Projects Ltd.
24. M/s. Pearl Organics Ltd.
25. M/s. Teem Laboratories Ltd.
26. M/s. SLM Maneklal Industries Ltd.

27. M/s. Indo American Optics Ltd.
28. M/s. Gujarat Dehyd Foods Ltd.
29. M/s. Gujarat Suspension Ltd.
30. M/s. Kanel Oil and Exports Industries Ltd.
31. M/s. Dynachem Pharmaceuticals Exports Ltd.
32. M/s. Sonal Cosmetic Export Ltd.
33. M/s. Devria Intermediates Ltd.
34. M/s. Gujarat Bauxite Ltd.
35. M/s. Gujarat Indo Lube Ltd.
36. M/s. Gujarat Telephone Cables Ltd.
37. M/s. Gujarat Concast Ltd.
38. M/s. Benzo Petro International Ltd.
39. M/s. Arvin Liquid Gases Ltd.
40. M/s. Reliance Petroleum Ltd.
41. M/s. Zillion Pharmachem Ltd.
42. M/s. Unity Steels Ltd.
43. M/s. Rajashree Polyfill Ltd.
44. M/s. Sonal International Ltd.
45. M/s. Torrent Gujarat Biotech Ltd.
46. M/s. Madhur Food Products Ltd.
47. M/s. Pankaj Agro Protinex Ltd.
48. M/s. Sabero Organics Gujarat Ltd.
49. M/s. Nuline Glassware (India) Ltd.
50. M/s. Sandeep Steels Ltd.
51. M/s. Renco Gears Ltd.
52. M/s. Riddhi-Sidhi Strach & Chemicals Ltd.
53. M/s. Panjwani Packaging Ltd.
54. M/s. Total Exports Ltd.
55. M/s. Jayant Vitamins Ltd.
56. M/s. Eastern Circuits Ltd.
57. M/s. Bata Nephthol Ltd.
58. M/s. United Diamonds Ltd.
59. M/s. Prestige Foods Ltd.
60. M/s. Premier Industries (India) Ltd.
61. M/s. Nippon Denro Ispat Ltd.
62. M/s. Vesuvius India Ltd.
63. M/s. Himadri Chemicals & Industries Ltd.
64. M/s. Business Forms Ltd.
65. M/s. Birla Century Finance Ltd.
66. M/s. Quality Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
67. M/s. Ispat Profiles India Ltd.
68. M/s. Tata Nagar Bricks Ltd.
69. M/s. Ramkish Tyres Ltd.
70. M/s. Ominitel Industries Ltd.

71. M/s. Lan Eseda Industries Ltd.
72. M/s. Sreenidhi Engineering Ltd.
73. M/s. Fishing Falcons Ltd.
74. M/s. Ritesh Exports Ltd.
75. M/s. Coromandal Acquaculture Ltd.
76. M/s. Richimen Silk Ltd.
77. M/s. HB Portfolio Leasing Ltd.
78. M/s. New Beam Ferro Alloys Ltd.
79. M/s. Continental Contribution Ltd.
80. M/s. MS Shoes East Ltd.
81. M/s. Gwalior Transmission Systems Ltd.
82. M/s. Sakura Semitsu India Ltd.
83. M/s. Angels Enterprises Ltd.
84. M/s. Willard India Ltd.
85. M/s. Jauss Polymers Ltd.
86. M/s. Fedders Lloyd Corporation Ltd.
87. M/s. Ritesh Industries Ltd.
88. M/s. Apollo Tubes Ltd.
89. M/s. Jindal Photo Films Ltd.
90. M/s. Modiluft Ltd.
91. M/s. Trina Quebec Gears Ltd.
92. M/s. Rathi Ispat Ltd.
93. M/s. Malook Chand Agroils Ltd.
94. M/s. Ready Foods Ltd.
95. M/s. Jindal Vijayanagar Steels Ltd.
96. M/s. Ankit Granites Ltd.
97. M/s. Asian Tractors Ltd.
98. M/s. Premier Plantation Ltd.
99. M/s. NEPC Micon Ltd.
100. M/s. Professional Circuit Board Ltd.
101. M/s. Madras Motors Finance & Guarantee Co. Ltd.
102. M/s. Best & Crompton Industries Ltd.
103. M/s. Dynavision Ltd.
104. M/s. NEPC Tea Gardens Ltd.
105. M/s. Kukurson's (Indo French) Exports Ltd.
106. M/s. Pooja Granites & Marbles Ltd.
107. M/s. Modern Syntex (India) Ltd.
108. M/s. Nihon Nirmaan Ltd.
109. M/s. Thapar Millsproducts Ltd.
110. M/s. Munak Chemicals Ltd.
111. M/s. Roadmaster Foods Ltd.
112. M/s. Compact Disc India Ltd.
113. M/s. Thapar Foods Ltd.
114. M/s. Mazda Industries & Leasing Ltd.

1997-98

1. M/s. Andhra Cement Ltd.
2. M/s. APL Industries Ltd.
3. M/s. Asian Consolidated Industries Ltd.
4. M/s. ABN Granites Ltd.
5. M/s. Akar Laminaters Ltd.
6. M/s. Binaca Synthetic Resin Ltd.
7. M/s. Bharat Pipes and Fittings Ltd.
8. M/s. Bafna Spinning Mills & Exports Ltd.
9. M/s. Chemox Chemical Industries Ltd.
10. M/s. Dharendra Overseas Ltd.
11. M/s. East West Travel and Trade Links Ltd.
12. M/s. Esquire Tea Plantations & Industries Ltd.
13. M/s. Golden Colour Chem. (India) Ltd.
14. M/s. Gujarat Bonanza Auto & Steel Rolling Ltd.
15. M/s. Gems Eyedoms Ltd.
16. M/s. Gujarat Bonanza Auto & Steel Rolling Ltd.
17. M/s. G.R. Magnets Ltd.
18. M/s. H-Lon Hosiery Ltd.
19. M/s. Indian Magnetics Ltd.
20. M/s. Jilichem Laboratories (I) Ltd.
21. M/s. Jayant Business Machines Ltd.
22. M/s. J.F. Laboratories Ltd.
23. M/s. Kesoram Industries Ltd.
24. M/s. Karnataka Cement Ltd.
25. M/s. Lesha Steels Ltd.
26. M/s. Lunar Diamonds Ltd.
27. M/s. Modern Terry Towels Ltd.
28. M/s. Mahadev Corporation (India) Ltd.
29. M/s. Motorola India Ltd.
30. M/s. Nova Udyog Ltd.
31. M/s. Overseas Cables Ltd.
32. M/s. OMC Computer Ltd.
33. M/s. Premier Industries Ltd.
34. M/s. Parasrampur Synthetic Ltd.
35. M/s. Prestige Food Ltd.
36. M/s. Poojs Granites & Marbles Ltd.
37. M/s. Raymonds Synthetics Ltd.
38. M/s. Rane Computers Consultants Ltd.
39. M/s. Rishab Industries Ltd.
40. M/s. Reliance Capital Ltd.
41. M/s. Solid Carbidge Tools Ltd.
42. M/s. Stallion Shox Ltd.
43. M/s. Sagar Real Estate Developers Ltd.

44. M/s. Skylines NEPC Ltd. **1998-99**
45. M/s. Sand Plast (India) Ltd. 1. M/s. Indo American Cement Corporation Ltd.
46. M/s. Shrishma Fine Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. 2. M/s. Atash Industries India Ltd.
47. M/s. Shree Raj Travels & Tours Ltd. 3. M/s. Amrut Industries Ltd.
48. M/s. Solidaire India Ltd. 4. M/s. Eastern Mining Ltd.
49. M/s. Sandeep Industries Ltd. 5. M/s. Dynachem Pharmaceuticals (Exports) Ltd.
50. M/s. Tamil Nadu Petro Products Ltd. 6. M/s. Apollo Tubes Ltd.
51. M/s. Tata Chemicals Ltd. 7. M/s. Indiana Dairy Specialities Ltd.
52. M/s. Thapar Agro Mills Ltd. 8. M/s. KM Capital Ltd.
53. M/s. Tri Star Soya Products Ltd. 9. M/s. Eider Telecom Ltd.
54. M/s. U.P. Miner Products Ltd. 10. M/s. Indo American Optics Ltd.
55. M/s. Uniliv Foods Ltd. 11. M/s. Gujarat Suspension Ltd.
56. M/s. United Diamonds Ltd. 12. M/s. Good Earth Organics Ltd.
57. M/s. Videocon Leasing Industrial Finance Ltd. 13. M/s. Indo American Credit Corp. Ltd.
58. M/s. Vidiani Agrotech Industries Ltd. 14. M/s. Hindustan Tools & Forging Ltd.
59. M/s. Weldflux India Ltd. 15. M/s. Global Tele-Systems Ltd.
60. M/s. Western Paque (I) Ltd. 16. M/s. Best & Crompton Engg. Ltd.
61. M/s. Western India Sugar & Chemical Ltd. 17. M/s. Crestworld Marine Ltd.
62. M/s. Western India Shipyard Ltd. 18. M/s. Incab Industries Ltd.
63. M/s. Xedd Telecom Ltd. 19. M/s. Amethi Textiles Ltd.
64. M/s. Yogi Pharmacy Ltd. 20. M/s. K.P. Gelatines & Chemical Ltd.
21. M/s. Indo-Max Well Ltd.

22. M/s. Asian Alloys Ltd.
23. M/s. Gujarat Investment Casting Ltd.
24. M/s. Bausch and Lomb India Ltd.
25. M/s. Kanel Oil & Exports Industries Ltd.
26. M/s. Ambuja Agro Industries Ltd.
27. M/s. IGGI Resorts International Ltd.
28. M/s. Deepharma Ltd.
29. M/s. Gujarat NRE Cocke Ltd.
30. M/s. Cure Spects Laser Ltd.
31. M/s. Autopal Industries Ltd.
32. M/s. Gujarat Inject (Kerala) Ltd.
33. M/s. Kalyan Solvent Extraction Ltd.
34. M/s. Denmur Fax Rolls Ltd.
35. M/s. Indian Railway Finance Corpn. Ltd.
36. M/s. Ganesh Anhydride Ltd.
37. M/s. Chemox Laboratories Ltd.
38. M/s. East India Granites Ltd.
39. M/s. Amrut Credit Corpn. Ltd.
40. M/s. Mehar Dairy Industries Ltd.
41. M/s. Western India Industries Ltd.
42. M/s. NEEC Agro Foods Ltd.
43. M/s. Zillion Pharmachem Ltd.
44. M/s. Modern Denim Ltd. (Formerly Modern Suitings Ltd.)
45. M/s. Uniplas India Ltd.
46. M/s. Silverline Industries Ltd.
47. M/s. Videocon Leasing Industrial Finance Ltd.
48. M/s. Madras Refineries Ltd.
49. M/s. Western India Securities Ltd.
50. M/s. Sol Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
51. M/s. Orkay Silk Mills Ltd.
52. M/s. Unicorn Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
53. M/s. Sandeep Industries Ltd.
54. M/s. Trimurtee Fertilisers Ltd.
55. M/s. Mahadev Agro Industries Ltd.
56. M/s. Micro Accessories India Ltd.
57. M/s. Vikas WSP Ltd.
58. M/s. Sarigam Steels Ltd.
59. M/s. Rajinder Pipes Ltd.
60. M/s. Uniport Computers Ltd.
61. M/s. Nath Seed Ltd. DD
62. M/s. Modi Threads Ltd.
63. M/s. Spartak Ceramics India Ltd.
64. M/s. Andhra Cement Ltd.
65. M/s. Aashi Industries Ltd.

66. M/s. Gujarat Dehyd Foods Ltd.
67. M/s. Western Paque (I) Ltd.
68. M/s. Ambikam Proteins Ltd.
69. M/s. Skyline NEPC Ltd. (Formerly Damania Airways Ltd.)
70. M/s. Celeste International Ltd.
71. M/s. Mahadev Corpn. Ltd.
72. M/s. H-Lon Hosiery Ltd.
73. M/s. Jilichem Laboratories (I) Ltd.
74. M/s. Chemox Chemical Industries Ltd.
75. M/s. Western India Sugar & Chemical Industries Ltd.
76. M/s. Lunar Diamonds Ltd.
77. M/s. Nova Ydyog Ltd.
78. M/s. Dynamatic Forgings India Ltd.
79. M/s. Kesoram Industries Ltd.
80. M/s. Dharnendra Overseas Ltd.
81. M/s. Bharat Pipes & Fitting Ltd.
82. M/s. Jayanti Business Machines Ltd.
83. M/s. Bafna Spinning Mills & Exports Ltd.
84. M/s. Indana Spices & Foods India Ltd.
85. M/s. Gujarat Roadrel Engg. Product Ltd.
86. M/s. United Diamond Ltd.
87. M/s. Thapar Agro Mills Ltd.
88. M/s. Karnataka Cement Ltd.
89. M/s. Xedo Telecom Ltd.
90. M/s. Reliance Capital Ltd. (Formerly Reliance Cap. & Fin).
91. M/s. Overseas Cables Ltd.
92. M/s. Modern Terry Towels Ltd. (Modern Woolens Ltd.)
93. M/s. Indian Magnetics Ltd.
94. M/s. Prestige Foods Ltd.
95. M/s. Leshia Steels Ltd.
96. M/s. Vintek RF Products Ltd.
97. M/s. Canbank Mutual Fund Ltd.
98. M/s. Akar Laminators Ltd.
99. M/s. Indiana Dairy Specialities Ltd.
100. M/s. Western India Shipyard Ltd.
101. M/s. Binaca Synthetic Resins Ltd.
102. M/s. Vidiani Agrotech Industries Ltd.
103. M/s. East West Travel and Trade Links Ltd.
104. M/s. Rane Computers Consultancy Ltd.
105. M/s. Tata Chemicals Ltd.
106. M/s. Gujarat Bonanza Auto & Steel Rolling Ltd.
107. M/s. Wedflux India Ltd.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 108. M/s. Rishabh Industries Ltd. | 129. M/s. West Coast Brewers & Distillers Ltd. |
| 109. M/s. Tri Star Soya Products Ltd. | 130. M/s. NEPC-Micon Ltd. |
| 110. M/s. Golden Colour-Chem India Ltd. | 131. M/s. Modern Syntex India Ltd. |
| 111. M/s. Shrishma Fine Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals (Karnataka) Ltd. | 132. M/s. Reliance Petroleum Ltd. |
| 112. M/s. Ishwar Medical Services Ltd. | 133. M/s. Hanil Era Textiles Ltd. |
| 113. M/s. ABN Granites Ltd. | 134. M/s. Arihant Cotsyn Ltd. |
| 114. M/s. Uniliv Foods Ltd. | 135. M/s. Padmini Polymers Ltd. |
| 115. M/s. Do-Max Steel Ltd. | 136. M/s. APL Industries Ltd. |
| 116. M/s. Gems Eyedorns Ltd. | 137. M/s. Orkay Industries Ltd. |
| 117. M/s. Tamil Nadu Petro Products Ltd. | 138. M/s. Yogi Pharmacy Ltd. |
| 118. M/s. Premier Industries Ltd. | 139. M/s. J.F. Laboratories Ltd. |
| 119. M/s. Stallion Shox Ltd. | 140. M/s. Videocon International Ltd. |
| 120. M/s. Sagar Real Estate Developers Ltd. (Merged with SLM Manek) | 141. M/s. Cauvery Software Engg. Systems Ltd. |
| 121. M/s. Biax Ltd. | 142. M/s. DSJ Finance Corporation Ltd. |
| 122. M/s. V.P. Polycon Ltd. | 143. M/s. ATV Projects India Ltd. |
| 123. M/s. Raymond Synthetics Ltd. | 144. M/s. Sterlite Industries India Ltd. |
| 124. M/s. Hyderabad Lamps Ltd. | 145. M/s. Industrial Development Bank of India Ltd. |
| 125. M/s. Deeps Special Steels Ltd. | 146. M/s. Sonal Cosmetics Exports Ltd. |
| 126. M/s. Solid Carbide Tools Ltd. | 147. M/s. DCM Daewoo Motors Ltd. |

Pollution in Yamuna

35. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution has constantly been increasing in the river Yamuna;

(b) if so, the plan of the Government to check pollution in the river and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the date on which this plan was formulated and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The river Yamuna is significantly polluted. The stretch of the river along Delhi is most critical from pollution angle. To minimise the pollution of the river and to improve its water quality, the Government started the Yamuna Action Plan in April, 1993 at the present estimated cost of Rs. 946.45 crore. The Plan covers pollution abatement works in 12 towns in Haryana and 8 towns in U.P. besides Delhi. So far, an expenditure of Rs. 377.56 crore has been incurred on this Plan. In addition, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has also taken up the work of construction of 15 sewage treatment plants for treatment of municipal sewage of Delhi out of their own Plan funds. An expenditure of Rs. 448.65 crore has been incurred on this Plan so far. In order to minimise pollution from industrial effluents, 16 Common Effluent Treatment Plants are to be set up in different areas in Delhi. The Yamuna Action Plan is targeted to be completed by 30.6.2000. The sewage treatment plants of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi will be completed by December, 2000. The progress of construction of Common Effluent Treatment Plants in Delhi is slow.

[English]

LPG Agencies in Bihar

36. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allotment of L.P.G. agencies in various States is made, in proportion to their population.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the number of L.P.G. agencies allotted in Bihar are adequate in proportion to its population; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E.

PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) As per the existing policy, the following criteria are adopted for setting up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country:

- (i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.
- (ii) Urban locations having population of 5,000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms radius.
- (iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.
- (iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above.

(c) and (d) As on 1.4.1999, there were 214 LPG distributorships in Bihar. In addition to the locations pending from previous marketing plans, 105 LPG distributorships have been included in the current LPG Marketing Plan for Bihar to meet the increased LPG demand.

Law and Order in Delhi

37. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:
SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT:
DR. BALIRAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law and Order in Delhi has been deteriorating steadily;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of murders, abduction thefts, dowry deaths, bomb explosions and terrorist activities that took place during the last three years till date, year-wise;

(d) the number of persons arrested/punished;

(e) the number of cases in which no clue has been found; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the law and order situation in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No. Sir. In fact, there has been some decline in the IPC Crime reported in the National Capital Territory of Delhi during the current year (upto 31st October, 1999) in both heinous and non-heinous categories as compared to the corresponding period of the preceding year.

(c) to (d) The requisite information is given in the attached statement.

(f) The various steps taken by Delhi Police to bring

down crime in the National Capital includes, *inter alia*, intensification of beat patrolling; posting of armed pickets at strategic points; strengthening of intelligence network; close watch on and frequent raids at the suspected hide-outs of criminals and terrorists; verification of antecedents of domestic servants; increased surveillance on history sheeters; coordination meetings with police officers of neighbouring States; meetings with members of Residents Welfare Associations; formation of anti-terrorist cell in each police district; and deployment of police personnel in plain clothes in running buses; market places, business places and other crime prone areas.

Statement

Year	No. of Cases Reported	No. of Cases Cancelled	No. of Cases Challaned	No. of Cases Sent Untraced	No. of Cases Pending Investigation	No. of Persons Arrested	No. of Persons Convicted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Murder							
1996	523	20	395	83	25	932	15
1997	583	5	420	95	63	1010	16
1998	652	4	371	32	245	944	NIL
Abduction							
1996	326	156	80	85	5	204	1
1997	295	113	65	69	48	174	2
1998	367	138	27	49	153	153	NIL
Theft							
1996	20547	267	4323	15840	117	9020	785
1997	22593	290	4162	17801	340	9331	631
1998	26910	314	3015	19937	3644	7898	338

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Dowry Deaths							
1996	138	3	134	NIL	1	417	NIL
1997	148	3	135	1	9	429	5
1998	128	NIL	98	2	28	360	5
Bomb Explosion							
1996	3	NIL	3	NIL	NIL	15	NIL
1997	21	NIL	20	1	NIL	7	NIL
1998	6	NIL	NIL	4	2	NIL	NIL
Terrorist Activities							
1996	48	NIL	48	NIL	NIL	96	NIL
1997	18	NIL	18	NIL	NIL	30	NIL
1998	16	NIL	16	NIL	NIL	53	NIL

Royalty on Crude Oil

38. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether regular rate of royalty has not been finalised by the Union Government on crude oil since 1993 despite a number of representations made by the Government of Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether proposal for fixing of regular rate thereof is under active consideration of the Government

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Royalty rate for the period 1993-96 has been revised to Rs. 539.80 per metric tonne (PMT) in substitution of Rs. 528/PMT, i.e. the earlier provisional rate. Royalty for the period 1996-98 is being paid at a provisional rate of Rs. 578/PMT and would be finalised after receipt of audited figures on cost of

production for this period from Comptroller & Auditor General of India. As regards royalty on production of crude oil with effect from 1.4.1998, payments are being made provisionally, pending introduction of a new scheme of royalty in view of dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism.

Visit of Pope John Paul II

39. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some organisations in the country had organised a Yatra from Goa to Delhi in connection with the Visit of Pope John Paul II;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an effigy of Pope John Paul II was burnt by some people in different parts of the country prior to his visit;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any action was taken against them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per reports available. Vishwa Hindu Parishad under the aegis of Sanskruti Raksha Manch (SRM) had organised a Rath Yatra prior to the visit of Pope John Paul II commencing from Panaji (Goa) on 19.10.99 and terminated at New Delhi.

(c) to (f) As per available information effigies of Pope John Paul II were allegedly burnt some places in the country. Although these acts are forms of protests in a democratic society and State Government is primarily responsible for maintenance of law and order, we have shared all the important inputs received from different sources with the State Governments and requested them to take appropriate action for maintenance of peace and communal harmony.

Petro Chemical Unit Complex and GAIL in U.P.

40. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a stretch of farmland including the homesteads in revenue village of Pata in Orैया District of U.P. had been acquisitioned for establishment of one Petro Chemical Unit Complex and township of Gas Authority of India Ltd.;

(b) if so, whether the farmers and owners of the land were assured of adequate compensation and rehabilitation with jobs to each of the families and the amenities for their living in colonies;

(c) if so, whether move to implement some of those assurance has already been made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PUNNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The owners of land and homesteads were paid compensation fixed by the Competent Authorities. Displaced persons from the hamlets were rehabilitated in two rehabilitation villages with adequate amenities. Each adult person from the displaced family was allotted a plot (size-220 sq. ft.) of land in the rehabilitation villages.

Following amenities have already been provided in the two rehabilitation villages of Shahnagra and Ban-Ka-Purwa and Vaisundhara:

- * Internal Roads
- * Drinking Water/Well
- * Pond for drinking water for Cattle in Shahnagara/Bankapurwa
- * Panchayat Bhavan
- * Primary School Building
- * Electric transmission line, poles, transformer and street lighting in Shanagara/Bankapurwa.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Sikkim

41. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections as on November 1999 in Sikkim, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted during 1998-99, district-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of persons on waiting list for telephone

connections as on 1-11-99 Sikkim district-wise is given below:—

S.No.	District	Waiting list
1.	Sikkim East	1644
2.	Sikkim West	200
3.	Sikkim North	67
4.	Sikkim South	563

(b) The number of telephone connections allotted during 1998-99, district-wise is given below:—

S.No.	District	Telephone connection allotted
1.	Sikkim East	3603
2.	Sikkim West	544
3.	Sikkim North	223
4.	Sikkim South	854

(c) The Department proposes to expand existing exchanges by 8000 lines, to provide 7000 direct exchange lines and to set up 7 new exchanges in Sikkim during 1999-2000 to clear the waiting list.

[Translation]

Magnitude of Crimes

42. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of incidence of crimes such as murder, dacoity, ransom, massacre, rape etc during the last five years; and

(b) the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Information available with the National Crime Records Bureau is given in the enclosed statements I to IV.

Statement I

Incidence of Murder During 1994-1998 (State & UT-wise)

S.No.	State/UT	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2419	2472	2609	2872	2972
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	64	72	76	69	62
3.	Assam	1198	1273	1435	1452	1665
4.	Bihar	5098	5050	5264	5354	5311
5.	Goa	38	36	30	43	44
6.	Gujarat	1340	1432	1338	1415	1407

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Haryana	677	716	606	609	826
8.	Himachal Pradesh	104	127	123	117	137
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	758	796	1044	792	664
10.	Karnataka	1552	1747	1604	1669	1693
11.	Kerala	509	490	417	446	443
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3331	3416	3302	3463	3266
13.	Maharashtra	2787	2900	2777	2826	3003
14.	Manipur	241	257	194	299	208
15.	Meghalaya	119	128	139	155	139
16.	Mizoram	35	37	43	30	41
17.	Nagaland	137	155	203	192	84
18.	Orissa	821	917	1008	1005	947
19.	Punjab	662	679	706	755	756
20.	Rajasthan	1499	1386	1622	1558	1514
21.	Sikkim	6	12	5	15	16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22.	Tamil Nadu	1742	1959	1883	1987	1974
23.	Tripura	284	251	228	233	265
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10776	8784	8500	7756	8303
25.	West Bengal	1817	1788	1927	1780	2122
Total (States)		38014	36880	37083	36892	37862
26.	A&N Islands	14	14	11	15	20
27.	Chandigarh	22	14	20	17	16
28.	D&N Haveli	7	10	8	8	16
29.	Daman & Diu	3	5	4	10	7
30.	Delhi UT	492	520	518	575	649
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	25	21	27	26	25
Total (UTs)		563	584	588	651	733
Total (All India)		38577	37464	37671	37543	38595

Source: Crime in India
 Monthly Crime Statistics for 1998 in respect of Orissa State
 * Figures are Provisional

Statement II*Incidence of Rape During 1994-1998 (State & UT-Wise)*

S.No.	State/UT	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	873	856	812	947	869
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	28	25	37	43	32
3.	Assam	530	588	580	717	744
4.	Bihar	1130	1312	1453	1457	1421
5.	Goa	8	19	10	15	16
6.	Gujarat	356	309	306	375	368
7.	Haryana	258	311	336	373	364
8.	Himachal Pradesh	110	116	132	129	128
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	109	109	157	166	178
10.	Karnataka	281	263	222	244	233
11.	Kerala	197	266	389	588	589
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2929	3119	3265	3518	3354
13.	Maharashtra	1304	1362	1444	1246	1154
14.	Manipur	5	12	14	9	13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	Meghalaya	34	17	33	37	42
16.	Mizoram	44	41	49	52	84
17.	Nagaland	12	16	9	17	13
18.	Orissa	436	553	617	679	733
19.	Punjab	108	96	178	184	219
20.	Rajasthan	1002	1036	1162	1255	1266
21.	Sikkim	9	3	9	7	7
22.	Tamil Nadu	237	268	327	324	362
23.	Tripura	61	75	90	98	73
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2078	1808	1854	1457	1605
25.	West Bengal	743	787	855	824	757
Total (States)		12882	13367	14340	14761	14624
26.	A&N Islands	4	5	7	9	4
27.	Chandigarh	6	5	9	9	11
28.	D&N Haveli	2	1	3	2	7
29.	Daman & Diu	1	2	1	1	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30.	Delhi UT	309	372	484	544	438
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	4	2	2	4	1
Total (UTs)		326	387	506	569	461
Total (All-India)		13208	13754	14846	15330	15085

Source: Crime in India
 Monthly Crime Statistics for 1998 in respect of Orissa State
 * Figures are provisional

Statement III

Incidence of Kidnapping & Abduction During 1994-1998 (State & UT-wise)

S.No.	State/UT	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	993	1064	1028	1262	1175
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	41	47	52	38	44
3.	Assam	1140	1293	1190	1305	1471
4.	Bihar	2419	2070	2378	2425	2758
5.	Goa	16	21	13	9	25
6.	Gujarat	1091	1120	1055	1209	1421
7.	Haryana	347	433	452	428	506
8.	Himachal Pradesh	208	162	157	142	153

14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	339	354	523	618	651
10.	Karnataka	621	595	532	679	633
11.	Kerala	180	159	230	230	197
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1264	1142	1084	1128	1107
13.	Maharashtra	1171	1163	1069	1185	1132
14.	Manipur	115	108	79	163	122
15.	Meghalaya	26	22	24	21	26
16.	Mizoram	7	9	7	10	10
17.	Nagaland	40	35	49	47	41
18.	Orissa	455	463	489	531	436
19.	Punjab	220	233	274	284	354
20.	Rajasthan	2531	2822	2857	2920	3066
21.	Sikkim	14	14	11	9	5
22.	Tamil Nadu	576	815	976	1116	1193
23.	Tripura	114	194	183	127	219

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4798	3842	3931	3714	4369
25.	West Bengal	1128	934	906	983	908
Total (States)		19854	19114	19549	20583	22022
26.	A&N Islands	4	4	2	1	2
27.	Chandigarh	55	39	32	39	35
28.	D&N Haveli	6	5	4	3	5
29.	Daman & Diu	1	3	4	2	2
30.	Delhi UT	1055	1252	1250	1266	1333
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	8	9	7	4	10
Total (UTs)		1129	1312	1299	1315	1387
Total (All-India)		20983	20426	20848	21898	23409

Source: Crime in India
 Monthly Crime Statistics for 1998 in respect of Orissa State
 *Figures are Provisional

Statement IV

Incidence of Dacoity During 1994-1998 (State & UT-wise)

S.No.	State/UT	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	529	555	448	511	491
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45	37	25	41	36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	807	774	843	798	928
4.	Bihar	2677	2566	2450	2392	2349
5.	Goa	5	4	4	7	11
6.	Gujarat	318	309	371	342	381
7.	Haryana	48	71	55	58	75
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	3	4	2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	49	47	65	43	34
10.	Karnataka	377	304	250	288	264
11.	Kerala	102	97	98	103	101
12.	Madhya Pradesh	265	160	198	199	228
13.	Maharashtra	693	698	668	716	596
14.	manipur	26	26	18	14	20
15.	Meghalaya	70	84	94	124	113
16.	Mizoram	153	9	6	6	18
17.	Nagaland	35	37	28	32	23
18.	Orissa	373	284	305	263	299
19.	Punjab	10	12	28	32	15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Rajasthan	88	88	97	149	140
21.	Sikkim	5	3	1	0	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	124	134	171	212	188
23.	Tripura	154	183	115	61	75
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1740	1327	1146	1010	1207
25.	West Bengal	553	481	510	409	426
Total (States)		9249	8292	7997	7814	8020
26.	A&N Islands	0	0	0	1	0
27.	Chandigarh	0	1	0	0	4
28.	D&N Haveli	1	1	3	9	7
29.	Daman & Diu	2	4	1	6	2
30.	Delhi UT	19	36	32	37	65
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	1	2	0	2
Total (UTs)		22	43	38	53	80
Total (All India)		9271	8335	8035	7867	8100

Source: Crime in India
 Monthly Crime Statistics for 1998 in respect of Orissa State
 *Figures are Provisional

*[English]***Allotment of the Forest Land for Temple**

43. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allotted any forest land for the upliftment of Sabarimala Temple in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two proposals involving diversion of 0.403 hectare forest land for collection of sand and 0.4225 hectare of forest land for construction of sewage treatment plant at Cheriyavottam near Sabarimala Temple has been approved by the Ministry on 23.10.1997 and 26.11.98 respectively.

(c) The State Government of Kerala in December 1995 forwarded a proposal involving 20 hectares of forest land including 0.4225 hectare for construction of sewage treatment plant and balance for providing amenities to pilgrims of Sabarimala Temple. The proposal was examined by the Ministry and discussed with Nodal Officer, State Forest Department, Kerala, in May 1996. Certain suggestions were made for the consideration of the State Government so as to minimise any adverse environmental effect of the development activity in the area as majority of the forest area formed part of Periyar Tiger Reserve. Despite non-receipt of any information from the State Government, the Ministry approved diversion of 0.4225 hectare area for construction of sewage treatment plant at Cheriyavottam as it was site-specific and for an eco-friendly use. Decision on proposal for balance area is not possible in the absence of comprehensive study on the requirement of facilities in the area and its impact on wildlife and ecology of the area for which State Government has been requested time and again.

Navinagar Super Thermal Power Station in Bihar

44. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of Navinagar Super Thermal Power Station at Aurangabad in Bihar was announced by the Late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi during the year 1989;

(b) if so, whether the site to construct the said Thermal Power Station was later on shifted to any other place in Bihar;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to reconsider the construction of the aforesaid Thermal Power Station at Aurangabad; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No information is available with the Government in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) and (e) Navinagar Thermal Power Project (2x500 MW) at Aurangabad in Bihar was originally conceived by the Bihar State Electricity Board for implementation with World Bank assistance. A Project Report was accordingly submitted to Central Electricity Authority in September, 1988 for techno-economic clearance. However, due to paucity of funds with the State Government, implementation of the project could not be taken up.

In line with the 'Mega Power Project Policy' of Government of India, Navinagar project at Aurangabad in Bihar was identified in February, 1996 as a Mega Power Project for implementation in private sector. However, response from private sector against the Request for Qualification (RFQ) was not encouraging. The project is therefore proposed to be developed in Central Sector once the feasibility for its implementation is established after taking into account various factors and market-ability of power to be generated from the project.

Better Telephone Services

45. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any step for better maintenance of telephones including immediate rectification of ordinary faults; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been taken for better maintenance of telephones:—

1. Upgradation and rehabilitation of external plant.
2. Provision of pagers to the field staff.
3. Computerisation of fault repair and customer services.
4. Introduction & laying of 5 pair PIJF cable to subscriber premises.
5. Replacement of electro-mechanical exchanges by electronic exchanges.
6. Opening of more and more RSUs to reduce cable length.
7. Introduction of IVRS system for booking the complaints.
8. Opening internal DPs.
9. Close monitoring of faults rectification.

Nitin Sengupta Committee Report

46. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nitin Sengupta Committee has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof;

(c) whether Indian Oil Officer's Association has lodged a strong protest against its recommendations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main recommendations of the Committee are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Indian Oil Officers Association has written a letter to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas expressing their reservation against some of the

recommendations of the Committee. The views expressed by PSU Oil Companies as well as such representations taken into account while examining the report of the Committee.

Statement

Recommendations of Dr. Nitish Sengupta Committee Report

On the basis of detailed study and assessment of various key success factors, the Committee has evaluated and assessed the position of IBP, CRL, MRL, BRPL and NRL. The Committee has also carefully considered the likely status of BPC in the context of a completely deregulated scenario.

Taking into consideration the evaluation and assessment carried out by the Committee, the following recommendations have been made so as to ensure that all stand-alone oil companies become stronger in the deregulated market and also to create a fair and competitive market for enhancement of customer services:

- (a) BPC should buy up the entire shareholding of Govt. of India in CRL and make CRL its subsidiary. The marketing arrangement, if any, with IOC should accordingly be modified.
- (b) Though at present IOC is a strong candidate for an alliance with MRL, the Committee recommends that for the time being the marketing arrangement of MRL with IOC should continue. Since, IOC is already a dominant player and as it is necessary to ensure fair competition, the Committee suggests that BPC be also considered in the intermediate future as a serious candidate alongwith IOC to partner MRL. However, this should be done after about 18-24 months to allow BPC sufficient time to stabilise after its takeover of CRL and the demonstration of its ability do do so without affecting the supply line and its recommended investment in IBP.
- (c) IOC should buy up the entire shareholding of Govt. of India in BRPL and make this company its subsidiary.
- (d) NRL should continue with BPC and IBP who are the majority shareholders along with Government of Assam. However, the Committee recommends that OIL should be roped in as a shareholder with 10% share, which can be

allotted to them on preferential allotment basis out of the shares earmarked for public issue thereby creating an integrated oil network in the North East. This process will also enhance the sentiment of the prospective investors in the capital market for purposes of its ensuing public issue.

- (e) The Committee recommends that IBP should continue as a separate corporate entity for the time being. However, it feels that IBP needs a strong strategic partner for continued supply of products and also providing marketing back up and necessary financial support. Accordingly, it endorses the views of the Disinvestment Commission that Government of India should disinvest 33.58% in favour of a strategic partner. After careful study and consideration at various strategic alliance options, based on various success factors, the Committee feels that BPC is a strong candidate in comparison to other oil companies. Therefore, Government of India should disinvest its shareholdings in IBP in excess of 26% in favour of BPC as permissible under the SEBI take over guidelines. If these guidelines stand in the way of one shot of acquisition of this block of shareholding by BPC, this may have to be done in phases or a portion of the shareholding now held by financial institutions may have to be transferred to BPC.
- (f) IBP should be assured of the required products from Mathura and/or Panipat in the North and MRL and CRL in the South through appropriate marketing tie-ups for a period of at least five years after the end of APM period in order to maintain its supplies.
- (g) Government of India should constitute a petroleum regulatory body in lieu of OCC, who should regulate the supply of products besides handling critical issues during the transition period of deregulation.
- (h) All the existing pipelines excluding strategic pipelines owned by IOC should be transferred to an independent company such as the Petronet India Limited so that all the marketing companies get fair and equitable access to these pipelines for movement of products. After implementation of the recommendation, the Committee has identified that there will be three market players, e.g., IOC, HPC and BPC-IBP. It feels that at a later date, the possibility of a

combination of HPC, BPC-IBP, CRL, MRL AND NRL should be explored through an umbrella of a holding company. This new entity will be equal in size to IOC and would not only provide good competition but could also emerge as a global player in competition with the international oil majors.

National Identity Cards Scheme

47. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any feasibility study of the National Identity Cards Scheme has been conducted;

(b) if so, whether the Government have constituted any Advisory Committee on this Scheme; and

(c) if so, the members of the said Advisory Committee and objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO):

(a) M/s Tata Consultancy Services have been entrusted with the task of preparation of feasibility Report regarding the Multipurpose National Identity Cards scheme in the country.

(b) and (c) An Advisory Committee, comprising of senior officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs and other concerned Central agencies has been constituted to interact, from time to time, with M/s Tata Consultancy Services during the period of preparation of Feasibility Report.

[Translation]

Electoral Reforms

48. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any recommendations of the Law Commission on Electoral Reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the various measures through which the Government propose to reform the electoral process;

(d) whether the Government would take into account the recommendations made by Goswami and Gupta Committee on electoral reforms as well;

(e) if so, the specific time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 170th report of the Law Commission containing the details of its recommendations on reform of electoral laws has already been laid before the Lok Sabha on 27.10.1999.

(c) to (f) The Government is committed to bring necessary reform in electoral laws. In this regard, recommendations made by Goswami and Gupta Committees as well as those received from other sources will be taken into account. The subject needs careful deliberation and hence no time frame can be suggested in this regard.

[*English*]

Kidnapping of Minor Girls

49. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two Muslim girls aged 13 and 15 years were kidnapped from Daryaganj area of Delhi in October, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Delhi Police did not register any case in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the girls have been traced; and

(f) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SH. CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (f) Whereas two minor Muslim girls were kidnapped from Daryaganj area on 12th October, 1999, their guardians reported the incident to police only on 13th October, 1999 on the basis of which a criminal case was registered on the same day at Daryaganj Police Station. Both the girls were later recovered by police and handed over to their parents. The accused persons were arrested and remanded to judicial custody.

[*Translation*]

Fixation of Toll Tax

50. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion laid down for levying of the toll tax on National Highways and bridges on them;

(b) whether it is uniform in urban as well as rural areas; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Toll fee is a fee for services rendered in relation to the use of bridges on any section of National Highway or bridge or both having regard to the expenditure involved in building, maintenance and management operation of the whole or part of such section of National Highway or bridge or both. The fee on 4-laned sections of National Highway is based on vehicle operating cost savings, acceptability in the region, project cost and ceiling prescribed by the Cabinet.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Supply of Power to Consumers

51. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government would be able to provide power to all the consumers in the country in the year 2000; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) It would not be possible to provide power to all consumers in the country in the year 2000.

Compensatory Afforestation

52. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy with regard to the compensatory afforestation in the area where the trees have been felled due to development works; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has formulated detailed guidelines for carrying out compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest area diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for various development projects.

(b) 10 copies of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 Rules and Guidelines have been made available in the library of the Parliament.

Financial Package for Jammu and Kashmir

53. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new financial package has been worked out for Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Till date, no new financial package has been worked out for the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Plan Allocation for Development of Forests in Bihar

54. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plan allocation made for the development of Environment and Forests in Bihar during the last three years; and

(b) the amount of plan allocation utilised for the purpose besides the salaries and maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has released an amount of Rs. 480.37 lakhs,

Rs. 188.60 lakhs and Rs. 242.04 lakhs during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively to the State of Bihar for the development of Environment and Forests. The whole amount is to be spent on the components approved for taking up developmental activities under various schemes.

[English]

Telegraph Offices in West Bengal and Bihar

55. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish new telegraph offices as well as to modernise the existing Telegraph offices in West Bengal and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) With the expansion of Telephone Network, the telegraph traffic is steadily reducing. There are no proposals to open new telegraph Offices in West Bengal and Bihar.

Upgradation of telegraph system at Chatra, Koderma, Pakur and Sheohar in Bihar is being examined.

Telegraph system has already been modernised. Digital electronic SFMS/SFT systems are working both in West Bengal and Bihar.

Shelling and Firing Across LoC

56. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after the Kargil-Drass and other adjoining areas and hill-tops were cleared of Pakistani intruders and armed forces, Pakistani shelling and firing on civilians across the Line of Control and borders in Jammu & Kashmir continued;

(b) if so, the number and other details of such incidents, indicating the number of casualties on either side caused thereby;

(c) the Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to curb such activities and meet the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Pak troops have resorted to intermittent shelling along the International Border/LoC on an almost daily basis even after the Kargil, Drass and adjoining areas were cleared of the intruders resulting in the killing of 17 Security Force personnel and 11 civilians.

(c) and (d) Government is aware of the sinister designs of Pak ISI to destabilise India by sponsoring terrorism and subversive activities in different parts of the country including its effort to infiltrate terrorists and to target and train misguided youths for engineering violence. A close and continuous watch is, therefore, being kept on the situation and all necessary efforts, including improved border management and sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements, are being made to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed. Government have taken several steps which include inter-alia sensitising and gearing up of the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and coordinated action by concerned Central and State agencies, border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, upgrading of technical equipment with the security forces and increasing the number of check posts.

[*Translation*]

Development of Forests in Goa

57. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Goa has submitted any project to the Union Government regarding development of forests in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Out of the projects received from the State Government of Goa on development of forests, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have sanctioned the project proposals under the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(i) **Area Oriented Fuelwood & Fodder Projects Schemes (AOFFPS):** The Ministry has sanctioned Rs. 37.92 lac covering an area of 500 ha. and released Rs. 8.0 lac, Rs. 7.55 lac and Rs. 5.69 lac during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively.

(ii) **Conservation and Development of Non-Forest Timber Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme (NTFPS):** Against Rs. 57.42 lac covering an area of 720 ha. sanctioned during the current five year plan, the Ministry has released Rs. 19.09 lac, Rs. 18.93 lac and Rs. 8.70 lac during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively.

(iii) **Tree and Pasture Seed Development Scheme:** The Ministry has also sanctioned project under the above mentioned scheme at a total cost of Rs. 42.56 lac during the IX Plan.

[*English*]

Social Forestry Projects

58. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Social Forestry Projects started during the last three years;

(b) the financial assistance provided during the said period, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the achievements made under these projects in each State so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Annual targets are fixed for afforestation and tree planting activities under the 20 Point Programme in two parts: the first is for seedlings distribution for planting on private lands and the second is in terms of afforestation on public lands, including forest lands. Plantations undertaken as part of social forestry are included therein.

(b) The total financial assistance provided to each of the States during the last three years under the afforestation schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is given in enclosed Statement I.

(c) The State-wise targets and achievements for the last three years under the 20 Point Programme are given in enclosed Statement II.

Statement I*Statement Showing the Financial Assistance Provided to the States/UTs during 1996-97 to 1998-99*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	403.26	191.27	276.71
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	112.39	71.21	19.94
3.	Assam	170.56	138.85	147.95
4.	Bihar	133.78	134.84	66.38
5.	Goa	15.06	13.22	13.87
6.	Gujarat	241.67	230.29	242.8
7.	Haryana	445.08	292.68	409.18
8.	Himachal Pradesh	313.5	170.71	114.48
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	536.75	387.04	494.19
10.	Karnataka	496.78	387.73	184.46
11.	Kerala	155.03	232.67	310.31
12.	Madhya Pradesh	820.11	607.6	849.58

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Maharashtra	150.61	184.97	165.85
14.	Manipur	479.68	216.3	469.07
15.	Meghalaya	155.96	77.11	108.26
16.	Mizoram	299.81	262.02	243.46
17.	Nagaland	20	0	15.23
18.	Orissa	223.2	139.14	348.69
19.	Punjab	227.5	256.18	62.81
20.	Rajasthan	568.41	605.47	663.05
21.	Sikkim	366.65	193.59	343.08
22.	Tamil Nadu	148.45	133.45	135.26
23.	Tripura	93.45	165.65	106.46
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1410.13	450.86	590.62
25.	West Bengal	331.49	171.79	354.29
Total		8319.31	5714.64	6735.98

Statement II**Targets/Achievements for Afforestation Activities under 20 Point Programme During 1996-97 to 1998-99**

Area in Hectares
Seedlings in Lakhs

Sl No.	Name of State/ UTs	1996-97				1997-98				1998-99			
		Targets		Achievements		Targets		Achievements		Targets		Achievements	
		Seedlings Distribution (For planting on pvt. lands)	Area (Public lands including forest lands)	Seedlings Distribution (For planting on pvt. lands)	Area (Public lands including forest lands)	Seedlings Distribution (For planting on pvt. lands)	Area (Public lands including forest lands)	Seedlings Distribution (For planting on pvt. lands)	Area (Public lands including forest lands)	Seedlings Distribution (For planting on pvt. lands)	Area (Public lands including forest lands)	Seedlings Distribution (For planting on pvt. lands)	Area (Public lands including forest lands)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1100.00	50000	1425.30	114667.00	1100.00	50000	2027.29	135185.00	1100.00	55000	2040.64	160881.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.00	9500	6.00	6613.00	7.00	10000	16.00	6317.00	7.00	10000	3.85	729.00
3.	Assam	25.00	27500	48.68	18517.70	25.00	27000	25.00	3642.00	25.00	27000	25.00	5963.00
4.	Bihar	500.00	40000	78.50	9296.00	500.00	40000	110.33	14222.00	500.00	40000	148.30	10177.00
5.	Goa	30.00	1800	23.00	1351.00	30.00	1800	13.74	1123.30	30.00	1800	11.13	777.00
6.	Gujarat	1908.00	65597	2110.20	89393.00	1900.00	65000	1919.04	62866.00	1900.00	70000	1920.00	70414.00
7.	Haryana	200.00	32000	73.73	23235.00	200.00	32000	33.57	17931.00	200.00	32000	35.82	17905.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	20.00	28000	26.98	27503.00	20.00	30000	30.38	28000.00	20.00	30000	39.05	31300.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	60.00	24000	59.85	24927.00	60.00	24000	60.00	22125.00	60.00	24000	91.16	16323.00
10.	Karnataka	400.00	65000	235.75	60637.00	400.00	65000	256.35	52423.05	400.00	68000	613.93	93028.00
11.	Kerala	180.00	19000	45.46	15168.00	180.00	19000	10.98	3350.00	180.00	19000	1.22	21187.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12.	Madhya Pradesh	450.00	150000	169.88	117623.00	450.00	150000	457.73	139211.00	450.00	150000	475.62	188216.00
13.	Maharashtra	1150.00	126000	943.83	100327.91	1150.00	126000	938.02	91910.23	1150.00	126000	837.99	92288.46
14.	Manipur	25.00	12000	15.50	12230.00	25.00	12000	7.06	4403.00	25.00	12000	16.45	6197.00
15.	Meghalaya	40.00	18000	47.80	1622.00	40.00	18000	71.33	3978.00	40.00	18000	39.00	2324.00
16.	Mizoram	22.00	19800	67.59	9327.00	22.00	19800	10.97	8589.00	22.00	19800	7.41	6450.00
17.	Nagaland	60.00	8000	0.00	0.00	60.00	8000	0.00	0.00	60.00	8000	0.00	0.00
18.	Orissa	300.00	79000	811.88	93371.00	300.00	79000	436.70	83825.00	300.00	87000	234.12	62243.00
19.	Punjab	52.00	20000	88.56	8825.00	52.00	20000	65.86	5046.00	52.00	20000	49.92	10439.00
20.	Rajasthan	380.00	76550	399.41	83440.00	400.00	83000	370.64	58166.00	400.00	85000	385.17	65651.00
21.	Sikkim	22.00	11000	22.00	9586.00	22.00	11000	22.58	9966.86	22.00	11000	15.20	6254.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	1100.00	85000	1104.64	73501.00	1100.00	85000	1146.10	94325.00	1100.00	90000	498.51	122650.00
23.	Tripura	23.00	10000	41.19	9034.00	40.00	10000	78.58	8650.00	40.00	10000	28.50	8903.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2200.00	110000	2121.24	92790.00	2200.00	110000	1977.70	88052.00	2200.00	110000	1620.73	93167.91
25.	West Bengal	825.00	44000	556.00	21500.00	825.00	44000	228.00	18285.00	825.00	44000	203.00	7901.00
26.	A&N Islands	5.00	3300	5.05	4019.86	5.00	4500	1.38	3462.00	5.00	4700	1.70	3304.18
27.	Chandigarh	0.10	500	0.19	666.00	0.10	500	0.56	66.00	0.10	500	0.47	109.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
28.	D & N Haveli	16.00	1000	10.00	300.00	16.00	1000	7.00	300.00	16.00	1000	3.20	310.00
29.	Daman & Diu	2.00	100	3.18	3.00	2.00	50	0.40	138.00	2.00	50	0.03	4.00
30.	Delhi	25.00	1000	23.42	936.00	25.00	1000	3.64	0.00	25.00	1000	20.92	0.00
31.	Lakshadweep	5.00	72	4.22	62.00	5.00	75	1.97	22.00	5.00	75	5.00	90.00
32.	Pondicherry	5.00	78	5.15	78.33	5.00	75	6.73	58.71	5.00	75	4.82	96.12
Total		11136.10	1137797	10574.18	1030549.80	11166.10	1146800	10335.63	965638.15	11166.10	1175000	9377.86	1105275.67

* = Achievements not reported.

Completion of Work on NH-7 between Thoppur and Hosur

59. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to complete the laying of four way track for about 120 Kms. on the National Highway No. 7 in the stretch between Thoppur and Hosur;

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be completed;

(c) whether the service lanes are to be provided at the town limits of Dharmapuri Krishnagiri and Hosur; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Four-laning of a length of 75 Kms. between Thoppur and Hosur of NH. 7 is proposed to be taken up in three stretches. The contract for the work of four laning from Km. 33 to Km. 48.6 and from Km. 156 and Km. 163.4 have been recently awarded. Project preparation for the stretch from Km. 48.6 to Km. 94.0 has been completed and the pre-construction activities are in progress. The time by which the entire work is likely to be completed can not be indicated at this stage.

(c) and (d) Service lanes are to be provided in town limits of Krishnagiri and Hosur as per requirements of traffic and the extent of built up areas along the National Highway.

Conversion of MARR System into Wireless System

60. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the present MARR system into wireless system particularly in the border areas of Nagaland and other Northern States;

(b) if so, the areas identified for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to replace present MARR systems with wireless systems.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Bihar

61. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants in the waiting list for telephone connections in Bihar at present and since when they are on the waiting list particularly in Muzaffarpur, Vaishali and Sitamarhi districts, district-wise;

(b) the time by which the telephone connections are likely to be provided to the persons on the waiting list for telephone in Bihar, particularly in the said districts;

(c) the number of villages in the State provided with public telephone facility and the number of villages yet not having such facility; and

(d) the details of the scheme for providing public telephone facility to all the villages of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) the number of applicants in the waiting list for telephone connections in Bihar as on 31.10.99 is 95100. Dates of oldest waiting list in Muzaffarpur, Vaishali and Sitamarhi districts are given below:

Name of the district	Oldest waiting List
Muzaffarpur	31.03.95
Vaishali	15.03.93
Sitamarhi	12.12.94

(b) the telephone connection are likely to be provided to the persons on the waiting list for telephone in Bihar in the above districts by 31.03.2001 subject to technical feasibility.

(c) the number of villages in the State provided with public telephone facility as on 1.11.99 is 20893 and the number of villages without telephone facility is 58315.

(d) the remaining 58315 villages are proposed to be provided with telephone facility progressively by March, 2002.

[English]

LPG Consumers in Karnataka

62. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic LPG consumers of different oil corporations in Karnataka;

(b) whether there has been abnormal delay in getting refills by the consumers of various Oil Corporations particularly Indane in Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure quick delivery of domestic LPG refills to the consumers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The number of domestic consumers in the State of Karnataka of PSU Oil Companies are as under:—

IOC	7.99 lakhs
BPC	4.87 lakhs
HPC	9.09 lakhs

(b) and (c) The demand of enrolled LPG customers of the PSU Oil Companies in the country, has by and large been met. Presently no shortage in supply of LPG refills in the State of Karnataka has been reported. However, whenever LPG backlogs develop. Oil Companies take various measures including maximising imports etc. to meet the demand in the affected markets.

[Translation]

Waiting List for LPG Connections in U.P.

63. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the waiting list for LPG connections in Azamgarh, Mau, Devaria, Gajipur, Jaunpur, Varanasi and Allahabad districts of Uttar Pradesh as on October 10, 1999; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to clear the waiting list and make LPG connections available on demand in the said districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The waiting list for new LPG connection with Public Sector Oil Companies as on

1.10.1999 in the following Districts of Uttar Pradesh are given below:—

<i>Districts</i>	<i>Pending Waiting List</i>
Azamgarh	15751
Mau	03800
Deoria	10992
Ghazipur	04406
Jaunpur	12372
Varanasi	65869
Allahabad	90102

(b) Release of new connections against the waiting list depends inter-alia upon product availability, slack available with the existing distributors, minimum sustainable allocation to newly commissioned distributors etc.. With the expected higher availability of LPG through imports and indigenous production, more connections are planned to be released in future and it is expected to clear the entire waiting list by the year 2001-2002.

[English]

Setting up of a Bench of High Court in Karnataka

64. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision regarding the setting up of a Bench of the Karnataka High Court at Dharwad in Karnataka;

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

(c) if not, the steps the Government propose to take for setting up a Bench of the Karnataka High Court at Dharwad as per the recommendations of Justice Jaswanth Singh Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of Karnataka is of the view that a permanent Bench of the Karnataka High Court should be established at Hubli-Dharwad. However, the Chief Justice of the High Court has not so far endorsed the proposal. It is the policy of the Government of India that both the State Government and the High Court consider the matter from all angles and arrive at a consensus. As no complete proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, for establishment of a Bench of the High Court at Hubli-Dharwad, it is not possible for the Central Government to take a decision in the matter.

Accidents on National Highways

65. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents on the National Highways during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed/injured therein during the said period, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to check and minimise the road accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Statement showing State-wise number of accidents, persons killed/injured on National Highways during the last three years is attached herewith.

(c) Steps taken are:

(i) widening of two-lane sections to four lane sections;

(ii) single lane to two-lanes,

(iii) providing raised shoulders,

(iv) strengthening weak pavements,

(v) reconstruction of weak and narrow bridges and culverts,

(vi) replacement of level crossing by road over bridges,

(vii) provision of retro-reflective road signs,

(viii) thermoplastic road markings,

(ix) laybys and

(x) wayside amenities on high traffic density corridors, etc.

Statement*Statement Showing Road Accidents, Persons Killed & Injured on National Highways*

States/U.Territories	Accidents		
	1996	1997	1998
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	7117	5679	8245
Arunachal Pradesh	63	54	51
Assam	1464	1584	1647
Bihar	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Goa	946	886	1000
Gujarat	4967	7071	7765
Haryana	2385	2316	N.A.
Himachal Pradesh	704	661	1033
Jammu & Kashmir	324	567	N.A.
Karnataka	8040	N.A.	N.A.
Kerala	7577	7508	7212
Madhya Pradesh	6816	N.A.	N.A.
Maharashtra	16513	16473	N.A.
Manipur	163	161	192
Meghalaya	175	203	250

1	2	3	4
Mizoram	46	27	61
Nagaland	73	22	43
Orissa	2264	2107	N.A.
Punjab	876	1229	N.A.
Rajasthan	6501	6924	7219
Sikkim	66	48	32
Tamil Nadu	12300	13107	13731
Tripura	125	291	108
Uttar Pradesh	5622	5648	5741
West Bengal	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
A&N Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chandigarh	51	56	38
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil
Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
Delhi	1057	1227	1155
Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pondicherry	209	233	215
Total	86444	74082	55738

N.A. = Not Available.

States/U. Territories	Killed		
	1996	1997	1998
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	2580	2228	3102
Arunachal Pradesh	13	13	28
Assam	760	866	787
Bihar	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Goa	96	111	107
Gujarat	1121	1590	1380
Haryana	1211	1110	N.A.
Himachal Pradesh	216	181	292
Jammu & Kashmir	173	131	N.A.
Karnataka	1974	N.A.	N.A.
Kerala	859	851	826
Madhya Pradesh	1355	N.A.	N.A.
Maharashtra	3043	3197	N.A.
Manipur	32	43	40
Meghalaya	58	100	87
Mizoram	31	12	39

1	2	3	4
Nagaland	50	15	10
Orissa	763	673	N.A.
Punjab	561	938	N.A.
Rajasthan	2058	2078	2118
Sikkim	11	10	10
Tamil Nadu	2787	2775	3106
Tripura	45	59	46
Uttar Pradesh	3098	3165	3318
West Bengal	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
A&N Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chandigarh	26	25	14
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil
Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
Delhi	280	415	305
Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pondicherry	27	32	34
Total	23228	20618	15649

N.A. = Not Available.

States/U. Territories	Injured		
	1996	1997	1998
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	7982	7052	9286
Arunachal Pradesh	94	134	62
Assam	2288	2623	2364
Bihar	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Goa	782	605	695
Gujarat	4937	7069	7735
Haryana	3089	2554	N.A.
Himachal Pradesh	996	1006	1488
Jammu & Kashmir	395	526	N.A.
Karnataka	11824	N.A.	N.A.
Kerala	11673	10748	10805
Madhya Pradesh	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Maharashtra	13289	13388	N.A.
Manipur	295	294	472
Meghalaya	184	329	165
Mizoram	117	57	147

1	2	3	4
Nagaland	76	63	30
Orissa	2727	2669	N.A.
Punjab	813	1077	N.A.
Rajasthan	7961	7664	9122
Sikkim	115	69	40
Tamil Nadu	11159	9074	9822
Tripura	174	504	209
Uttar Pradesh	4136	4084	4437
West Bengal	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
A&N Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chandigarh	39	44	34
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil
Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
Delhi	1029	1011	1012
Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pondicherry	188	265	204
Total	86362	72909	58129

N.A. = Not available.

**Allotment of Private Shops in Post Offices
Premises**

66. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms under which private shops are allotted in Post Offices;

(b) whether a large number of shops have been allotted in Andhra Pradesh violating these norms;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of shops allotted in post offices of Hyderabad;

(e) whether Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Department has a scheme called Post Shop to provide an outlet in the post offices for items having synergy with post office business. Details of the scheme are given in enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (b).

(d) No such Post Shop allotted in any post office in Hyderabad.

(e) to (g) Do not arise, in view of the replies to parts (a) to (d)

Statement

Details of the Scheme for Post Shop:

1. Post shops can be opened in post offices functioning in Departmental buildings where adequate space is available.
2. Proposals/tenders are invited from members of the public for opening such post shops. They are examined by the Committee comprising Chief Post Master General, Circle Internal Financial Advisor and Superintendent Engineer (Civil).

3. All things being equal, the highest bid in terms of remuneration offered in return for opening the post shop is accepted.

4. The expenditure for erecting any counter, etc. for operating the post shop is to be borne by the selected applicant.

5. The post shop functions during the office hours of the post office.

Power Generation

67. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total power generation capacity in the country till-date; and

(b) the annual per capita power consumption till-date?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The all India installed power generation capacity in the country as on 31.10.1999 is as follows:—

Hydro	23024.78 MW
Thermal	68985.76 MW
Nuclear	2240.00 MW
Wind	1024.00 MW
Total	95274.54 MW

(b) According to information collected by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in 1997-98 the provisional annual per capita power consumption in the country was 349.05 Kwh.

Gas Based Thermal Power Station In Chandigarh

68. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Chandigarh Administration has requested to the Government for setting up of gas based thermal power generation plant in the Union Territory; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Chandigarh Administration had decided to instal 120 MW liquid fuel based Power Station at Chandigarh and had requested NTPC to provide them with requisite consultancy. Based on their request, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) provided requisite consultancy for setting up the power project and have submitted the draft feasibility report to Chandigarh Administration.

[Translation]

Dilapidated Condition of N.H. in Maharashtra

69. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the dilapidated condition of the National Highways, especially National Highways Nos. 4 and 17 in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to make these Highways motorable and the amount allocated for this purpose; and

(c) the time by which the condition of these Highways is likely to be improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) The National Highway Nos. 4 and 17 in Maharashtra are being maintained in traffic worthy condition within the funds available.

(b) For development of these highways to National Highway standards, at present 26 number of works with a total sanctioned cost of Rs. 14.38 cr. on NH-4 and 28 number of works with an aggregate sanctioned amount of Rs. 25.69 crores on NH-17 are in progress. During 1999-2000 an amount of Rs. 49.00 crores have been allocated for Original works on all National Highways for Maharashtra. Out of which, an amount of Rs. 9.18 cr. is allocated for NH-4 and Rs. 12.98 cr. for NH-17. Besides, during 1999-2000 a sum of Rs. 36.05 crores has been allotted for maintenance of all National Highways in Maharashtra. An additional sanction amounting to Rs. 10.52 crores has been made towards special repair works on NH-17 which is targeted to be completed by March 2000.

(c) Most of the on-going works on NH-4 and 17 is targeted to be completed by June 2000. Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and efforts are made to take up additional works with due consideration to the intensity of traffic and availability of funds.

[English]

Transmission and Distribution Losses

70. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transmission and distribution (T&D) losses are higher than the desired level;

(b) if so, State-wise details of T&D losses and their variation from the desired level;

(c) the share of investment in T&D network of the total investment in Power Sector; and

(d) the steps taken to minimise T&D losses?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The T&D losses for the country as a whole were 24.53% in the year 1996-97, which were higher than the desired level. According to the guidelines of CEA on the subject, the reasonable level of the losses could be 10 to 15% depending the load densities, length of the lines, configuration of the system, spatial distribution and nature of load etc.

(b) The statewise details of T&D losses are given in the enclosed Statement I.

(c) The share of the investment in T&D network of the total investment in the power sector, plan-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The responsibility for the distribution of power rests with the State Government/Electricity Boards. In order to reduce the T&D losses, Central Electricity Authority had issued guidelines which inter alia provide for the following:—

- Upgradation of operating voltages
- Reduction of length of LT lines
- Location of Transformers near load centres
- Adoption of low capacity transformers near consumer premises
- Installation of shunt capacitors
- Improvement in construction and operation techniques, and
- Systematic and the methodological approach for Planning and design of distribution system on the long term basis.

The CEA has also issued guidelines for conducting energy audit. These guidelines lay down the procedure for conducting energy audit studies, and a methodology for segregating technical and commercial losses.

Necessary amendments have been enacted to the I.E. Act 1910 to make theft of electricity a cognizable offence.

In the Common Minimum National Action Plan for power announced in December, 1996 after consultation with the State Governments' the following measures which could contribute to reduction of T&D losses have been suggested:

- (i) Compulsory metering at sub-stations on all major feeders.

(ii) Compulsory metering of all new electricity connections. Metering of all connections to agricultural sector exceeding 10 HP should be completed within a period of 2 years.

(iii) All electric supplies should be metered by 2002 A.D.

(iv) Compulsory annual energy audit to be ensured in respect of large consumers of more than 100 KVA load.

(v) Time of the day metering would be introduced for big power consumers for better load management.

Statement I

Percentage Transformation Transmission & Distribution Losses (including energy Unaccounted for) in States/UTs

Region	States/UTs	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Northern Region	1. Haryana	26.78	25.00	30.80	32.39	32.77
	2. Himachal Pradesh	19.98	18.80	19.17	16.41	18.42
	3. Jammu & Kashmir	48.13	46.37	50.07	49.03	49.97
	4. Punjab	19.61	19.70	17.19	18.32	18.95
	5. Rajasthan	22.71	24.85	24.65	29.29	25.88
	6. Uttar Pradesh	24.68	24.37	21.87	22.75	25.06
	7. Chandigarh	26.21	27.27	28.44	33.72	21.88
	8. Delhi	24.02	32.54	35.08	49.57	49.64
	9. BBMB	3.52	3.64	4.05	3.85	3.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Western Region	1. Gujarat	22.20	20.81	20.87	21.03	21.42
	2. Madhya Pradesh	22.52	21.78	20.75	19.27	20.59
	3. Maharashtra	18.51	17.83	17.47	18.21	17.72
	4. D&N Haveli	17.98	12.64	11.35	9.31	8.80
	5. Goa	21.85	24.50	26.87	28.06	23.50
	6. Daman & Diu	15.87	22.34	16.30	12.80	8.15
Southern Region	1. Andhra Pradesh	20.65	20.21	18.05	19.58	33.09
	2. Karnataka	19.62	19.49	19.35	19.15	18.86
	3. Kerala	22.77	20.52	20.81	21.48	21.37
	4. Tamil Nadu	17.30	16.99	17.12	16.13	17.22
	5. Lakshadweep	18.72	16.99	17.084	17.23	15.11
	6. Pondicherry	15.31	15.80	15.00	16.54	17.38
Eastern Region	1. Bihar	17.15	15.12	15.28	12.62	18.16
	2. Orissa	25.87	23.07	23.66	25.63	50.38
	3. Sikkim	22.55	22.60	21.22	18.47	29.24
	4. West Bengal	17.53	15.96	19.45	19.98	20.62

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	5. A&N Islands	23.62	23.71	22.38	19.25	19.15
	6. DVC	1.99	1.33	0.64	2.15	1.98
North Eastern Region	1. Assam	21.41	22.44	24.18	27.60	25.97
	2. Manipur	22.35	23.92	25.30	24.85	22.95
	3. Meghalaya	11.62	17.89	19.03	12.86	19.48
	4. Nagaland	27.26	33.45	36.12	35.17	26.81
	5. Tripura	30.64	30.53	31.96	30.86	30.11
	6. Arunachal Pradesh	32.32	42.04	45.30	37.12	32.62
	7. Mizoram	29.04	31.89	29.76	25.18	34.35
	All India (Utilities)	21.80	21.41	21.13	22.27	24.53

Statement II*Planwise Details of Investment in Power Sector*

(Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	Plan Period	Expenditure incurred on Generation T&D & RE	Ratio between Generation & T&D + RE
1	2	3	4
1.	1st Plan (1951-56)	105	140 1 : 1.33
2.	2nd Plan (1956-61)	250	190 1 : 0.76

1	2	3	4
3.	3rd Plan (1961-66)	777	454 1 : 0.58
4.	Three Annuals (1966-69)	676	528 1 : 0.78
5.	4th Plan (1969-74)	1505	1386 1 : 0.92
6.	5th Plan (1974-79)	4467	2963 1 : 0.66
7.	Annual Plan (1979-80)	1429	1098 1 : 0.77
8.	6th Plan (1980-85)	12116	6320 1 : 0.52
9.	7th Plan (1985-90)	24528	12392 1 : 0.51
10.	Annual Plan (1990-91)	7003	2930 1 : 0.42
11.	Annual Plan (1991-92)	10373	3250 1 : 0.31
12.	8th Plan (1992-97)*	49424	26281 1 : 0.53
13.	9th Plan (1997-2002)**	194000	134400 1 : 0.69

* The figures for these periods are the outlays.

** As per working Group Report for 9th Plan Power Development.

Incomplete Works between Doboka and Dimapur of NH36

71. DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the incomplete works at the stretch of road between Doboka and Dimapur of National Highway 36;

(b) the time by which the said works are likely to be completed;

(c) the amount of funds spent on the stretch of National Highway 36 during the last three years; and

(d) the funds earmarked to complete the works for current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) The following five works are in progress at the stretch of road between Doboka and Dimapur of National Highway 36.

(i) Construction of Bridge No. 48/2 including approaches across river Lunget.

(ii) Protection work for Bridge No. 112/5 across river Harina.

- (iii) Land acquisition for Km. 118-125.
- (iv) Construction of slab culvert in Km 18.
- (v) Construction of road side covered drain at Km. 77th from Ch. 761.80 to Ch. 763.50.

(b) These works are targeted to be completed between March 2000 to March 2001.

(c) The State P.W.D. authorities have reported a total expenditure of Rs. 85 lakh on these works upto March 1999.

(d) The funds earmarked for these works during the current year are Rs. 42 lakh.

[*Translation*]

STD/ISD/PCOs Booths in Himachal Pradesh

72. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCOs booths installed in Himachal Pradesh during last three years;

(b) the norms adopted for the allotment of STD/ISD/PCOs booths; and

(c) the details of targets fixed for setting up of such booths during Ninth Five Years Plan, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of STD/ISD/PCO booths installed in Himachal Pradesh during the last 3 years is as given below:—

Year	No. of STD/ISD/PCO installed
1996-97	279
1997-98	358
1998-99	309

(b) According to the present policy of the department, STD/ISD/PCOs are allotted to educated unemployed persons on first come first served basis as per the registration.

(c) The target for installation of STD/ISD/PCO is fixed by the department in respect of each Telecom. Circle on

year to year basis. The SSA wise (Telecom district) target in respect of H.P. Circle for the year 1999-2000 is as under:

Name of the SSA	Target (1999-2000)
Shimla	60
Solan	60
Hamirpur	50
Dharamsala	50
Mandi	50
Kullu	30

[*English*]

Misuse of Funds by VSNL

73. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether charges have been levelled against Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) that they are systematically misapplying and misusing huge funds in unviable financial projects leading to no returns and passing on the burden to the consumers by charging high rates of tariffs for ISO calls;

(b) whether the consumers in the eastern Uttar Pradesh have filed a PIL in the Bombay High Court in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No notice of such petition has been served on VSNL.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Petroleum/Gas Reserves

74. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total petroleum and gas reserves in the country at present, State-wise; and

(b) the details of sites in Southern States where petroleum or gas is being extracted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The details of sites/fields of ONGC which are on production as on 1.4.99 are given as below:—

Andhra Pradesh:— Adivipalem, Elamanchili, Endamuru, Kaikalur, Kesanapalli-W, Kesavadasapalem, Lankapalem, Lingala, Mandapeta, Mori, Pasarlapudi, Ponnamanda, Razole & Tatipaka.

Tamil Nadu:— Adiyakkamanglam, Kamalapuram, Kovilkalappal, Nannilam, Narimanam, Pallivarmangalam, Pundi, Tiruvarur & Tulsapatnam.

Maintenance of Trees Under Afforestation Programme

75. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have the reports about poor or total lack of maintenance of the trees planted under different afforestation programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the proper and efficient maintenance of saplings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) No such report has been received for the afforestation schemes being currently implemented in the Ninth Plan. With a view to improve performance, the State Governments and the administration of Union Territories have been advised to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation mechanism. For the projects sanctioned to State Governments during the Ninth Plan under the centrally sponsored afforestation schemes, viz. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme, Area

Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme and Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme, funds are being provided for maintenance of plantations upto 5 years.

Boiler Manufacturing Unit

76. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ABL (Durgapur - West Bengal) is having a crisis for not getting enough support from Ministry to get orders for Boiler, specially of Talcher; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to save the situation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) For the Talcher project, no bid from ABL was received against the bidding of steam generator (boiler) package. ABB-ABL's name was, however, proposed by one of the bidders, i.e. M/s. Combustion Engineering Inc. USA(CE) as an assignee in its bid. During the evaluation of bids, the bid of CE was considered non-responsive by NTPC and therefore, CE was not considered for award of work and the work was awarded to M/s. BHEL, the lowest evaluated responsive bidder. A writ petition filed by Engineers Union & Others in the High Court of Calcutta challenging NTPC's decision to award contract to BHEL was dismissed by the Court on the ground of jurisdiction. Another writ petition filed by ABB-ABL in the High Court of Allahabad has also been dismissed by the Court on 3.11.1999 as the Court did not find any error in the decision making process relating to grant of contract by NTPC in favour of M/s. BHEL.

[Translation]

Forest Wealth

77. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present situation of the forest wealth in the country;

(b) the details of the action plans of the Government to check deforestation and to enhance the forest area;

(c) the provisions made for the purpose in the current Five Year Plan;

(d) the reasons for not achieving the desired results in the social forestry scheme; and

(e) the details of the Government policy for use of forests by the tribals residing in the forest area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) As per State of Forest Report, 1997, forest cover of the country is 19.27% of the geographical area, out of which dense and open forests are 11.17% and 7.95% respectively.

(b) The major steps taken by the Government to increase the forest cover are:

- (i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.
- (ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.
- (iii) Guidelines to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.
- (iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.
- (v) A net work of protected areas has been established.
- (vi) Recently, Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources. Ministry has also requested Planning Commission and all States/UTs Government for increasing the allocation for forestry sector.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 1454 crores has been earmarked for Ministry of Environment and Forests in the Ninth Five Year Plan for conservation and development of forests in the country.

(d) Social forestry schemes have been by and large successful in reducing pressure on forests by augmenting the available bio mass.

(e) Paras 4.3.4.3 and 4.6 of the National Forest Policy, 1988, regarding use of forests by the tribal residing in the forest areas, are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Forest Wealth asked by Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat

Para 4.3. 4.3 of the National Forest Policy, 1998

The life of tribals and other poor living within and near forests revolves around forests. The rights and concessions enjoyed by them should be fully protected. Their domestic requirements of fuelwood, fodder, minor forest produce and construction timber should be the first charge on forest produce. These and substitute materials should be made available through conveniently located depots at reasonable prices.

Para 4.6 of the National Forest Policy, 1988

Having regard to the symbiotic relationship between the tribal people and forests, a primary task of all agencies responsible for forest management, including the forest development corporations should be to associate the tribal people closely in the protection, regeneration and development of forests as well as to provide gainful employment to people living in and around the forest. While safeguarding the customary rights and interests of such people, forestry programmes should pay special attention to the following:—

- One of the major causes for degradation of forest is illegal cutting and removal by contractors and their labour. In order to put an end to this practice, contractors should be replaced by institutions such as tribal cooperatives, labour cooperatives, government corporations, etc. as early as possible.
- Protection, regeneration and optimum collection of minor forest produce along with institutional arrangements for the marketing of such produce;
- Development of forest villages on par with revenue villages;
- Undertaking integrated area development Programmes to meet the needs of the tribal economy in and around the forest areas, including the provision of alternative sources of domestic energy on a subsidised basis, to reduce pressure on the existing forest areas.

[English]

Expenditure on Anti-Terrorist Operations

78. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to bear the expenditure on all anti-terrorist operations in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether such expenditure is also being borne in case of other States like Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and other North-Eastern States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Government of India is reimbursing security related expenditure (SRE) incurred by the State of Himachal Pradesh for containing/controlling the spill over of militant activities from J&K to HP, on the basis of approved guidelines w.e.f. 01.11.1998.

(b) Yes, Sir, the Central Government is reimbursing such expenditure incurred by the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura; in respect of certain identified items, as per approved norms.

(c) and (d) Government of India has made reimbursement as per following details, over and above the expenditure made on Army/CPMFs deployed in the State:—

State	For the Period	Amount in Crores
Himachal Pradesh	1998-99	00.37
Jammu & Kashmir	1990-99	1334.78*
Assam	1990-99	250.77
Manipur	1995-99	23.17
Nagaland	1995-99	43.40
Tripura	1995-99	46.08

*Including Rs. 152.16 crore for election related SRE.

Implementation of Traffic Rules

79. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had given a ruling sometime in the past that the buses and other four-wheelers will ply on the left of the road and a yellow line is to be drawn for the purpose;

(b) if so, whether the ruling of the Supreme Court is not being followed by the private buses and four-wheelers and accidents continue to be caused on account of overtaking; and

(c) if so, the reasons for Delhi Police not implementing the ruling of the Supreme Court and the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The Supreme Court of India in its order dated 20th November, 1997 in the Writ Petition (C) No. 13029 of 1985 had, inter alia, directed the authorities concerned to ensure that buses are confined to the bus lane wherever it exists and not to permit other motorised vehicles to enter upon the bus lane. The Apex Court had further directed the agencies concerned to take steps to ensure that bus lanes are segregated and road markings are provided on all such roads as may be directed by the police and transport authorities.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The directions of the Supreme Court of India are being enforced regularly, within existing constraints, on all roads where bus lanes have been provided. However, bus lanes could not be provided on some roads due to their narrow width and in some other areas where buses are obstructed due to heavy cycle traffic, they are permitted at times to come out of the bus lane.

[Translation]

Conservation of Wildlife

80. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of surveys conducted by Zoological Survey of India in regard to the ecological conditions in different States of the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of the different species identified during these surveys, State-wise; and

(c) the initiatives taken by the Government for conservation of wildlife during the current year and also during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The details of State-wise number of surveys conducted by Zoological Survey of India in regard to the ecological conditions in different States of the country during the last three years and the number of different (species) identified during these surveys is given in the enclosed Statement I and II.

(c) The initiatives taken by the Government for conservation of wildlife include in-situ and ex-situ conservation, protection and development of wildlife and its habitat, promotion of wildlife research, training and enforcement of wildlife laws and survey and inventorization. Details are given in the enclosed Statement III.

Statement I

List of Surveys Conducted During 1997-98 to November 1999

Sl.No.	State/Ecosystem	Total No. of Surveys
1	2	3
01.	Andhra Pradesh (Estuarine & Coastal Zone Survey)	36
02.	Arunachal Pradesh (Himalayan Ecosystem)	15
03.	Andaman & Nicobar Is. (Island Ecosystem)	06
04.	Bihar (Gangetic Plains)	07
05.	Delhi (State Survey)	02
06.	Gujarat (Conservation Areas)	02
07.	Himachal Pradesh (State Survey)	02

1	2	3
08.	Jammu & Kashmir (Himalayan Ecosystem)	03
09.	Karnataka (State Survey)	04
10.	Kerala (Tropical Rain Forest Ecosystem)	06
11.	Maharashtra (Wetlands and Tiger Reserves)	16
12.	Madhya Pradesh (State Survey)	09
13.	Meghalaya (State & Freshwater ecosystem)	09
14.	Manipur (Tropical Rain Forest Ecosystem)	01
15.	Mizoram (Tropical Rain Forest ecosystem)	03
16.	Nagaland (Tropical Rain Forest ecosystem)	04
17.	Punjab (Wetlands)	05
18.	Rajasthan (State, Wetlands and Conservation areas)	08
19.	Sikkim (State survey)	04
20.	Tamil Nadu (State Survey & Conservation areas)	04
21.	Uttar Pradesh (State Survey & Wetlands)	13
22.	West Bengal (State survey & Coastal areas)	25
Total		184

Statement II

*Number of Species Identified During 1997-98
to Nov. 1999*

Sl. No.	State	No. of Species
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Island Ecosystem)	317
2.	Andhra Pradesh (State Survey & Estuarine Ecosystem)	216
3.	Arunachal Pradesh (Himalayan Ecosystem)	25
4.	Assam (Himalayan Ecosystem)	19
5.	Bihar (Valmiki Tiger Reserve)	06
6.	Delhi (Conservation Area)	22
7.	Himachal Pradesh (Himalayan Ecosystem)	94
8.	Jammu & Kashmir (Himalayan Ecosystem)	22
9.	Kerala (Tropical Rain Forest)	264
10.	Madhya Pradesh (State Survey)	123
11.	Manipur (Tropical Rain Forest Ecosystem)	132
12.	Maharashtra (State Survey & Conservation area)	99
13.	Meghalaya (Wetlands)	09
14.	Mizoram (Tropical Rain Forest Ecosystem)	116
15.	Nagaland (Tropical Rain Forest Ecosystem)	42
16.	Orissa (State Survey)	35

1	2	3
17.	Pondicherry (State Survey)	26
18.	Punjab (Wetlands)	79
19.	Rajasthan (Conservation area)	07
20.	Sikkim (State Survey)	136
21.	Tamil Nadu (State Survey & Conservation area)	274
22.	Uttar Pradesh (Conservation area)	213
23.	West Bengal (State Survey & Coastal area)	103
Total		2,379

Statement III

The initiatives taken by the Government for conservation of wild life during the current year and also during the Ninth Five Year Plan

Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries: Assistance is provided to the State Governments for better management of the protected areas. Rs. 85 crores is the approved outlay for the 9th Plan. Rs. 12.00 crores have been earmarked for 1999-2000 under the above scheme.

Eco development Around Protected Areas: The scheme attempts to mitigate the pressure on protected areas and provides alternate sources of sustenance to the communities living on the fringes of protected areas. A total 9th Plan outlay of Rs. 40 crores has been provided for the scheme and the current year's plan outlay is Rs. 9.00 crores.

India Eco-development Programme: The India Eco-development Programme funded by the GEF World Bank at present, is being implemented in six protected areas and is being implemented with an outlay of Rs. 296 crore over a five year period.

Project Tiger: The Project Tiger aims at conservation of tiger and its habitat. The outlay for the IX plan is Rs. 75 crores and Rs. 17 crores have been earmarked for the year 1999-2000.

Project Elephant: The Project Elephant was launched in 1991 for preserving the gene pool of this unique species and its natural habitats. The IX plan outlay for Project Elephant is Rs. 40 crores and the current year's outlay is Rs. 5.20 crores.

Beneficiary Oriented Tribal Development Scheme: The Central Government has taken up a programme for relocation of people outside the protected areas under the scheme 'Beneficiary Oriented Tribal Welfare Scheme'.

Strengthening of Wildlife Division and Consultancies for Special Tasks: The Scheme aims to strengthen the existing regional offices of Wildlife Preservation and for better enforcement of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 & CITES. The 9th Plan provision is Rs. 6.00 crores and Rs. 2.00 crores is the outlay for the current year.

Grants in Aid to the Wildlife Institute of India: It is involved in training, education, extension and research in wildlife. During the IX Plan the outlay of this Central Sector Scheme is Rs. 25 crores. The outlay for 1999-2000 is Rs. 4.00 crore.

Central Zoo Authority: It oversees and monitor the management of zoos, evaluates their present status and supports plans for improvement of zoos. Rs. 40 crores is the approved outlay for IX Plan and the outlay for 1999-2000 is Rs. 12 crores.

National Zoological Park: The main objective is ex-situ conservation, captive breeding of endangered species of wild fauna, education and awareness. The scheme also aims at creating empathy in public for wild animals and their conservation. Rs. 4.0 crores is the outlay for IX Plan and Rs. 25 lakhs is the outlay for 1999-2000.

[English]

L.P.G. Agencies at Uluberia in West Bengal

81. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister for PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals for setting up new L.P.G. agencies at Uluberia in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which new LPG agencies are likely to be set up there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Uluberia in West Bengal has been included in the LPG Marketing Plan and advertised by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited under Defence Category. Applications received in response have been sent to the concerned Dealer Selection Board for selection of distributor as per prescribed procedure. It generally takes about 1-2 years for commissioning of the distributorship from the date of issue of advertisement.

Construction of Post Office Buildings

82. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices functioning in the rented buildings at present in Kerala, district-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to construct the buildings of Post Offices in the State particularly Head Post Office in Kayam Kulam during 1999-2000;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Details given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No, Sir. No new projects are proposed to be constructed in Kerala during 1999-2000 due to limited funds.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

(d) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

Statement

The number of Post Offices functioning in rented buildings at present in Kerala, District-wise

Name of District	No. of Post Offices in rented Buildings
1	2
1. Trivandrum	122
2. Pathanamthitta	97
3. Kollam	91

	1	2
4.	Alappuzha	101
5.	Kottayam	111
6.	Idukki	40
7.	Ernakulam	120
8.	Trichur	151
9.	Palakkad	128
10.	Melappuram	93
11.	Calicut	82
12.	Wynad	14
13.	Cannanore	89
14.	Kasaragod	27
	Total:	1266

Illegal Serving of Liquor

83. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of serving of liquor illegally in the banquet halls, farm houses have come to light in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(c) the action taken against the people/officials concerned and the steps taken to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The number of such cases reported during the last three years and upto 24th November 1999 and there present status, as furnished by Delhi Police, is given in the attached *statement*. The measures taken to curb this practice include frequent checking of banquet halls & farm houses during the marriage seasons and creating an awareness by issuing advisory and cautionary notices, etc.

Statement

Year	Reported	Worked Out	Challaned	Pending Trial	Pending Investigation	Persons Arrested	Challaned	Pending Trial	Pending Investigation
1996	7	1	1	1	—	2	2	2	—
1997	10	4	4	4	—	6	6	6	—
1998	17	11	11	11	—	24	24	24	—
1999 (Upto 24.11.99)	5	5	2	2	3	13	2	4	9
Total	39	21	18	18	3	45	34	36	9

Telelink Facility

84. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country having telelink facility till now, State-wise; and

(b) the number of villages proposed to be linked with this facility by the end of this fiscal year in the country particularly in the West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) So Far (upto 31-10-1999), 344,508 revenue villages have been provided with telecom facility. For the current fiscal year a target of 45,136 villages has been fixed. For West Bengal Telecom Circle, a target of 5,000 VPTs has been fixed. State-wise information is in the enclosed Statement.

Statement*Statewise VPT Status as on 31-10-1999*

Circles	Total No. of Villages	Villages with VPTs as on 1-11-1999
1	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar	282	244
Andhra Pradesh	29460	23364
Assam	22224	13496
Bihar	79208	20893
Gujarat	18125	13923
Haryana	6850	6807
Himachal Pradesh	16997	8070
Jammu & Kashmir	6764	3451
Karnataka	27066	23690
Kerala	1530	1530
Madhya Pradesh	71526	42998
Maharashtra	42060	31005

1	2	3
Goa	407	371
Maharashtra	42467	31376
Arunachal Pradesh	3599	578
Manipur	2394	649
Meghalaya	5629	1100
Mizoram	770	605
Nagaland	1192	537
Tripura	862	598
North-East	14446	4067
Orissa	46989	20872
Punjab	12687	12084
Rajasthan	38634	23295
Tamil Nadu	17991	17839
Uttar Pradesh (East)	75698	39398
Uttar Pradesh (West)	39551	19947
West Bengal	37910	16294
Sikkim	427	258
West Bengal	38337	16552
Calcutta Telephones	468	421
Delhi	191	191
Total	607491	344508

Buildings for Telephone Exchanges

85. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several telephone exchanges do not have their own buildings in the country;

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

(c) the number of said buildings constructed in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to construct the buildings for telephone exchanges in the country during 1999-2000;

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

(f) the amount allocated for the purpose;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the construction work of buildings for telephone exchanges is still going on in Kerala;

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

(j) the amount being spent thereon; and

(k) the time by which the construction work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State wise breakup of the number of exchanges which do not have their own buildings is given in the enclosed Statement I

(c) State wise break up of the number of exchange buildings completed in the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement II.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Statement III indicating the number of buildings proposed to be constructed during 1999-2000 in each State is enclosed.

(f) Rs. 442 Crores have been allocated during 1999-2000.

(g) Not applicable.

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) Details of telephone exchange buildings under construction in Kerala is given in enclosed Statement IV enclosed.

(j) Rs. 22 Crores during 1999-2000.

(k) The dates by which the construction works are likely to be completed are given in enclosed Statement IV.

Statement I

Number of Telephone Exchanges which do not have their own buildings

S.No.	State	Numbers
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	15
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1708
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	7
4.	Assam	230
5.	Bihar	752
6.	Gujarat	1259
7.	Haryana	668
8.	Himachal Pradesh	598
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	215
10.	Karnataka	1824
11.	Kerala	489
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2790

1	2	3
13.	Maharashtra	2673
14.	Manipur	18
15.	Meghalaya	21
16.	Mizoram	22
17.	Nagaland	3
18.	Orissa	609
19.	Punjab	817
20.	Rajasthan	1652
21.	Tamil Nadu	1188
22.	Tripura	27
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1660
24.	West Bengal	813
Total		20058

Statement II

*Number of buildings constructed during
the last three years*

S.No.	State	Numbers
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	112

1	2	3
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	16
4.	Assam	26
5.	Bihar	45
6.	Gujarat	60
7.	Haryana	19
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	15
10.	Karnataka	153
11.	Kerala	201
12.	Madhya Pradesh	141
13.	Maharashtra	246
14.	Manipur	4
15.	Meghalaya	9
16.	Mizoram	18
17.	Nagaland	8
18.	Orissa	25
19.	Punjab	49
20.	Rajasthan	88

1	2	3
21.	Tamil Nadu	145
22.	Tripura	23
23.	Uttar Pradesh	199
24.	West Bengal	60
Total		1679

Statement III

Number of Buildings proposed for construction in 1999-2000

S.No.	State	Numbers
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	67
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	35
4.	Assam	30
5.	Bihar	33
6.	Gujarat	40
7.	Haryana	14
8.	Himachal Pradesh	23
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6
10.	Karnataka	53
11.	Kerala	92

1	2	3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	56
13.	Maharashtra	126
14.	Manipur	9
15.	Meghalaya	17
16.	Mizoram	23
17.	Nagaland	9
18.	Orissa	38
19.	Punjab	48
20.	Rajasthan	34
21.	Tamil Nadu	65
22.	Tripura	13
23.	Uttar Pradesh	107
24.	West Bengal	13
Total		953

Statement IV

Details of Telephone Exchange buildings under construction in Kerala State

S.No.	Station	Expected date of completion
1	2	3
Alleppey SSA		
1.	Aroor	31-1-2000
2.	Haripad	31-12-1999

1	2	3
3.	Kuruvattla	31-3-2000
4.	Kayamkulam	29-2-2000
5.	Nooranod	31-12-1999
6.	Pallanacud	31-5-2000
7.	Trikunnapuzha	31-1-2000
Calicut SSA		
1.	Atholy	31-12-1999
2.	Chakkittapara	31-3-2000
3.	Chevayur	31-12-1999
4.	Kalpakanchery	30-9-2000
5.	Kondolly	31-8-2000
6.	Kooruchundu	31-12-1999
7.	Malaparamba	31-12-1999
8.	Mavoor	30-4-2000
9.	Puduppody	31-12-1999
10.	REC-Chathamangalam	30-9-2000
11.	Sultan Battery	31-7-1999
12.	Thamarassery	30-9-1999
13.	Tirur	30-11-1999
14.	Valluvambaram	31-12-1999
15.	Wandoor	31-12-1999

1	2	3
Ernakulam SSA		
1.	Karimannur	30-4-2000
2.	Kothallukulam	31-12-1999
3.	Mulanthuruthy	30-11-1999
4.	Muttom	31-12-1999
5.	Nedum Kandom	31-1-2000
6.	Prakash	30-6-2000
7.	Udampannur	31-10-1999
Lakshadweep SSA		
1.	Agathy	30-9-2000
2.	Amini	30-9-2000
3.	Kudamath	30-9-2000
4.	Kalpeni	30-9-2000
5.	Kavarathy	30-9-2000
6.	Minicoy	30-9-2000
Kottoyam SSA		
1.	Erattupetta	31-1-2000
2.	Kootickal	31-1-2000
3.	Kottayam	30-9-2000
4.	Kuduvechoor	31-8-2000

1	2	3
5.	Kurivalangad	31-1-2000
6.	Ranapuram	31-1-2000
7.	Thalayalaparamba	30-4-2000
Palgat SSA		
1.	Alathur	29-2-2000
2.	Koduvayur	30-4-2000
Pathanamthitta SSA		
1.	Elanthur	31-1-2000
2.	Malayalapurza	31-12-2000
3.	Kodumon	31-1-2000
Quilon SSA		
1.	Channopetta	31-12-1999
2.	Chepila	31-1-2000
3.	Irumpanagad	31-12-1999
4.	Kokkod	31-1-2000
5.	Kunnuthur	31-12-1999
6.	Munrore Island	30-4-2000
7.	Nedumapana	31-12-1999
8.	Pattazhi	31-1-2000
9.	Velinallur	31-12-1999

1	2	3
Trichur SSA		
1.	Kodakara	31-3-2000
2.	Korathy	30-4-2000
3.	Mundur Cochin	30-4-2000
4.	Ollar	30-4-2000
5.	Peringannom	30-4-2000
6.	Punnayurkalam	31-7-2000
7.	Trichur	30-6-2000
8.	Varantharapilly	29-2-2000
9.	Vellikulangara	31-12-1999
Trivandrum SSA		
1.	Aryaned	31-3-2000
2.	Kanjiramkulam	30-4-2000
3.	Karyavattam	31-8-2000
4.	Malayinkil	30-5-2000
5.	Manacaud	31-8-2000
6.	Mangattuparamba	30-9-2000
7.	Medical College-TVM	31-1-2000
8.	Nedumangad	31-12-1999
9.	Neyyattinkara	29-2-2000
10.	Peringanna	31-1-2000
11.	Vatthyoorkavu	31-8-2000
12.	Vitharu	31-1-2000

[Translation]

Mobile Cellular Telephone Service by MTNL

86. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for Mobile Cellular telephones;

(b) whether MTNL failed in providing such telephones to all these applicants; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which such telephones are likely to be provided to all the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Total 6372 applications for mobile phones received by MTNL, Delhi.

(b) Partially yes, upto 5000 registrants out of 6372 registrants are in the process of being given connection. However, 1372 registrants shall have to be kept in the waiting list.

(c) 1372 applicants could not be provided the connections due to the capacity constraints. Additional equipment is being procured to clear 500 applicants by the end of the current financial year and balance during 2000-2001.

Loss and Damage to Postal and Telecom Properties in Orissa

87. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the financial loss and damage caused to the Postal and Telecom properties in Orissa by the recent two severe and super cyclones;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for restoration of the post and telegraph facility in the State;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be accomplished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):

(a) Department of Post

No case of financial loss has been reported till date. The damage caused to the postal buildings by the two

recent severe cyclones has been assessed, so far, as Rs. 1.65 crores. Details of the damage are given in the enclosed statement-I.

Department of Telecom

410 telephone exchanges were damaged in Orissa by the recent two severe and super cyclones. The financial loss is expected to be Rs. 112 crores approximately. The details are enclosed in the enclosed statement-II.

(b) Department of Post

Immediate steps have been taken for restoration of postal facilities by making all Post Offices (including extra Departmental officers) operational. Delivery and mail routes have been restored and normalised.

Department of Telecom:

Immediate steps were taken to restore the long distance trunk routes by re-engineering and rerouting the circuits wherever possible. In other inaccessible district Headquarters, the Telecommunication facilities were provided by deploying Satellite phones. Thereafter, works to restore telecommunications facilities have been taken up on war footing giving priorities to District Head Quarters/Sub-divisional Headquarters and other important telecommunication facilities. 319 exchanges have since been restored. STD to all affected district Headquarters and Tehsil Headquarters have also been restored. Only 91 exchanges, which are deep inside the villages are pending for restoration. These exchanges are likely to be restored by next month progressively.

(c) Department of Post

Funds will be allocated for repair and maintenance of damaged buildings shortly.

Department of Telecom

No specific fund has been allotted for the purpose of cyclone. However, there is no constraint of funds which is being met from the annual budget allotment.

(d) Department of Post

The work is likely to be accomplished before 31st March, 2000.

Department of Telecom

The work is likely to be completed by December, 1999.

Statement I*Details of Damages in the Deptl. Buildings (Post Offices/RMS Offices/
Administrative Offices/Staff Quarters)*

Sl. No.	Name of P.O./R.M.S./Admn. Office/Staff Qrs.	Details of Damage
1	2	3
1.	Janla S.O.	Compound Wall damaged.
2.	Jatni S.O.	Roof partly damaged. window panes broken
3.	Khurda H.O.	Roof leaking profusely window panes broken
4.	Sakhigopal S.O.	Roof leaking profusely
5.	Bolagarh S.O.	Roof leaking profusely Window panes broken
6.	Begunia S.O.	Roof leaking profusely. Window panes broken.
7.	Gopalpur S.O.	Compound wall damaged. Window panes broken. Doors and Windows damaged
8.	Jankia S.O.	Asbestos room & approach road damaged. Roof of SPM's Qrs. leaking profusely
9.	Khandparagarh S.O.	Roof leaking profusely. Window panes broken.
10.	Kanas S.O.	Compound wall damaged. Roof leaking profusely. Window panes broken.
11.	Raj Sunakhala S.O.	Compound wall damaged. Roof leaking profusely. Window panes broken.
12.	Niali S.O.	Syntex water tank blown away. Compound wall broken.
13.	Chandnichauk H.O.	Glass panes broken.
14.	SSPO's Office, Cuttack	Glass panes broken.
15.	Staff Qrs. Cantonment Road, Cuttack	Compound wall broken.
16.	Cuttack GPO	Glass panes broken. Roof leaking. Compound wall damaged.
17.	Anakhia S.O.	Compound wall damaged. Glass panes broken.
18.	Paradip S.O.	50 Ft. compound wall broken. Stair case roof damaged. Glass panes, doors & Windows broken.

1	2	3
19.	Jagatsinghpur H.O.	Compound wall broken. Glass panes, doors & Windows broken.
20.	Kujang S.O.	Roof is leaking.
21.	Raghunathpur S.O.	AC Sheet room of cycle shed damaged. 30ft. compound wall broken.
22.	Ersama S.O.	Compound wall fully damaged. Wooden counter is washed out. Glass panes broken.
23.	Tyndakura S.O.	Compound wall damaged.
24.	Balikuda S.O.	Glass panes, Doors and windows damaged.
25.	Bhubaneshwar GPO	Glass panes broken. Areas near the shafts profusely leaking.
26.	Pipili S.O.	Roof leaking profusely. Glass panes broken.
27.	Bhubaneshwar-2 S.O.	Roof leaking profusely. Glass panes broken.
28.	Circle Office	Glass panes broken Doors and windows damaged. Stair case roof damaged. 20 m compound wall broken. AC sheet roof of garage broken.
29.	Postal Stores Depot, Bhubaneshwar	60 m compound wall damaged. AC sheet roof damaged. Glass panes broken.
30.	Postal Printing Press, Bhubaneshwar	5 Nos. Rolling Shutters damaged. AC sheet roof damaged. Glass panes broken.
31.	Bag Washing Plant Bhubaneshwar	Syntex tank damaged. AC sheet roof & glass panes damaged.
32.	P&T Dispensary, Bhubaneshwar	AC Sheet roofing of back side verandah and toilet block damaged. Glass panes damaged.

1	2	3
33.	Residence of CPMG, Orissa	Backside wall collapsed. Parapet wall of bathroom damaged. AC sheet roofing of watchman shed damaged. Fibre cover of courtyard blown off. Roof leaking profusely,
34.	Officers' Qrs. P&T Colony, Unit IV, Bhubaneshwar	Roof leaking profusely. Window panes broken. Water supply line damaged.
35.	Staff Qrs. P&T Colony Unit IV, Bhubaneshwar	Roof leaking profusely. Window panes broken. Water supply line damaged.
36.	Staff Qrs. Vani Vihar P&T Colony, Bhubaneshwar	Roofleaking Window panes broken.
37.	GGP Colony, Bhubaneshwar	Compound wall damaged. Glass panes broken
38.	Postal Staff Qrs. Bhadrak (OLD)	Glass panes damaged Doors & window damaged
39.	Kendrapara H.O.	Compound wall about 35A damaged Glass panes broken Doors & windows damaged
40.	Marshaghai S.O.	Glass panes damaged Roof leaking profusely
41.	Divisional Office & HRO'N' Division, Cuttack	Roof of the building severely damaged. Compound wall facing main road damaged.
42.	Bhadrak H.O.	Glass panes broken Drainage system washed off
43.	Divisional Office Building, Bhadrak	Roof profusely leaking Garage portion grill gate damaged.
44.	Bant S.O.	Glass panes broken Roof profusely leaking.
45.	Chandbali S.O.	Compound wall collapsed.
46.	SSRMs Office, Cuttack	Compound wall broken Roof Terraces. Broken Door Asbestos Sheets roof broken

Reports in respect of the rest of the buildings are still to be received. However, partial damage to the buildings are expected.

Statement II

(i) The details of financial loss and the damage caused to the Telecom Properties on 17.10.1999 in Ganjam Dist. are appended below:

1.	Drop wire 100km @ Rs. 1400/- per km	10,00,000/-
2.	Telephone Inst. 1911 nos. @ Rs. 314/- per set	6,00,000/-
3.	Trunk line damaged 150 km @ Rs. 1,00,000 per km	1,50,00,000
4.	Cable 10 kcm.	10,00,000/-
5.	UHF/M/W with tower materials + wave guide + Antina piece	1,00,00,000/-
6.	No. of MARR PT's damaged 100 nos. @ 1 lac	1,00,00,000/-
7.	No. of O/W PT's damaged 133 @ Rs. 75,000/- per P.T.	1,00,00,000/-
8.	Electrical items like package AC Window AC & AE/A	10,00,000/-
9.	Civil works & its damage repair cost	20,00,000/-
10.	Telephone Revenue	1,50,00,000/-
Total:		5,70,00,000/-

(ii) Property loss and damage due to super cyclone on 28.10.99/29.10.1999

1.	No. of MARR PT's damaged — 4000 @ 1 lakh/PT	40,00,00,000/-
2.	No. of O/W PT's damaged — 3800 @ 75000/PT	28,50,00,000/-
3.	Trunk line damaged - 1000km @ 1 lac/km	10,00,00,000/-
4.	Battery 200AH - 60 sets @ 50,000/Set	30,00,000/-
5.	Power plant 100 A 4 modulec - 4 no.	16,00,000/-
6.	Power plant 25A 50 sets @ 1 lac/PP	50,00,000/-

7.	Drop wire 12,000 km @ 1400/km	1,68,00,000/-
8.	EPBT-3000 @ 314/set	94,20,000/-
9.	LJU 3000	3,00,000
10.	UHF Antenna/Wave guide	15,00,000/-
11.	256 P CDOT exchanges 50 nos.	1,50,00,000/-
12.	OFC 12F 50km @ 40,000/-	20,00,000/-
13.	Cable 1 1kcm	1,00,00,000/-
14.	Towers 10 nos	2,00,00,000/-
15.	PCBs of CDOT/E 10 B/NEC/OCB	7,00,00,000/-
16.	Revenue	12,50,00,000/-
Total		Rs. 106,46,00,000/-

[English]

Release of Postage Stamps

88. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations for the release of postage stamps from different States and the Members of Parliament during the last three years;

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

(c) the number of proposals received by M.Ps. accepted and pending during the said period; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to fulfil the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are enclosed in Statement.

(c) and (d) Out of total 176 proposals received, 92 proposals have been accepted. Proposals for issue of commemorative postage stamps are considered by a Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) constituted by the Department of Posts for the purpose on the basis of specific guidelines. These guidelines laydown that commemorative stamps issued in respect of personalities should be limited to 25% of the annual stamp issue programme. Keeping in view the stipulations in the guidelines and other relevant considerations like capacity of Government Printing Press to produce the stamps, philatelic relevance of the proposals etc., the total number of these stamps are limited to 40/50 per year. However, PAC also examines and approves specific proposals of commemorative postage stamps deserving special considerations.

Statement**Year : 1997**

State	Name of MP/State	Subject
1	2	3
A&N Islands	Sh. I.P. Gupta, Lt. Gov.	Stamp on Cellular Jail
Assam	Sh. P.K. Mahanta, CM	Stamp: 150 Years of Newspaper in Assam
Assam	Sh. Paban Singh Ghatowar, MP (LS)	Stamp on Loknayak Omeo Kr. Das
Bihar	Shri Janardan Yadav, MP (RS)	Stamp on Acharya Shivpujan Sahai
Bihar	Shri Nitish Kumar, MP (LS)	Stamp on Acharya Shivpujan Sahai
Bihar	Shri Deshdutt Yadav, MP (RS)	Stamp on Lakshmi Narayan Mishra
Gujarat	Shri Satyajit Sinh D. Gaekwad, MP	Stamp on A.S.M. Co-op Bank Ltd.
Gujarat	Shri R.K. Verma, MP (LS)	Stamp on Shri Swaminarayan Temple
Gujarat	Dr. Urmila C. Patel, MP (RS)	Stamp on Hari Om Mota
Gujarat	Govt. of Gujarat	Stamp on Gujarat Rangbhoomi
Gujarat	Shri S.S. Vaghela, CM	Stamp on Zaverchand Meghani
Gujarat	Govt. of Gujarat	Stamp on Chhaganbapa
Gujarat	Shri Vijay Patel, MP (LS)	Stamp on Pujya Shri Mota
Gujarat	Shri Harin Pathak, MP (LS)	Stamp on Pujya Shri Mota

1	2	3
Gujarat	Shri Brahm Kumar Bhatt, MP (RS)	Stamp on Pujay Shri Mota
Gujarat	Shri P.S. Gadhavi, MP (LS)	Stamp on Pujya Shri Mota
Gujarat	Shrimati Anandiben Patel, MP (RS)	Stamp on Pujya Shri Mota
Gujarat	Shri Sanat Mehta, MP (LS)	Stamp on Chhaganbapa
Haryana	Shri Sanjay Kothari, Sec. to Govt.	Stamp on Kartik festival
J & Kashmir	Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta, MP	Stamp on Bhagwan Gopinathji
J & Kashmir	Addl. Secy. to CM, J & K	Stamp on Bhagwan Gopinathji
Karnataka	Shri S. Bangarappa, MP (LS)	Stamp on Dr. T.M.A. Pai
Kerala	Shri E.K. Nayanar, CM	Stamp on Shri. A. Thangal Kunju Musalair
Kerala	Shri M. Ramchandran, MP (LS)	Stamp on Md. Abdurahiman Sahib
Kerala	Prof. P. Kurien, MP (LS)	St. Berchmans College, Chenganassery
Kerala	Shri P.C. Chako, MP (LS)	Stamp on Shri K. Vijaya Verma
Kerala	Shri P.C. Chako, MP (LS)	Stamp on Shri A. Thangal Kunju Musalair
Kerala	Shri N. K. Prem- chandran, MP (LS)	Stamp on Shri A. Thangal Kunju Musalair
Kerala	Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, MP (LS)	Stamp on Thangal Kunju Musalair

1	2	3
Kerala	Shri G.M. Banatwalla, MP (LS)	Stamp on Thangal Kunju Musalair
Madhya Pradesh	Shri Madhavrao Scindia, MP (LS)	Stamp on Scindia School of Gwalior
Madhya Pradesh	Shri Digvijay Singh, CM	Stamp on Seth Govind Das Ji
Maharashtra	Shri Anna Joshi, MP (LS)	Stamp on Sant Dyaneshwar Maharaj
Maharashtra	Shri Manohar Joshi, CM	Stamp on Savitribai Phule
Maharashtra	Shri V.N. Gadgil, MP (LS)	Stamp on Ram Ganesh Gadkari
Maharashtra	Shri Pramod Mahajan, MP (LS)	Stamp on Sant Gadge Baba
Maharashtra	Shri R.G. Kapse, MP (RS)	Stamp on VS. Khandekar & Jijabai
Maharashtra	O/O the CM	Stamp on Ahilyabai Holkar
Maharashtra	Smt. Jayawanti Mehta, MP (LS)	Stamp on David Sasoon Library
Maharashtra	Shrimati Jayawanti Mehta, MP (LS)	Stamp on Sant Gadge Baba
Maharashtra	Shrimati Jayawanti Mehta, MP (LS)	Stamp on Mumbai Samachar
Maharashtra	Shri Datta Meghe, MP (LS)	Stamp on Sant Gadge Baba
Maharashtra	Shri S.B. Chavan, MP (RS)	Stamp on Gadge Baba
Maharashtra	Shri Govindrao Adok, MP (RS)	Stamp on Gadge Baba

1	2	3
Maharashtra	Shri Banwarilal Purohit, MP	Stamp on Gadge Baba
Maharashtra	Shri Mukesh R. Patel, MP (RS)	Stamp on Gadge Baba
Maharashtra	Shri Satish Pradhan, MP (RS)	Stamp on Gadge Baba
Maharashtra	Shri P.K. Agarwal, MP (RS)	Stamp on Shri Chhaganbapa
Maharashtra	Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan, MP	Stamp on Gadge Baba
Maharashtra	Shri Gordhanbhai J. Javiya, MP	Stamp on Gadge Baba
Maharashtra	Shri Datta Meghe, MP	Stamp on Kakasaheb Cholkar
Maharashtra	Shri Satish Pradhan, MP (RS)	Stamp on Ram Ganesh Gadkari
Maharashtra	Shri Pramod Mahajan, MP (LS)	Stamp on Shri P.K. Atre
Maharashtra	Shri Sharad Pawar, MP (LS)	Stamp on Shri P.K. Atre
Maharashtra	Shri Ram Naik, MP (LS)	Stamp on V.S. Khandekar
Meghalaya	Shri S.C. Marak, CM	Stamp on Silver Jubilee of Meghalaya
New Delhi	Shri Satchidananda, MP (RS)	Stamp on A.C. Bhaktivedantaswami
New Delhi	Smt. Sushma Swaraj, MP (LS)	Stamp on Acharaya Shivpujan Sahai
New Delhi	Shri A.B. Vajpayee, Leader of Opp.	Stamp on Acharya Shivpujan Sahai

1	2	3
Orissa	Shri B.B.S. Mandari, MP	Stamp on Samanta Chandrasekhar
Orissa	Shri Anadi Sahoo, MP (LS)	Stamp on Karmavir Gouri Shankar Ray
Rajasthan	Shri G.C. Rajput, MP (LS)	Stamp on Swami Brahmanand
Rajasthan	Sec. (Art & Culture), Govt. of Raj.	Stamp on Maharana Pratap
Tamil Nadu	Shri A. Raja, MP (LS)	Stamp on St. Joseph College, Trichy
Tamil Nadu	Shri M. Karunanidhi, CM CM	Stamp on Sardar A. Vedarathinam
Tamil Nadu	Shri P.V. Rajindiran, MP (LS)	Stamp on Sardar Veda- rathinam
Tamil Nadu	Saroj Kharpade, MP (RS)	Stamp on Pattabhi Sitaramayya
Tamil Nadu	Shri N.S. V. Chitthan, MP	Stamp on Dr. (Mrs.) T.S. Soundram
Tamil Nadu	Genl. Admin. Dept. Govt. of TN	Stamp on Dr. R.M. Alagappa Chettiar
Tripura	Shri Anil Sarkar, Minister of Tripura	Stamp on Tripura
Uttar Pradesh	Dr. Ratnakar Pandeya, MP (RS)	Stamp on Siaram Saran Gupt
Uttar Pradesh	Shri Kalpnath Rai, MP (LS)	Stamp on Chittu Pandey
West Bengal	Shri Anil Basu, MP (LS)	Stamp on Raja Ram Mohan Roy
West Bengal	Shri Pranab Mukho- padhyay, MP (RS)	Stamp on Tara Shankar Bandopadhyay

1	2	3
West Bengal	Shri Somath Chatterjee, MP (LS)	Stamp on Tara Shankar Bandopadhyay
West Bengal	Shrimati Kamla Sinha, MP (RS)	Stamp on Sibnath Banerjee
West Bengal	Shri Haradhan Roy, MP (LS)	Stamp on Kazi Nazrul Islam
West Bengal	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, MP (LS)	Stamp on Kazi Nazrul Islam
West Bengal	Shri Ram Chandra Dome, MP (LS)	Stamp on Tara Shankar Bandopadhyay
West Bengal	Shri Ashok Mitra, MP	Stamp on Kazi Nazrul Islam
West Bengal	Shri Mehboob Zahedi, MP (LS)	Stamp on Kazi Nazrul Islam
West Bengal	Shri Sunil Khan, MP (LS)	Stamp on Kazi Nazrul Islam
West Bengal	Shri Hannan Molla, MP (LS)	Stamp on Kazi Nazrul Islam
West Bengal	Shri Ajoy Mukho- padhyay, MP (LS)	Stamp on Kazi Nazrul Islam
West Bengal	Shri Hannan Molla, MP (LS)	Stamp on Com. Bankim Mukherjee
West Bengal	Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, MP (LS)	Stamp on Kazi Nazrul Islam
West Bengal	Shri Debabrata Biswas, MP (RS)	Stamp on Chitta Basu
West Bengal	Shri Ajit Panja, MP (LS)	Stamp on Gostha Paul

1	2	3
<i>Year 1998</i>		
Andhra Pradesh	Shri G.M.C. Balyogi, Speaker (LS)	Stamp on Potti Sriramulu
Assam	Shri P.S. Ghatowár, MP (LS)	Stamp on Padmashree C. Saikiani
Bihar	Dr. C.P. Thakur, MP (LS)	Stamp on Rambriksh Benipuri
Bihar	Dr. C.P. Thakur, MP (LS)	Stamp on Ramdhari Singh Dinkar
Bihar	Dr. C.P. Thakur, MP (LS)	Stamp on Shivpujan Sahai
Bihar	Dr. C.P. Thakur, MP (LS)	Stamp on Sahajanand Saraswati
Bihar	Dr. C.P. Thakur, MP (LS)	Stamp on Faneshwarnath Renu
Bihar	Shri Prabhash Ch. Tiwari, MP (LS)	Stamp on Ramdhari Singh Dinkar
Gujarat	Shri Sanat Mehta, MP (LS)	Stamp on Chhaganbapa
Gujarat	Shri Shantilal P. Patel, MP (LS)	Stamp on Puja Shri Mota
Gujarat	Shri Haribhai P. Choudhary, MP	Stamp on Puja Shri Mota
Gujarat	Shri Dileepbhai Sanghani, MP (LS)	Stamp on Saint Pramukh Swamiji
Karnataka	Shri Oscar Fernandes MP (LS)	Stamp on Dr. T.M.A. Pai
Karnataka	Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar, MP (LS)	Stamp on Dr. T.M.A. Pai

1	2	3
Karnataka	Secy. to Governor	Stamp on Dr. Zakir Hussain
Kerala	Shri E. K. Nayanar, CM	Stamp on E.M.S. Namboodiripad
Kerala	Shri A. Vijayaraghavan MP (RS)	Stamp on P.S. Varier
Kerala	Shri S. Peter Alphonse, MP (RS)	Stamp on Rev. Bro. K.V. Peter
Kerala	Shri P.C. Thomas, MP (LS)	Stamp on Erumely & Secular Activities
Maharashtra	Prof. Ram Kapse, MP (RS)	Stamp on Jijabai
Maharashtra	Shri Manohar Joshi, CM	Stamp on Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh
Maharashtra	Shri V.N. Gadgil, MP (RS)	Stamp on Ram Ganesh Gadkari
Maharashtra	Shri S.B. Chavan, MP (RS)	Stamp on Gadge Baba
Maharashtra	Shri V.N. Gadgil, MP (RS)	Stamp on Narayan Meghaji Lokhande
Maharashtra	Shri Nitin Gadkari, Min. of PWD	Stamp on Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh
Maharashtra	Shri Ashok Gehlot, MP (LS)	Stamp on Narayan Lokhande
Maharashtra	Shri V.N. Gadgil, MP (RS)	Stamp on Narayan Lokhande
Maharashtra	Shri Dileep Sanghani, MP (LS)	Stamp on Pandurang Athawale
Maharashtra	Shri V.N. Gadgil, MP (RS)	Stamp on Anandrishiji Maharaj
Manipur	Shri M. Kunjo Singh, Min. of Inf./PR	Stamp on Vth National Games

1	2	3
Manipur	Shri W. Angou Singh, MP (RS)	Stamp on Rajashree Bhagyachandra
New Delhi	Shri Dileep Sanghani, MP (LS)	Stamp on YHAI
Orissa	Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP (LS)	Stamp on Karmaveer Gourishankar Ray
Orissa	Shri Prabhat Samantray, MP (LS)	Stamp on Biju Patnaik
Orissa	Chief Secretary, Govt. of Orissa	Stamp on Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das
Pondicherry	Dr. Rajani Rai, Lt. Governor	Stamp on 125 years of Shri Aurobindo
Punjab	Shri Gurcharan Singh Tohra, MP (RS)	Stamp on 300 years of Khalsa
Punjab	Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda, MP (LS)	Stamp on Sheel Bhadra Yajee
Punjab	Shri Prakash Singh Badal, CM	Stamp on Great Martyr Udham Singh
Punjab	Governor of Punjab	Stamp on Chandigarh
Rajasthan	Shri Omkar Singh Lakhwat, MP (RS)	Stamp on Prithviraj Chouhan
Rajasthan	Shri Murti S. Deora, MP (LS)	Stamp on Hazrat Khwaja Garib Nawaz
Rajasthan	Dr. L.M. Singhvi, MP (RS)	Stamp on Raja Bhamashah
Tamil Nadu	Shri M. Karunanidhi, CM	Stamp on Connemara Library
Tamil Nadu	Shri Nirmala Deshpande, MP (RS)	Stamp on A. Vaidyartha Iyer

1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	Shri M. Karunanidhi, CM	Stamp on P.S. Kumara- swamy Raja
Tamil Nadu	Shri Ganesha Murthy, MP (LS)	Stamp on Tirupur Kumaran
Tamil Nadu	Public (Genl. I) Depot Govt. of TN	Stamp on Thillaiyadi Valliammai
Uttar Pradesh	Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda, MP (LS)	Stamp on Pt. Rajkumar Shukla
Uttar Pradesh	Shrimati Nirmala Deshpande, MP (RS)	Stamp on Pt. Rajkumar Shukla
Uttar Pradesh	Shri Kalpnath Rai, MP (LS)	Stamp on Chittu Pandey
Uttar Pradesh	Swami Chinmayanand, MP	Stamp on Dr. Kishoridas Vajpai
West Bengal	Shri Paul Mantosh, MP (LS)	Stamp on Frank Anthony
West Bengal	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, MP (LS)	Stamp on Shri Banaphool
<i>Year 1999</i>		
Andhra Pradesh	Shri P. Upendra, MP (LS)	Stamp on Sant Nagaridas
Andhra Pradesh	Shri T. Seetharam, Min. of I&PR	Stamp on Madduri Anna- purnaiah
Gujarat	Shri Dīeep Sanghani, MP (LS)	Stamp on Pramukh Swami
Gujarat	Shri Sat Pal Jain, MP (LS)	Stamp on Chhaganbapa
Kerala	Shri V.M. Sudheeran, MP (LS)	Stamp on Bishop Alappatt
Kerala	Shri V.M. Sudheeran, MP (LS)	Stamp on Itti Achuthan

1	2	3
Kerala	Prof. P.J. Kurien MP (LS)	Stamp on St. Thomas Cross
Madhya Pradesh	Shri Balkabi Bairagi, MP (RS)	Stamp on Swami Ramanandji
Maharashtra	Shri Nitin Gadkari, Min. of PWD	Stamp on Dadasaheb Kannamwar
Maharashtra	Shri Narayan Rane, CM	Stamp on Prabodhankar Thakre
Mizoram	Shri Zoramthanga, CM	Stamp on Mizoram Accord Day
New Delhi	Dr. Karan Singh, MP (RS)	Stamp on Inter-Religious Relations
New Delhi	Dr. L.M. Singhvi, MP	Stamp on Mahatma Kabir
Orissa	Shri Prabhat Samantray, MP (LS)	Stamp on Biju Patnaik
Orissa	Shri. Bhartruhari Mehtab, MP (LS)	Stamp on Dr. Hare Krushna Mahtab
Orissa	Shri Bhartruhari Mehtab, MP (LS)	Stamp on Madhusudan Das
Pondicherry	Shri R. Viswanathan, Min. of Ag.	Stamp on Krishi Vigyan Kendra
Pondicherry	Dr. Rajni Rai, Govt. of Pondicherry	Stamp on Krishi Vigyan Kendra
Rajasthan	Shri Sat Pal Jain, MP (LS)	Stamp on Mahavir Jayanti
Rajasthan	Shri. Omkar Singh Lakhwat, MP (RS)	Stamp on Prithviraj Chouhan
Tamil Nadu	Shri K. Rahman Khan, MP (RS)	Stamp on Tipu Sultan
Tamil Nadu	Shri Vaiko, MP (LS)	Stamp on Rettamalai Seenivasan

1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	Shri Vaiko, MP (LS)	Stamp on Marudhu Pandiyar Brothers
Tamil Nadu	Shri Vaiko, MP (LS)	Stamp on Poolithevar
Tamil Nadu	Shri Vaiko, MP (LS)	Stamp on Nyapathi Subba Rao Pantulu
Uttar Pradesh	Maj. Gen. Bhuban Ch. Khanduri, MP	Stamp on Kedarnath & Badrinath Temple
Uttar Pradesh	Shri Kalpnath Rai, MP (LS)	Stamp on Chittu Pandey
Uttar Pradesh	Shri Kalyan Singh, CM	Stamp on Family Welfare
Uttar Pradesh	Maj. Gen. Bhuban Ch. Khanduri, MP	Stamp on Railways in Doon Valley
West Bengal	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, MP (LS)	Stamp on Bethune Collegiate School
West Bengal	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, MP (LS)	Stamp on Kazi Nazrul Islam
West Bengal	Shri Khamendu Bhattacharjee, MP (RS)	Stamp on Kazi Nazrul Islam
West Bengal	Shri Kanti Biswas, Min. of Edn. (WB)	Stamp on Bethune Collegiate School
West Bengal	Smt. Geeta Mukherjee, MP (LS)	Stamp on Banaphool

Maintenance of Ambulance by NHA

89. SHRI A. BRAHMANIAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India maintains any ambulance for the accident victims in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other facilities made available by the National Highways Authority of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Except for construction and maintenance of the road no other facility are provided by NHA.

Reappearance of Sati Ritual

90. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have enquired about the reported Sati incident at Satpura (Mahoba) in U.P. recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information received from the State Government one Shri Manshah, s/o Shri Harju, of village Satpurva, District Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh had expired on 11.11.1999. His widow, Smt. Charanshah, was reportedly very attached to him. After her husband's funeral pyre had been lit and the villagers, who had accompanied the dead body, had gone to take a bath, she rushed to the cremation site and mounted the burning pyre. The enquiries conducted by the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police reveal that Smt. Charanshah was not motivated or pressurised by anybody to take this drastic step. This is said to be a case of suicide, and not of Sati, as neither Smt. Charanshah nor the villagers had performed any pooja/rituals before the incident.

[Translation]

Telephone Services in Jamnagar

91. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received several complaints from individual subscribers, institutions. Chambers of Commerce and Industry and also from the public representatives from January 1997 till date of Jamnagar District in Gujarat;

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

(c) the number of employees and officers found guilty therein and the action taken/proposed to be taken against them; and

(d) the measures taken/to be taken regarding the improvement in telephone system and to expedite the settlement of complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of complaints received yearwise is given below:

Year	Nos. of complaints received
1997	192
1998	180
1999	279 (upto Oct., 99)

The complaints mainly relate to non-availability of STD to many exchanges, provision of new connections, non-opening of new telephone exchanges and printing of telephone directory.

(c) The problems were attributable to behaviour and response to public. Behavioural training has been organized for line staff and operative staff.

(d) Out of 74 stations, reliable media is available at present for 24 stations and planned for 22 stations in the current financial year. Remaining stations are proposed to be covered in the next financial year. A Sub-Divisional Engineer has been made in-charge for expeditious settlement of complaints under the supervision of Divisional Engineer. The complaints are also reviewed by GM Jamnagar on a weekly basis.

[English]

Funds for Rest Areas by N.H.A.I.

92. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the fund spent by National Highways Authority of India on Rest Areas in Andhra Pradesh in 1998-99 and the current year;

(b) the budget earmarked for this purpose in the current year;

(c) whether any design has been made in regard to the road safety; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to utilise such a design on all the National Highways in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No funds have been spent by NHAI on Rest Areas in Andhra Pradesh in 1998-99 and the current year so far.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Currently NHAI has engaged international consultants who are engaged in project preparation for 4-laning the existing 2 lane road. In the design of road, the safety aspects are covered and road safety audit would take place. Such designs are being done for 4-lane of Golden Quadrilateral.

Consumption and Production of LPG

93. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap between consumption and production of LPG in the country;

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

(c) the comparative figures of production and consumption of LPG for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the number of LPG agencies functioning in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The details of LPG production, LPG sales and imports undertaken by PSU Oil Companies in the country during the period 1996-97 to 1998-99 is given under:

Year	LPG Production	LPG Sales
1996-97	3356	4183
1997-98	3444	4581
1998-99	3599	5041

Due to limited LPG availability from refineries/fractionators, the LPG production has not kept pace with the demand of LPG.

(c) The comparative figures of production and consumption of LPG for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement I

(d) The number of Public Sector Undertaking LPG distributorships functioning in the country as on 1.10.1999 was 5838. The State-wise details of number of LPG distributorships as on 1.10.1999 in the country is given in the enclosed Statement II.

Statement I

State-wise Year-wise Production and Consumption of LPG

(Figs. in TMT)

States	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Prodn.	Consumption	Prodn.	Consumption	Prodn.	Consumption
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	129	308	63	332	95	362
Arunachal Pradesh	0	4	0	5	0	5
Assam	82	65	88	70	96	75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bihar	40	125	44	136	39	148
Delhi	0	332	0	365	0	391
Goa	0	21	0	22	0	23
Gujarat	879	313	949	335	1015	363
Haryana	0	133	0	150	11	172
Himachal Pradesh	0	36	0	44	0	49
Jammu & Kashmir	0	41	0	45	0	47
Karnataka	51	209	87	223	99	248
Kerala	261	142	280	174	279	189
Madhya Pradesh	523	199	522	210	530	229
Maharashtra	968	733	951	759	1010	820
Manipur	0	8	0	9	0	9
Meghalaya	0	6	0	6	0	7
Mizoram	0	6	0	8	0	8
Nagaland	0	5	0	6	0	6
Orissa	0	44	0	50	0	53
Punjab	0	182	0	206	0	225
Rajasthan	0	159	0	185	0	205

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sikkim	0	2	0	3	0	3
Tamil Nadu	147	345	157	376	127	429
Tripura	0	5	0	7	0	7
Uttar Pradesh	235	506	246	576	235	649
West Bengal	41	216	57	242	63	273
Sub Total	3356	4146	3444	4543	3599	4997
<i>Union Territories</i>						
Andaman & Nicobar	0	1	0	1	0	2
Chandigarh	0	22	0	22	0	25
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	2	0	2	0	2
Daman & Diu	0	1	0	1	0	2
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	0	9	0	11	0	11
Sub Total	0	35	0	37	0	41
Total	3356	4182	3444	4579	3599	5038
Bhutan	0	2	0	2	0	3
Grand Total	3356	4184	3444	4581	3599	5041

Statement II**State-wise LPG Distributors as of 1.10.1999**

	IOC (MD)	IOC (AOD)	IOC Total	BPC	HPC	IBP	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
States							
Andhra Pradesh	199	0	199	95	213	0	507
Arunachal Pradesh	3	15	18	0	0	0	18
Assam	60	87	147	1	0	0	148
Bihar	150	0	150	35	32	0	217
Delhi	188	0	188	70	46	0	304
Goa	1	0	1	11	23	0	35
Gujarat	245	0	245	77	99	1	422
Haryana	96	0	96	51	31	0	178
Himachal Pradesh	58	0	58	5	11	0	74
Jammu & Kashmir	46	0	46	10	47	0	103
Karnataka	140	0	140	59	122	0	321
Kerala	128	0	128	51	34	0	213
Madhya Pradesh	179	0	179	66	103	0	348
Maharashtra	98	0	98	302	331	0	731
Manipur	3	15	18	0	0	0	18

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Meghalaya	8	11	19	0	0	0	19
Mizoram	2	12	14	0	0	0	14
Nagaland	6	13	19	0	0	0	19
Orissa	43	0	43	12	53	0	108
Punjab	166	0	166	65	43	2	276
Rajasthan	116	0	116	61	68	0	245
Sikkim	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
Tamil Nadu	260	0	260	88	68	1	417
Tripura	6	11	17	0	0	0	17
Uttar Pradesh	482	0	482	156	77	1	716
West Bengal	209	0	209	36	75	1	321
Sub Total	2895	164	3059	1251	1476	6	5792
<i>Union Territories</i>							
Andaman & Nicobar	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Chandigarh	20	0	20	3	6	0	29
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Lakshadweep	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pondicherry	6	0	6	2	4	0	12
Sub Total	28	0	28	5	13	0	46
All India	2923	164	3087	1256	1489	6	5838

Illegal Occupation of Land by Mafias

94. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether green lands are being illegally occupied by the land mafias in various parts of the country and are being sold;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during the last three years;

(c) the number of cases where action was taken and land got vacated; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The power of preventing and evicting encroachment on forest lands vests with the state Governments as per the provisions of Indian Forest Act 1927. Details of the cases of green lands being illegally occupied by the land mafias in various parts of the country and being sold are not compiled and collated by Government of India. No specific report has been received by Government of India in this regard.

[Translation]

Report of Group on Telecommunications

95. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the Report of the Group on Telecommunications (GoT) on the restructuring of licence fee and draft of New Telecom Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Report of GoT is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have received the report of Group on Telecommunications (GoT) on its terms of reference viz., draft of the New Telecom Policy, measures to address issues relating to existing licenses of existing

Basic & Cellular services and issues relating to TRAI. The recommendations of the GoT have been accepted by the Government and the "New Telecom Policy 1999" announced in March, 1999 effective from 1st April, 1999. The salient features of the New Telecom Policy '99 include availability of affordable and effective communications, telephone on demand, telecom coverage of all villages in the country through reliable media, internet access to all district headquarters, progressive liberalisation of telecom Sector and encouragement of competition in Basic, Cellular, Domestic, Long Distance and other services etc. so as to modernise and bring speedily the telecom infrastructure to world class standard. The NTP 99 provides for restructured licence fee arrangement which include one time entry fee and the licence fee based on a revenue share.

Pilferage of Oil and Diesel

96. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of pilferage of oil and diesel registered in the country during the last two years, year-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such cases of pilferages in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a)

Year	No. of Cases
1997-98	85
1998-99	54

(b) The following steps are taken by the oil companies in order to stop such pilferages:—

- (i) Introduction of improved version of seals and strengthening of sealing procedures at the shipping locations.
- (ii) Strict checking of quality control aspect like density etc. at the receiving location.
- (iii) Strict checking of density and temperature of the products at the retail outlets.
- (iv) At new locations, the railway siding are constructed inside the company's compound wall in order to arrest the pilferages at the railway sidings.

*[English]***Sanction of National Highway-16**

97. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned National Highway No. 16 connecting Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the total length of this proposed Highway;

(c) the estimated cost thereof;

(d) whether tenders have since been floated for the construction of this Highway;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the time by which the construction work is likely to be commenced and completed;

(g) the number of major and minor bridges to be constructed on this National Highway;

(h) the total estimated cost of these bridges;

(i) whether the Government have sanctioned these bridges also alongwith the National Highway; and

(j) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 504 Km.

(c) to (j) Development of National Highways is a continuous process. The works on National Highway including construction of bridges are sanctioned in stretches, keeping in view the availability of funds and interse priority of the works. There are 121 bridges on NH-16. At present ten works amounting to Rs. 1630.24 lakhs including reconstruction of five bridges are in progress. These are scheduled for completion by December, 2001.

Availability of LPG in Small Towns and Villages

98. SHRI ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI RAM PAL SINGH:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government to make available LPG at small towns and villages in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the numbers of villages covered by LPG so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) In order to increase the penetration of LPG in rural areas, PSU Oil Companies have been advised to prepare new LPG Marketing Plan to cover the following:

(i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 kms.

(ii) Urban locations having population of 5000 and above surveyed for setting up a distributorship and the viability to be ascertained by taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 kms. Radius.

(iii) Cluster of villages within 15 kms. Radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 (ten thousand) and above, surveyed for setting up rural distributorship and included in the plan depending upon the viability.

(iv) Villages within 15 kms. Radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above to be surveyed for opening of rural distributorships.

More LPG connections are planned to be released in future and it is expected to clear the entire waiting list across the country by the year 2001-2002.

Changes in CPCB

99. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring about structural changes in Central Pollution Control Board to make the Environment Protection Scheme more effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open more regional offices of the Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Emergency Communication system on Ports

100. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up a plan to go in for emergency communication system in the ports during the calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of ports not having the emergency communication facilities; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ports have drawn up a Contingency Plan and Disaster Management Plan to meet

the contingencies of natural calamities like cyclone, storms and other emergencies such as handling of hazardous cargo, strikes, civil disturbances etc. These plans include emergency communication systems. All the Ports are equipped with VHF trans-receivers which help to liaise with crafts/ships in harbour and at high seas and also with District Authorities and Navy etc. Instructions have already been issued to all Major Port Trusts to install INMARSAT SYSTEM and Mobile Satellite Phone. Ports also use E-Mail, Fax, Telex and Cellular Phones for their communications.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Illegal Cutting of Forests in Bihar

101. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the illegal cutting of forests in the Advasi (Tribal) areas of South Bihar has adversely affected the environment; and

(b) if so, the details of the efforts made by the Government to stop cutting of forests and the discussion held with the Government of Bihar in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) There is no information available with Government of India regarding illegal cutting of forests in the Adivasi (Tribal) areas of South Bihar. However, as per State of Forest Report 1997 published by Forest Survey of India, a decrease of 58 sq. km. of forest cover has been noted in the tribal districts of Palamu, Ranchi and Singhbhum as compared to 1995 assessment.

(b) Government of India has issued guidelines to the State Government for promoting involvement of local communities in the protection and regeneration of degraded forests and for strengthening the protection machinery in the state. From time to time, discussion is held with the officials of state Government to streamline the protection efforts to stop illegal cutting of forests. Government of India has enacted Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to regulate the diversion of forest lands for non-forestry work.

Telephone Exchanges in Himachal Pradesh

102. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges targeted to be set up in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise particularly in Lahoul Spiti, Mandi, Kinnore, Shimla and Chamba Districts during the current financial year;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges set up so far, district-wise;

(c) whether due to non-availability of MCPC in the tribal areas of H.P., it is impossible to achieve the target; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There is a plan to set up 47 new telephone exchanges in Himachal Pradesh during the current financial year 1999-2000 as per the District-wise details given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) 10 number of new telephone exchanges have been set up so far during the current financial year 1999-2000 as per district-wise details given below:

S.No.	District	Number of exchanges
01	Kinnaur	03
02	Kullu	01
03	Lahoul-Spiti	05
04	Mandi	01
		10

(c) and (d) Out of 47 new telephone exchanges planned to be set up in H.P. during 1999-2000, 8 exchanges are falling in tribal areas and are planned to be commissioned through MCPC (Multi channel per carrier). 6 Nos. of MCPCs have been installed & commissioned and 2 Nos of MCPCs are under installation.

Statement

S.No.	District	No. of exchanges Planned for 99-2000
1.	Bilaspur	06
2.	Chamba	—
3.	Hamirpur	01
4.	Kangra	07
5.	Kinnaur	04
6.	Kullu	03
7.	Lahaul-Spiti	05
8.	Mandi	07
9.	Shimla	04
10.	Sirmaur	03
11.	Solan	05
12.	Una	02
	Total	47

[English]

Reserves of Crude Oil in Rajasthan

103. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge reserves of crude oil have been found by Shell India in Guda I and II, district Barmer (Rajasthan) while surveying;

(b) if so, the details thereof and terms and conditions of contract with Shell India in this regard;

(c) whether high quality crude oil to be used in aviation industry is located in the said district but further exploration is held up for want to heavy rigs and modern machinery; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government are taking to overcome this problem and the time by which it would be sorted out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Shell India Product Development B.V. has discovered oil in Guda Well II in exploration block RJ-ON-90/1 in Barmer district of Rajasthan. Well flowed oil at the rate of about 2000 Barrel per day during initial testing. Guda Well 1 had proved to be dry. The extent of Hydrocarbon reserves can, however, be known only after further exploration.

Major terms and conditions of Production Sharing Contract signed by Government of India with Shell India are: The contract is for a initial period of 25 years extendable by 2 terms of 5 years each. Exploration period is for 7 years comprising of 3 phases with committed work programme for each phase. Contractor will be allowed to retain only the discovery areas for development of the field after exploration phases. The Government of India would have the first right of refusal in respect of the oil produced under these contracts with companies being paid for their share of oil at international prices. Provision is there in the contract for participation by ONGC in the venture at the exploration and/or the development stage.

(c) and (d) Crude oils can not be used in aviation industry as such without refining. However, crude oil discovered in the Guda Well-II is of high quality.

There are no constraints with regard to availability of heavy rigs and modern equipment and contractor has already completed more than committed work programme during Exploration Phase I & II. Currently Phase-II is in progress upto June 2000.

Development of New and Intermediate Minor Ports

104. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has demanded development of new and intermediate minor ports to raise capacity of cargo handling.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Telephone Connections in Tamil Nadu

105. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Tamil Nadu at present district-wise particularly in Namakkal district;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted in the State during the last three years, district-wise;

(c) the number of telephone connections proposed to be provided during the current financial year; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Waiting list in Tamil Nadu as on 31.10.99 is 2,35,195 which includes 6462 in Namakkal district. The district-wise details are given in the Statement I.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement II.

(c) 4.9 lakh telephone connections are proposed to be provided during current financial year 1999-2000.

(d) It is proposed to add 6.25 lakh telephone connections during 2000-2001. It is expected that telephone connections will be available on demand by 31.3.2002.

Statement I

The number of applicants on the waiting list for telephone connections in Tamil Nadu as on October, 1999, district-wise.

Sl. No.	Name of District	Waiting Lists as on 31.10.1999
1	2	3
1.	Coimbatore	22326
2.	Cuddalore	4528
3.	Dharamapuri	7515
4.	Dindigul	7039
5.	Erode	8648
6.	Kancheepuram	5536
7.	Kanyakumari	5874
8.	Karur	7517
9.	Madurai	9690
10.	Nagapattinam	6281
11.	Namakkal	6462
12.	Peramalur	4350
13.	Pudukkottai	5601
14.	Ramanathapuram	5066

1	2	3
15.	Salem	8161
16.	Sivaganga	5384
17.	Thanjavur	9177
18.	The Nilgiris	5494
19.	Theni	2420
20.	Thiruvavur	5566
21.	Tirunelveli	3779
22.	Tiruvannamalai	6127
23.	Tiruvallur	4628
24.	Tiruchirapalli	8275
25.	Tuticorin	6689
26.	Vellore	14133
27.	Villupuram	3707
28.	Virudhunagar	7108
29.	Pondicherry (UT)	8436
Total for Tamil Nadu Circle		205497
30.	Chennai	29698
Total for Tamil Nadu State		235195

Statement II*No. of Net Telephone Connections Provided During the Last three years (SSA-Wise)*

No.	Name of the SSA	No. of connections provided during		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Coimbatore	37770	39,101	34,034
2.	Chengelpattu	10306	14,014	13,003
3.	Cuddalore	10120	17,708	20,121
4.	Dharmapuri	6061	10,548	15,021
5.	Erode	19815	16,740	25,139
6.	Karalkudi	9207	9,335	12,501
7.	Kumbakonam	5304	7,943	16,357
8.	Madurai	21800	31,234	36,497
9.	Nilgiris	4115	4,047	4,292
10.	Nagercoil	6008	12,010	13,013
11.	Pondicherry	6580	6,345	8,647
12.	Salem (including Nagrakkol District)	17017	31,234	40,005
13.	Thanjavur	6738	10,005	21,996
14.	Tirunelveli	11031	11,045	15,200
15.	Tuticorin	5916	8,875	11,008
16.	Tiruchirappelli	15559	32,786	37,666
17.	Vellore	10,940	15,853	23,105
18.	Virudhunagar	5,729	5,555	10,002
Total		210016	2,84,378	3,57,607
Chennai		80066	80168	1,22,629
G. Total		2,90,082	3,64,546	4,80,236

Pending Hydro-Electric Power Projects in Karnataka

106. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some hydro-electric power projects proposed to be executed in Karnataka State are pending for the clearance by the Government;

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

(c) the present status thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to clear these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The details of hydro-electric power projects in Karnataka which have not cleared by Government on account of inter-state dispute are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) With a view to resolving the problem in respect of hydro-electric power projects in the Cauvery basin between KRS dam and Mettur dam, the view of Government of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been sought for enabling National Hydro-electric Power Corporation to build, own and operate these projects in an integrated manner.

Statement*Hydro Electric Multipurpose Scheme of Karnataka Returned for Resubmission*

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Installed Capacity [MW]	Date of return	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Mahadayi	2x10+2x12.5 +2x150 = 345	3/92	Involves inter State aspect with Goa
2.	Kabini Dam	1x20 = 20	5/90	Involves inter State Aspect. Located in Cauvery basin
3.	Katla & Palna	Augmentation of power in Kalinadi Basin	10/87	Involves inter State aspect with Goa
4.	Shivasa-mudram Seasonal	2x135 =270	10/88	Involves inter State Aspect. Located in Cauvery basin
5.	Mekadatu I & II	St. I-180 +St. II-180 = 360	10/96	Involves inter State with Tamil Nadu. Located in Cauvery basin

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Upper Krishna-I [Almatti]	4x70+1x17 = 297	11/96	Involves inter State aspect with Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra
7.	Tattihalla Augmenta- tion Scheme	Augmentation Scheme	9/99	Does not require concurrence of CEA as estimated cost of project is also less than Rs. 250 crores.

Domestic Production of Diesel*[Translation]*

107. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic production of diesel is unable to meet its demand in the country;

(b) if so, the quantum of diesel likely to be imported during the current financial year;

(c) the steps taken to boost domestic production of diesel to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Diesel production is estimated to meet the domestic requirements. Imports of diesel for period upto November, 1999 is already committed. There would be no need for further imports if the projected diesel production for the balance period of the year materialises.

(c) In order to boost domestic availability of petroleum products, which inter-alia includes diesel, Government has taken action for expansion of existing refining capacity and has also approved setting up of refineries in Public, Private and Joint Sector refineries.

Development of Telecom Network in U.P.

108. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for the development of telecom network in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the funds earmarked for the current year for this purpose in the State;

(c) whether the development work has been completed as per the target by the Uttar Pradesh telecom circle;

(d) if so, the details of the amount spent for the development work in the State during each of the last three years till date, separately; and

(e) the number of new telephones connections released in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Ghaziabad and Bulandshahar Districts during the last three years till date, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) UP State comprises of two Telecom. Circles - UP (E) &

UP (W). The amount allocated for the development of telecom network are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Circle	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
UP (E)	445.31	577.46	617.55
UP (W)	335.85	399.59	437.89

(b) UP (E) Rs. 616.89 Crores.

UP (W) Rs. 461.54 Crores.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Circle	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (upto Oct, 99)
UP (E)	359.29	594.03	679.70	199.77
UP (W)	314.35	422.74	334.50	110.34

(e) DELS provided

Circle	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (upto Oct. 1999)
UP (E)	111885	181043	186685	62131
UP (W)	105027	132875	154917	52906
Ghaziabad & Bulandshahar (Ghaziabad SSA)	18296	26021	28573	11938

*[English]***Gas Projections from Tapti Fields**

109. SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the gas projections from Tapti fields;

(b) whether the entire gas of Tapti is proposed to be diverted to HBJ pipeline; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure allocations of gas of Tapti field to Ripavav gas based power project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The present projections of gas from the Tapti fields are about 5.5 Million Standard Cubic Metre Per Day upto 2002 and this is being carried through HBJ pipeline. It was decided in 1989 to allocate gas from the yet to be developed Mid & South Tapti fields to a power project to be put up at Pipavav and take gas from Gandhar fields to the HBJ pipeline system. However, subsequently keeping in view the fact that the investment decisions to develop Mid & South Tapti fields were yet to be taken, it was agreed to allocate the Gandhar gas for two gas based power projects of 600 MW each in Gandhar area and to take the gas from Mid & South Tapti fields to meet the existing commitments along the HBJ pipeline system.

Methods of Petroleum Conservation

110. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are seriously considering conservation of precious petroleum products, especially diesel;

(b) whether PCRA (Petroleum Conservation Research Association) has been successful in achieving the conservation target in the automobile industry;

(c) if so, the percentage of actual achievement of PCRA;

(d) whether the Government have seriously studied about any indigenously developed technology for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The Government attaches high priority to conservation of petroleum products to minimise the gaps between indigenous production and consumption of petroleum products. The field activities undertaken by PCRA to promote conservation in transport sector include driver training programmes, model depot projects, model garages, emission check programmes, etc.

The achievement of these field activities as against the plan targets during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) As intimated by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES), a demonstration project for operation of diesel buses of the State Road Transport Corporations of Delhi, Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu on dual-fuel mode with "dieseno!" was sanctioned by them in 1996. The project involved use of conversion kits and the "dieseno!" blended as per IIP technology. According to the MNES the results obtained from the pilot studies were found to be not encouraging and that the four State Road Transport Corporations have also expressed reservations about continuation of the project after the demonstration phase was over. Therefore, that Ministry had not supported/recommended the same.

Statement

S.No.	Activity	1996-97			1997-98			1998-99		
		Target	Achievement	Percentage of achievement	Target	Achievement	Percentage of achievement	Target	Achievement	Percentage of achievement
1.	Model Depots Projects	110	109	99	110	155	141	110	184	167
2.	Driver Training Programmes	200	215	108	200	266	133	200	326	163
3.	Upgradation of model Garages	5	—	0	4	3	75	4	21	525

**Linking Price of Crude Oil to
International FOB Price**

111. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to link the price of crude oil to the international FOB price for the post March, 1998 period; and

(b) if so, the reasons for depriving the Government of Gujarat of the royalty rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The price of crude oil payable to ONGC/OIL has been linked to FOB price of imported crude oil *w.e.f.* 01.04.98. ONGC/OIL are being paid pre-announced percentage of weighted average of FOB price of actual imports of crude oil subject to floor benchmark basic price of Rs. 1991/MT, which was the provisional basic price for the period 01/04/96 to 31/03/98. The pre-announced percentages are as follows:

Year	%age
1998-99	75
1999-2000	77.5
2000-2001	80
2001-2002	82.5

The price of crude oil is fixed on monthly basis.

(b) A new scheme of Royalty from 1.4.98 is being formulated and will be put in place shortly. In the meantime, royalty on crude oil is being paid to Central and State Governments, including Gujarat State, provisionally.

Rubberise Bitumen Technology for Roads

112. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether rubberised bitumen has been experimented and found to be effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the commercial production of rubberised bitumen planned and such bitumen is being produced by the Cochin Refineries Ltd., Ambalamugal;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the India Road Congress has taken cognizance of such technology for tarring Indian roads;

(f) if so, whether this technology has also been adopted in other countries; and

(g) if so, the action being taken to promote this technology in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been used on an experimental basis on few stretches of NH-2 in U.P., NH-45 in Tamil Nadu and on certain State Roads in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu and found effective.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Commercial production of Rubberised Bitumen on trial basis was started in September 1999 in Cochin Refineries Limited based on in-house R&D technology. Capacity of the commercial plant is 15000 tonnes per annum and the first batch of 80 tonnes is ready for marketing.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) Yes Sir.

(g) Necessary directives to all the State PWDs for use of Rubber and Polymer Modified Bitumen in Periodical Renewals on the heavily trafficked sections of National Highways (at least in 10% length in each State to begin with) and selectively in Project works have been issued.

**Interconnection between the Eastern
and the Southern Region**

113. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first ever high voltage direct current back-to-back interconnection between the Eastern Region and the Southern Region in Andra Pradesh is being commissioned soon;

(b) if so, whether after commissioning the power surplus, Eastern region would be able to export power to Southern Region and this interconnection would help in both the regions as well as in national economy;

(c) if so, the time by which this project will be fully commissioned; and

(d) the extent to which it will be helpful in providing surplus power to the Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) The HVDC back-to-back inter-connection between Eastern and Southern Region, namely Jeypore-Gazuwaka HVDC back-to-back project, has been fully commissioned since July, 1999. With the commissioning of this project, surplus power to the extent of 500 MW can be transferred from Eastern Region to Southern Region. The inter connection would help in reduction of demand-supply gap in both the regions and also contribute to optimal utilisation of generation capacity and the development of a national power grid.

Smuggling Activities in Sikkim

114. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in the smuggling activities in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim during the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to contain them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Expansion of Kayamkulam Project

115. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government have requested to the Union Government for the expansion of Kayamkulam Power Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is initiating pre-feasibility studies for expansion of Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Project as a regional project for benefit to Southern Region by addition of about 1950 MW capacity. The proposal would be firmed up after availability of key inputs like Liquefied Natural Gas at appropriate time frame with price/terms being confirmed and financial tie-ups.

Funds to Combat Naxalism

116. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been providing funds to Bihar exclusively for the Naxalite belt areas in Aurangabad and Jehanabad;

(b) if so, the total funds allotted during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the State Government has not properly utilised the funds and diverted them for other purposes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to combat Naxalism in Aurangabad and Jehanabad areas of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) The funds allotted to the Government of Bihar during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 under the Scheme of Modernisation of State Police Forces and the amount spent by the State Government are as under:—

	(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Amount released	Amount spent
1996-97	333.12	333.12
1997-98	783.120	783.120
1998-99	633.120	533.120

(e) Ministry of Home Affairs has set up a Coordination Centre, headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the States affected by left wing extremism as its members. Among the important decisions taken are that the States should prepare Action plans incorporating the security as well as development aspects in respect of the affected areas. The Action Plans have so far been received from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa only and have accordingly been forwarded to the Planning Commission. The Government has also formulated a scheme for reimbursement to the extent of 50% of the Security Related Expenditure incurred by States in tackling the problem of left wing extremism, covering the period from 1.4.1996 to 31.3.2001. Aurangabad and Jehanabad are also identified as affected districts under this scheme.

Cellular Telephone Services by MTNL

117. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given a modified licence to MTNL to offer cellular services in Mumbai and Delhi using any digital technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MTNL has provided cellular telephones on the reduced rates as compared to the private cellular operators;

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

(e) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India had taken any objection of the structure of MTNL tariff;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the MTNL has successfully implemented this cellular programme; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Permission/Licence for operation of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) was given to M/s. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) on 10.10.1997. This licence was further amended on 15.9.1999 to establish, maintain and work Cellular Mobile Telephone Services which may be technology neutral; however, the technology must be digital.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details of tariff is given in the enclosed Statement. This tariff has been offered to the subscribers for the following reasons:

1. As per business plan of MTNL, the present level of tariff does not require any increase.
2. By having such tariffs, MTNL hopes to garner a critical mass of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service has already been delayed on account of various litigations initiated by private cellular operators.
3. The Cellular Mobile Telephone Service should become a service for the masses and volume of service should make good for the lower tariff. However, the tariffs have been kept slightly higher than the Basic Service tariffs.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) standard tariff for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service was based on GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) Technology. TRAI had to examine the cost of providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Services using CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) Technology being used by MTNL.

(g) Yes Sir, in Delhi.

(h) MTNL has launched the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in Delhi w.e.f. 2nd October, 1999 with a provisional tariff subject to the approval of TRAI/ Court by using CDMA Technology. There has been tremendous public response to this service and the service has already been over subscribed.

Statement**Details of Tariff**

Service:— Cellular Mobile Telecom Service (CMTS) using CDMA Technology	Package
(a) Registration Charges	Nil
(b) Security Deposits	Rs. 10,000/-
(c) Othe Deposits	Nil
(d) Advance payments	Nil
(e) Installation charges	Nil
(f) Other one time charges if any	Nil
(g) Billing period/cycle	Monthly
(h) Rental	Rs. 600/- P.M.
(i) Free Call allowance	Nil
(j) Pulse rate for local calls (Air Time Charges)	180 Seconds
(k) Unit call charge (Air Time Charges)	Rs. 140/- per 3 Min.
(l) Timings for Peak/Off peak charge	The charges will remain same from 0-24 hrs. All hours are concessional hours for Airtime Charges.
(m) Average charges/minute for a one minute STD call Peak/Off peak	Tariff to comprise: (i) Airtime, plus (ii) PSTN charges for local or long distance as applicable from time to time to the fixed network.
(n) Average charge/minute for a one minute ISD call Peak/Off peak	Tariff to comprise. (i) Airtime, plus (ii) PSTN charges for local or long distance as applicable from time to time to the fixed network.
(o) Refunds including refunds of deposits.	Refund permitted at the time of surrender.
(p) Any other charges.	Nil.

Construction of Alleppey by-Pass Phase-II

118. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties experienced by the people due to the delay in taking up the construction of Alleppey By-pass Phase-II; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Land for Alleppey bypass phase II has already been acquired. Construction of Phase II could not be considered during the 9th Five Year Plan due to budgetary constraints. The State Government now proposes to take up this work as a B.O.T. (Build, Operate and Transfer) project. They have recently invited bids from the Consultants for carrying out feasibility study/detailed engineering.

Crime Situation in National Capital Region

119. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp increase in the crime rate, in and around the National Capital Region; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring down the crime rate in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir. In fact, there has been some decline in the IPC crime reported in the National Capital Territory of Delhi during the current year (upto 31st October, 1999) in both heinous and non-heinous categories as compared to the corresponding period of the preceeding year.

(b) The various steps taken by Delhi Police to bring down crime in the National Capital include, inter alia. intensification of beat patrolling; posting of armed pickets at strategic points; strengthening of intelligence network; close watch on and frequent raids at the suspected hide-outs of criminals and terrorists; verification of antecedents of domestic servants; increased surveillance on history sheeters; coordination meeting with officers of neighbouring States; meetings with members of Residents Welfare Associations; formation of anti-terrorist cell in each police district; and deployment of police personnel in plain clothes in running buses, market places, business places and other crime-prone areas.

Talks with All Party Hurriyat Conference in J&K

120. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are making efforts to establish contacts with the All Party Hurriyat Conference for discussions on a possible framework to begin a dialogue on Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether these talks are mainly held to break the Jammu and Kashmir stalemate;

(c) if so, the progress made so far in regard to talks between the All Party Hurriyat Conference and Government of India;

(d) whether these steps have strengthened India's position on the Kashmir issue and have been welcomed by all the people living in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(e) if so, the extent to which these talks have been fruitful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No Sir.

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

Complaints Received by NHRC

121. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints received by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) as on date;

(b) whether the State Governments view the orders of the NHRC as only recommendatory and that no follow-up action is being taken by the State Governments on the orders of the NHRC;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total number of complaints received by the NHRC during the last three years from Tamil Nadu pertaining to custodial deaths in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The total number of complaints received by the National Human Rights Commission as on 31.10.1999 are 142696.

(b) and (c) In most of the cases, the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission are generally accepted by the State Governments. However, in a few cases the State Governments have either accepted the recommendations of the Commission partly or expressed their inability to comply with the recommendations.

(d) Total number of complaints received by the NHRC during the last three years (1996-97 to 1998-99) from Tamil Nadu pertaining to custodial deaths in the State is 142.

[Translation]

Recommendations of Nirmal Singh Panel

122. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendations of the Nirmal Singh panel to scrap the administered price system of the petroleum products in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the panel; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of the Group, inter alia, include gradual move from Administered Price Mechanism (APM) to Market Determined Price Mechanism (MDPM), rationalisation of duty structure of crude and petroleum products, removal of subsidies in phases, suitable changes in the EXIM policy for sourcing/import of crude and import/export of petroleum products etc.

(c) Pursuant to Government's decision taken in November, 1997, the phased programme of dismantling of APM has been initiated *w.e.f.* 1.4.1998. The major actions taken in this direction, inter alia, include the following:

(i) The system of retention pricing for all the refineries has been abolished. Refinery gate prices of controlled products are being fixed on principles on import parity.

(ii) Consumer prices of only MS, HSD, SKO (PDS), ATF and LPG (Domestic) are being administered by the Government. Prices of other products have been decontrolled.

(iii) Private & Joint Sector refineries have been permitted to import crude oil freely without import license for actual use in their own refineries.

(iv) Custom duty on crude oil was reduced to 22 percent in 1998-99 and crude/product duties was reduced by 2 percent in 1999-2000 in the Union Budget.

(v) 33% of subsidy on LPG (Domestic) has been withdrawn *w.e.f.* 1.2.1999.

(vi) Freight under recoveries on HSD to the extent of 20% has been passed on in the selling prices effective January 9, 1999.

(vii) Cost plus formula for shipping of crude oil has been withdrawn.

(viii) The payment to crude oil producers is now at pre-determined percentage of weighted average FOB price of actual import with a minimum floor price of Rs. 1991/MT.

The details of phased programme of dismantling of APM is contained in the Government Resolution No. 224 dated 24th November, 1997.

[English]

Law and Order Situation in the Country

123. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: (a) whether the law and order situation in certain States and Union territories is in a bad shape;

(b) if so, the number of commissions appointed in this regard in the past to suggest ways and means to improve the law and order in the country;

(c) the recommendations made by them; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Despite some areas of concern, the law and order situation in the country is under control. The major concerns centre around Pak-sponsored terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, inter-linked and externally supported subversive activities of militant groups in the North-East and the violence perpetrated by the Left Wing Extremist groups.

(b) to (d) Central Government have not appointed any Commission in this regard. 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, it is for the concerned State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps to improve the law and order situation in the States. At the Central level, action is taken to facilitate coordination of the anti-terrorist operations of different States and to improve flow of information useful for control or their activities among the States. Further, help is being provided to the State Governments in terms of financial assistance for modernisation of police, supply of improved weapons, deployment of paramilitary forces etc. In certain special circumstances, financial assistance has also been given to some of the affected States over and above the on-going allocations for modernisation of police and supply of weapons.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Rajasthan

124. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Rajasthan particularly in Alwar district, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted during the last three years, district-wise;

(c) the time by which the telephone connections are likely to be provided;

(d) the reasons for not releasing the telephone connections so far; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the State particularly in the said district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Rajasthan and Alwar district in particular as on 1.10.99 are given below:—

(i) Rajasthan	130564
(ii) Alwar	6567

Districtwise details of waiting list of telephone connections in Rajasthan is given in the enclosed Statement I.

(b) The number of telephone connections allotted during the last three years are given below:

1996-97	113518 lines
1997-98	147632 lines
1998-99	171445 lines

Number of telephone connections provided districtwise during the said period is given in the enclosed Statement II.

(c) It has been planned to provide Telephone connections on demand progressively by the end of the Ninth Plan period (1997-2002). The waiting list in Rajasthan as on 31.3.1999 is likely to be cleared by March 2000 and the remaining during the next financial year.

(d) The telephone connections are being released regularly. 2404 new telephone connections were given in Alwar district and 51019 new telephone connections were provided in Rajasthan upto 31.10.1999 during the current financial year.

(e) In order to clear the existing waiting list, it has been planned to provide 1,80,000 telephone connections during 1999-2000 and 2,50,000 telephone connections during the next financial year 2000-01. A target of 10,000 lines has also been fixed for Alwar district for the current financial year.

Statement I

Waiting list as on 31.10.99

Sl.No.	Distt.	W/L as on 31.10.99
1	2	3
1.	Ajmer	8018
2.	Alwar	6567
3.	Banswara	574
4.	Baran	956
5.	Barmer	3157

1	2	3	1	2	3
6.	Bharatpur	4730	20.	Jhunjhunu	7249
7.	Bhilwara	1859	21.	Jodhpur	7825
8.	Bikaner	3665	22.	Karauli	1248
9.	Bundi	1715	23.	Kota	2860
10.	Chittorgarh	1544	24.	Nagaur	8341
11.	Churu	3739	25.	Pali	6212
12.	Dausa	2410	26.	Rajsamand	2590
13.	Dholpur	1305	27.	Sawai Madhopur	1345
14.	Dungarpur	1514	28.	Sikar	9267
15.	Hanumangarh	5535	29.	Sirohi	1664
16.	Jaipur	13470	30.	Sri Ganganagar	7399
17.	Jaisalmer	1034	31.	Tonk	1833
18.	Jalore	3823	32.	Udaipur	6766
19.	Jhalawar	349	Rajasthan Circle Total:		130564

Statement II*Achievement of working connection during last 3 years*

Sl.No.	Distt.	DEL. Prov. 1996-97	DEL. Prov. 1997-98	DEL. Prov. 1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ajmer	5321	5707	14206
2.	Alwar	5810	6889	8666

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Banswara	1295	2516	1844
4.	Baran	454	1179	1658
5.	Barmer	1623	2513	2179
6.	Bharatpur	2651	2303	3716
7.	Bhilwara	3002	4201	8750
8.	Bikaner	3456	6215	6483
9.	Bundi	858	939	1505
10.	Chittorgarh	2377	2306	3525
11.	Churu	3200	2629	4637
12.	Dausa	1160	1015	1876
13.	Dholpur	257	935	800
14.	Dungarpur	565	1500	1293
15.	Hanumangarh	1916	2925	3297
16.	Jaipur	37958	38145	28354
17.	Jaisalmer	142	1114	830
18.	Jalore	470	1539	3078
19.	Jhalawar	1123	687	1739
20.	Jhunjhunu	5354	5774	5202

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Jodhpur	6332	8046	12636
22.	Karauli		Include in Swm Distt	2114
23.	Kota	4668	10955	9896
24.	Nagaur	2504	3259	3690
25.	Pali	3480	5327	9367
26.	Rajsamand	2507	1705	4018
27.	Swai Madhopur	1453	2555	2128
28.	Sikar	2658	5454	4926
29.	Sirohi	578	1820	3995
30.	Sri Ganganagar	3741	9456	8603
31.	Tonk	1090	1901	1931
32.	Udaipur	5515	6123	4503
Rajasthan Circle Total:		113518	147632	171445

[English]

Express Highway for Kerala

125. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned any Express Highway for Kerala;

(b) if not, the reason therefor; and

(c) the details of the Express Highways already been sanctioned for South India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Express Highways, besides being heavily capital intensive projects, require a lot of land, acquisition of which is very costly, difficult and time consuming in Kerala. Also, construction of an Expressway involving huge investment could not be considered due to overall budgetary constraints.

(c) No Express Highway project has been sanctioned for South India.

Waiting List for LPG Connections

126. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long list of people waiting for LPG connections in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of those States where the waiting list is longer;

(d) the number of persons on the waiting list for LPG connections in West Bengal, district-wise as on October, 1999; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to clear waiting list in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The number of persons on the waiting list registered with the LPG distributors of the PSU Oil Companies in the country as on 1-10-99 was about 108.39 lakhs. The State-wise details of waiting list is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The number of persons on the waiting list for LPG connections in West Bengal as on 1-10-99 was about 9.76 lakhs. Government has given direction to Oil Companies to liquidate the waiting list in the Metros of Chennai, Mumbai and Calcutta. More LPG connections are planned to be released in the near future and it is expected to clear the entire waiting list across the country by the year 2001-2002.

Statement*State-wise Waiting List as on 1.10.1999*

State	(Fig. in Lakhs)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	10.18
Arunachal Pradesh	0.6
Assam	0.37

1	2
Bihar	4.81
Delhi	0.00
Goa	0.44
Gujarat	5.04
Haryana	4.99
Himachal Pradesh	0.00
Jammu & Kashmir	0.00
Karnataka	5.16
Kerala	8.30
Madhya Pradesh	5.22
Maharashtra	10.36
Manipur	0.03
Meghalaya	0.01
Mizoram	0.04
Nagaland	0.02
Orissa	1.77
Punjab	7.79
Rajasthan	6.14
Sikkim	0.00
Tamil Nadu	13.67
Tripura	0.01

1	2
Uttar Pradesh	14.13
West Bengal	9.76
<i>Union Territories</i>	
Andaman & Nicobar	0.07
Chandigarh	0.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00
Daman & Diu	0.00
Lakshdweep	0.00
Pondicherry	0.00

Arrack Crusader in Mental Hospital

127. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Arrack Crusader Cop locked in the Mental Hospital", appearing in "The Statesman" Delhi edition of November 9, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ordered a CBI inquiry into the whole matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Facts are being ascertained from the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

Communication Programme in Bihar

128. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the communication programme formulated during the Eighth Five Year Plan for Bihar and the achievements made thereunder;

(b) the details of proposed communications programmes to be finalized during the Ninth Five Year Plan for Bihar;

(c) whether the telephone system in some areas of Bihar has come to standstill; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The details of communication programme formulated during the Eighth Five Year Plan for Bihar and the Achievements made are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) the details of proposed communications programmes during the Ninth Five Year Plan for Bihar are given below:

1. To provide telephone on demand.
2. To provide telephone facility in all villages.
3. To provide STD facility to all the Exchanges.
4. To provide all exchanges with reliable media.
5. To provide computerised billing and accounting in all divisions.
6. To introduce new services in Telecom network.
 - (i) to provide Integrated Service Digital Network (ISDN) upto DHQ level, subject to availability of demand.
 - (ii) to provide Intelligent Network (IN) Services in the first phase in 9 major cities and in second phase all over the country.
 - (iii) to provide Internet Services
 - (iv) to provide Mobile Services
 - (v) to provide Multi Media Services

(c) No Sir.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

Statement

The details of Communication Programme formulated during the Eighth Five Year Plan for Bihar and the Achievements made are given below

Year	No. of New Exchange		Capacity		DELs		VPTs .		Reliable Media	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1992-93	121	121	19787	53056	28000	34389	2000	1265	25	34
1993-94	107	107	47732	44541	27000	37189	3020	926	25	30
1994-95	33	33	50246	66012	35000	44068	3164	2595	25	36
1995-96	14	14	28464	39095	60300	33115	11800	1246	25	25
1996-97	34	34	67800	63200	47000	52368	6000	3526	30	43

[English]

Alliance between HPCL and BPCL

129. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a strategic alliance between Bharat Petroleum Chemicals Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has been worked out where by greenfield projects in refinery or pipeline sectors would be taken up jointly;

(b) if so, whether any arrangement has been made, for equity swap or buying into each other's equity on mutually agreed terms;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any common areas of interest in infrastructure areas have been worked out at major installation, including at Mumbai; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Government has formed a Joint Venture Pipeline Holding Company, M/s Petronet India Limited, with equity participation from Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, IBP Company Limited, etc., for executing grassroot pipeline projects through Joint Venture Pipeline subsidiaries.

Gender Injustice

130. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any practice of killing or selling of girls among the tribals in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken cognizance of it;

(c) if so, the factual position there of including the number of tribes involved in it;

(d) the areas where this practice of killing or selling of girls exist; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Infiltration in Kargil

131. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Another Kargil in the Offing" appearing in the "National Herald" dated September 1, 1999;

(b) if so, whether militants attacks of army HQs and camps through suicide bombs have taken a heavy toll of Indian Army personnel;

(c) if so, reaction of the Government in this regard to track down the infiltrants and to push them back; and

(d) the other steps taken to prevent such infiltrations and provide due security to the borders to maintain the sanctity of the Line of Control in J&K State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There have been only 2 incidents of physical attacks by terrorists on the Army camps/posts in J&K. In one incident the terrorists had launched an unsuccessful attack on one of the Army posts in Kupwara District on 6 Aug. 99 and the terrorists fled leaving behind six dead bodies. Four AK Rifles, one pistol, two RPG rockets and 26 grenades were recovered from the killed militants. Five army personnel also lost their lives.

In an another incident, at approximately 1800 hrs. on 3 Nov. 99 three militants armed with assault rifles stealthily entered the open area adjacent to Public Relations office. They shot at the sentries on the entrance gate to the approach road in Cantonment Board area and thereafter entering the PRO office, fired indiscriminately on the occupants inside the office. The Quick Reaction Teams of the Army immediately reached the spot and surrounded the area. In the ensuing operation, two militants were killed and two AK 47 rifles were recovered. The following casualties were suffered by the Army:—

(a) Killed One officer, two JCOs and six other ranks.

(b) Wounded Six other ranks.

(c) One Jawan of BSF was also killed and one Jawan of Defence Service Corps wounded.

The security arrangements in the Cantonment area have been reviewed after the incident and necessary steps initiated to prevent re-occurrence of such incidents.

Necessary measures are being taken to curb infiltration across the Line of Control. Adequate force levels are being maintained to deal with any contingency. However it is not practical to hermetically seal the Line of Control due to the vastness of the area and extremely difficult terrain, hence, some infiltration by small groups may not be avoided. However all infiltrations are being dealt with effectively.

Code of Conduct for Judges

132. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised a code of conduct for Judges; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) One of the items of the National Agenda for Governance of the National Democratic Alliance is to set up a National Judicial Commission which would *inter alia* draw up a code of ethics for the judiciary. The proposal would require Parliamentary legislation. It is, however, not possible to indicate the time by which a decision in this regard would be taken.

Prostitution on Rise

133. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tendency of prostitution has been on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, whether a large number of girls from the neighbouring countries are getting into this profession;

(c) if so, whether any study has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check this flourishing business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Petrol Pumps on NHs and SHs

134. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new petrol pumps on the National Highways and important State Highways; and

(b) if so, the number of petrol pumps to be set up on the N.H. 7 in the stretch between Bangalore and Salem during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal pending from any approved Marketing Plan for setting up retail outlet dealership on National Highway-7 on the stretch between Bangalore and Salem. However, there is a proposal to set up one Retail Outlet at Hosur on National Highway-7 by Indian Oil Corporation as Company Owned Company Operated against the terminated dealership.

In addition to the above, it is proposed to set up 2 Jubilee Retail Outlets, one between Hosur and Kaveripatnam near Krishnagiri and another at Thoppur in Dharmapuri District at a distance of about 50 KMs Salem on National Highway No. 7.

Talks with NSCN

135. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have resumed peace talks with NSCN (I.M.);

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) the response from other insurgent outfits thereto in Nagaland; and

(d) the other steps being taken to bring peace in the State of Nagaland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Cease Fire with NSCN (I/M) has been extended till July 31, 2000. Shri K. Padmanabhaiah, former Union Home Secretary, has been appointed as the Government of India's representative for the peace talks. Several rounds of negotiations have already been held.

(c) Other insurgent outfits in Nagaland have not so far responded for talks within the parameters indicated.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to bring peace in the State of Nagaland include, *inter alia*, deployment of additional units of Central Para Military Forces and Army; improved coordination and sharing of intelligence; modernisation/upgradation of State Police Forces; reimbursement of security/related expenditure, raising of India Reserve Battalions, sanction of Special Central Assistance; declaration of the most seriously affected areas as 'disturbed areas' and notification of the major insurgent groups as 'unlawful associations'.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connection in Muzaffarpur

136. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages of Muzaffarpur District of Bihar particularly in Paru, Bakhra, Madvan, Karja and Phoolvaria not given telephone connections even after depositing requisite amount and fulfilling the condition of more than ten applications;

(b) the reasons for not providing telephone connections to the long pending applications; and

(c) the time by which the said connections are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) In Muzaffarpur District of Bihar, there are 11 villages including Paru, Bakhra, Madvan (Morban), Karja and Phoolvaria, waiting for telephone connections.

(b) and (c) At Paru, the telephones will be provided from an existing exchange after completion of cable work during the next financial year. It is not possible to cover other places from any existing exchange. New exchanges have been planned and depending upon availability of infrastructure like power supply, equipment etc., the telephone connections at these places are expected to be provided during the next financial year.

[English]

Expansion of Telephone Exchanges

137. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Telephone exchanges functioning with their capacity in Hyderabad telecom circle at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the capacity of the existing telephone exchanges in the said circle during 1999-2000;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose for the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The information is as under:

	No. of Exchanges	Equipped Capacity
(i) Hyderabad Telecom district	124	619916
(ii) AP Telecom circle (including Hyderabad telecom district)	2215	19,60,559

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, The information is as under:

To enhance the capacity	
(i) Hyderabad telecom district	163000 lines
(ii) AP telecom circle (including Hyderabad telecom district)	469000 lines

(d) The fund allocated for this purpose is as under:—

	Cash (in thousands)	Stores (in thousands)
(i) Hyderabad Telecom Distt.	1179504	8742
(ii) AP Telecom Circle (including Hyderabad telecom district)	6419152	214776

[Translation]

Encroachment of Land in Delhi

138. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the land under the Ministry in Delhi and has been encroached by the people, zone-wise;

(b) the details of the action taken by the department to evict people therefrom;

(c) whether the Government have constructed boundary wall on such land which are lying open and are prone to encroachment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to protect such land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The plot of land for DTO Mukherjee Nagar in Delhi has been encroached upon.

(b) Municipal Corporation of Delhi has been requested to initiate the process of relocating the encroaching Jhuggi Dwellers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Boundary wall has been already constructed on all vacant plots except for plots at.

(a) DTO Yamuna Vihar: Orders for construction of boundary wall have been issued.

(b) DTO Mukherjee Nagar: Could not be constructed as the plot is encroached upon.

(e) Not applicable in view of reply at (d) above.

[English]

Permanent Lok Adalats

139. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up permanent Lok Adalats in all the districts in the country;

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be established; and

(c) the efforts taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) The progress made with regard to the establishment of Permanent and Continuous Lok Adalats in all the Districts in the country was reviewed by the National Legal Services Authority at the Second Annual Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities held at Hyderabad on 9th October, 1999. The status report received by the National Legal Services Authority from the State Legal Services Authorities conveyed that the scheme for setting up Permanent and Continuous Lok Adalats in all the Districts had been fully implemented in 10 States and 1 Union Territory, namely, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Union Territory of Chandigarh. The scheme of setting up of Permanent and Continuous Lok Adalats in all the Districts has been partially implemented in 6 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnatka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Mizoram and was in the process of implementation in the remaining 15 States and Union Territories.

No time-frame has been fixed but all the State Legal Services Authorities have been impressed upon to establish such Lok Adalats and the Executive Chairman, NALSA is keenly monitoring the setting up of such Lok Adalats.

Rural Electrification

140. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of electrification in Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura;

(b) whether there has been a meagre progress in electrification of villages in these States; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The status of village electrification in Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura is given below:—

State	Total No. of inhabited villages (1991 census)	Villages electrified as on 30.9.99 (CEA)	Percentage of villages electrified
Kerala	1384	1384	100
West Bengal	37910	29531	78
Tripura	855	808	95

(b) and (c) The progress in electrification of villages in Kerala and Tripura is hundred percent and 95% respectively, which is above the all India average of 86%. However, village electrification in West Bengal is 78% and is below the all India average. The slow progress of rural electrification in West Bengal is on account of the inability of West Bengal State Electricity Board to avail of loan assistance from Rural Electrification Corporation for rural electrification programmes because of non-payment of outstanding dues, and inadequate transmission and distribution system among other reasons.

Centres of Excellence

141. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set-up the centres of Excellence for the creation of environmental awareness;

(b) if so, the financial assistance released to these centres for the years 1997-98, 1998-99, year-wise and centre-wise;

(c) whether the expenditure commensurates with the results; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL

MARANDI): (a) Yes Sir. The following two Centres of Excellence have been set up for creation of environmental awareness:

- Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad.
- CPR Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC), Chennai.

(b) The amount of financial assistance released to these two centres during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as follows:

Name of the Centre	1997-98 (Rs. in lakhs)	1998-99 (Rs. in lakhs)
CEE, Ahmedabad	231.13	268.00
CPREEC, Chennai	85.00	105.00

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Ecological Imbalances in Orissa

142. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any Study of devastation in Orissa causing ecological imbalances with reference to the environment & forest devastation; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for afforestation of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) On receipt of the information regarding occurrence of recent super cyclone in Orissa, a senior officer of the Ministry of Environment and Forests visited the affected areas and assessed the damage to environment and forest wealth, with help of State Government officials. As per information received, the vegetation in the coastal districts from Balasore to Ganjam has been severely ravaged and forestry & plantations have been damaged over an area of 93558 ha.

(b) An action plan has been received from the State Government which envisages Coastal belt plantation of 3000 ha., distribution of 15 crore seedlings, avenue plantation on 1500 kms. of roads, city plantation with 10 lakh seedlings and restocking of forest blocks affected by cyclone over an area of 25000 ha.

Delay in Distribution of Mail

143. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of delay in the distribution of Mail in Chennai, Calcutta and Marathwada region have been noticed by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed by the Government to improve the situation; and

(c) the reasons for gross under utilization of automatic mail processing centres at Chennai and Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS-(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Delivery of mail in Chennai, Calcutta and Marathwada region is generally satisfactory. However, there are occasional instances of delay to mails due to various reasons that are beyond the control of the Department like cancellation/late running of mail carrying planes, trains and buses, sudden and unexpected increase in the mail volume, natural calamities etc.

(b) In Marathwada region, mails from Nanded to Dharmabad were delayed from 4.9.99 to 6.9.99 and from Nanded to Mudkhed were delayed from 22.6.99 to 25.6.99 due to irregular plying of State Road Transport buses. There was non-despatch of mails from Nanded to Mahore from 9.9.99 to 15.9.99 due to discontinuance of mail carrying buses. There was also discontinuance of mail carrying ST buses between Nanded and Degloor from 4.11.99 to 8.11.99 resulting in hold up of mail. Action was taken immediately to contact the State Transport authorities and alternative arrangements were made for despatch of mails. In Calcutta, there were occasional instances of delay to mails. However, recent surveys indicate that such cases of delay are on the decline. In Chennai also some instances of delay in delivery of mail have been noticed. Necessary action is taken to identify the cause for delay and corrective steps are taken wherever necessary.

(c) There are two Letter Sorting Machines in the Automatic Mail Processing Centres (AMPC) at Mumbai and Chennai respectively. Out of the two machines, one

is kept as stand by so that the entire volume of mail is not delayed in the event of break down. The effective time available for sorting of letters by the Automatic Letter Sorting Machine is 16 hours per day after providing for essential cleaning and maintenance as also changing of programmes. In ideal conditions and with high quality mail, the machine can sort 4,80,000 articles per day. As against this, at present in Chennai 4.25 lakhs articles are processed by AMPC, while in Mumbai 4.50 lakhs articles are processed by AMPC, every day.

The full capacity utilisation of the AMPCs depends on availability of machinable mails which conform to standards of size, length, breadth; thickness, non-use of stapler pin etc. Availability of mechinable mail thus depends largely on the cooperation of the public and non-availability of sufficient machinable mails is the main reason for under utilisation of the AMPCs. The Department is making all possible efforts to popularise the concept of machinable mails and educate the public in suitably preparing their mails. As a result, there has been gradual increase in the capacity utilisation of Letter Sorting Machines over the years.

[*Translation*]

Long Term Policy for LPG

144. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any long-term policy in regard to L.P.G.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the role envisaged for private sector companies therein which are willing to enter this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The new LPG Marketing Plan for opening of LPG distributorship is prepared by taking into account the following:

(i) To cover all urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.

(ii) All urban locations having population of 5,000 and above for setting up a distributorship and the viability to be ascertained by taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms. radius..

(iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above to be surveyed for setting up rural distributorships and included in the plan depending upon the viability.

(iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above to be surveyed for opening of rural distributorships. While identifying rural locations contiguous to these towns, it should be ensured that adequate number of LPG distributorships exists in these towns so as to avoid marketing of LPG by rural distributorship in urban areas.

(d) To supplement the availability of LPG marketed by PSU Oil Companies, Government of India, as a part of liberalization policy, had decanalised import of LPG in April, 1993 and amended LPG Control Order thereby facilitating the import and marketing of LPG by private marketers at market determined prices through their own distribution network under parallel marketing scheme.

LPG Agencies in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra

145. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some new petrol pumps and LPG agencies in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra in the next marketing plan

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) One Retail outlet each at Dadgaon and Navapur under 'ST(W)' category and a LPG distributorship at Dadgaon under 'ST' category in Dist. Nandurbar, Maharashtra have been included in the Marketing Plan 1996-98.

[*English*]

STD/ISD Facility

146. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of block headquarters connected with STD and ISD in West Bengal as on October 1999; and

(b) the time by which the remaining block headquarters are likely to be connected with these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The names of 298 Block Headquarters in West Bengal where STD and ISD facility is available as on October, 99 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Out of the remaining 43 Block Headquarters STD/ISD facility is likely to be provided to 8 Block Headquarters by March, 2000 subject to availability of material resources.

In the remaining 35 Block Headquarters, where currently no demand has been projected, the STD facility will be progressively provided by March, 2002.

Statement

Names of Block Headquarters having STD and ISD facility in West Bengal as on October, 1999

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Serampur | 13. Piyali Town |
| 2. Barunpara | 14. Amtala-I |
| 3. Singur | 15. Amtala-II |
| 4. Uluberia | 16. Bosepukur |
| 5. Jaduberia | 17. Budge-Budge |
| 6. Domjur | 18. Nodakhali |
| 7. Ghoshpara | 19. Behala Chowrasta |
| 8. Andul | 20. Sonamukhi |
| 9. Choto-Jagulia | 21. Patrasayer |
| 10. Bagband-Saibaria | 22. Kotulpur |
| 11. Doulpara | 23. Indus |
| 12. Natagarsodepur | 24. Joypur |
| | 25. Vishnupur |
| | 26. Taldangra |
| | 27. Simlipal |
| | 28. Raipur |
| | 29. Sarenga |
| | 30. Ranibundh |
| | 31. Khatra |
| | 32. Hirabundh |
| | 33. Indpur |
| | 34. Bankura |

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 35. Chatna | 57. Barsul |
| 36. Saltora | 58. Bhatar |
| 37. Mejia | 59. Guskara |
| 38. Barjora | 60. Galsi |
| 39. Amarkanon | 61. Memari |
| 40. Onda | 62. Jamalpur |
| 41. Nalhati | 63. Shyamsundar |
| 42. Lohapur | 64. Paruli |
| 43. Murarai | 65. Kalna |
| 44. Mollarpur | 66. Monteswar |
| 45. Paiker | 67. Nutanhat |
| 46. Mollarpur | 68. Kandra |
| 47. Rampurhat | 69. Katwa |
| 48. Ahmedpur | 70. Dainhat |
| 49. Dubrajpur | 71. Budbud |
| 50. Rajnagar | 72. Sagarbhanga |
| 51. Suri | 73. Rupnarayanpur |
| 52. Purandarpur | 74. Domohoni |
| 53. Sriniketan | 75. Raniganj |
| 54. Labpur | 76. Kulti |
| 55. Nanoor | 77. Asansol |
| 56. Ilambazar | 78. Jamuria |

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 79. Arambag | 101. Mecheda |
| 80. Khanakul (I) | 102. Panskura |
| 81. Khanakul (II) | 103. Kolaghat |
| 82. Kamarpukur | 104. Moyna |
| 83. Masat | 105. Nandakumar |
| 84. Chanditala | 106. Mahisadal |
| 85. Jangipara | 107. Nandigram |
| 86. Chanda | 108. Reapara |
| 87. Dhaniakhali | 109. Chandipur |
| 88. Jirat | 110. Sutahata |
| 89. Pandua | 111. Balichak |
| 90. Mogra | 112. Keshiary |
| 91. Singur | 113. Danton |
| 92. Haripal | 114. Belda |
| 93. Tarakeswar | 115. Salboni |
| 94. Jhargram | 116. Keshpur |
| 95. Lalgarh | 117. Goaltore |
| 96. Gidni | 118. Sateankura |
| 97. Bhupatinagar | 119. Midanapur |
| 98. Ramnagar | 120. Sabong |
| 99. Egra | 121. Kharagpur |
| 100. Contai | 122. Khirapai |

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 123. Chandrakona | 145. Nagar |
| 124. Ghatal | 146. Saktipur |
| 125. Khakurdah | 147. Amtala |
| 126. Murarai | 148. Murshidabad |
| 127. Puncha | 149. Nabagram |
| 128. Raghunathpur | 150. Lalgola |
| 129. Chelyama | 151. Islampur |
| 130. Bagmundi | 152. Bhagabangola |
| 131. Nandown | 153. Sagardighee |
| 132. Kashipur | 154. Farakka |
| 133. Jaipur | 155. Ahiran |
| 134. Shyampur | 156. Aurangabad |
| 135. Bagnan | 157. Raghunathganj |
| 136. Uluberia | 158. Jangipur |
| 137. Udaynarayanpur | 159. Fulia |
| 138. Amta | 160. Hanskhali |
| 139. Domjur | 161. Dabagram |
| 140. Ghoshpara | 162. Bethuadahari |
| 141. Andul | 163. Nabadwip |
| 142. Kandi | 164. Chapra |
| 143. Bharatpur | 165. Taehatta |
| 144. Salar | 166. Palasipara |
| | 167. Krishnagar |

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 168. Dhubulia | 190. Usthi |
| 169. Habra | 191. Kakdwip |
| 170. Guma | 192. Kulpi |
| 171. Berachampa | 193. Dinhata |
| 172. Rajarhat | 194. Sahebganj |
| 173. Bagda | 195. Sitrai |
| 174. Chandpara | 196. Tufanganj |
| 175. Baduria | 197. Baxirhat |
| 176. Harwa | 198. Changrabandha |
| 177. Hansnabad | 199. Halidibari |
| 178. Nazat | 200. Sitalkuchi |
| 179. Basirhat | 201. Mathanhanga |
| 180. Kholapota | 202. Bijanbari |
| 181. Natagar-Sodpur | 203. Sukhiapokhri |
| 182. Bhangar | 204. Kalimpong |
| 183. Amtala (I) | 205. Algarah |
| 184. Amtala (II) | 206. Phansidewa |
| 185. Budge Budge | 207. Kurseong |
| 186. Joynagar | 208. Jalpaiguri |
| 187. Behala Chowrasta | 209. Moynaguri |
| 188. Gosaba | 210. Dhupguri |
| 189. Rudranagar | 211. Rajganj |

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 212. Chalsa | 234. Chopra |
| 213. Nagrakata | 235. Gangarampur |
| 214. Falakta | 236. Tapan |
| 215. Madarihat | 237. Salurghat |
| 216. Alipurduar | 238. Hili |
| 217. Ratua | 239. Kotasur |
| 218. Harishchandrapur | 240. Nishichindapur |
| 219. Chanchol | 241. Nakrakonda |
| 220. Manikchak | 242. Patelnagar |
| 221. Gazole | 243. Amrargarh |
| 222. Pakuahat | 244. Paharhati |
| 223. Mangalbari | 245. Shrirampur |
| 224. Malda Town | 246. Shingrkund |
| 225. Kaliachak | 247. Ijatganj |
| 226. Muthabari | 248. Hirapur |
| 227. Raiganj | 249. Vijaynagar |
| 228. Kaliaganj | 250. Pursura |
| 229. Hemtabad | 251. Magra |
| 230. Itahar | 252. Belpakari |
| 231. Harirampur | 253. Kajlagarh |
| 232. Kusmandi | 254. Balichai |
| 233. Karandighi | 255. Dhaneswarpur |

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 256. Garbeta | 278. Chotojagulia |
| 257. Radinbranagar | 279. Rafipur |
| 258. Nimtala | 280. Paikpara |
| 259. Patharmshara | 281. Malangapara |
| 260. Bhatbundh | 282. Deulpara |
| 261. Borgabari | 283. Piyalitown |
| 262. Khalore | 284. Panapukur |
| 263. Jaduberia | 285. Bosepukur |
| 264. Betai | 286. Nimpith |
| 265. Bargachhia | 287. Uttabazipur |
| 266. Satitara | 288. Dhaluabari |
| 267. Sarulia | 289. Atharakhai |
| 268. Joyrampur | 290. Krishnagar |
| 269. Choanpur | 291. Hamilton |
| 270. Shadikhan | 292. Pakhuria |
| 271. Khoribona | 293. Malatipur |
| 272. Ratanpur | 294. Pundibari |
| 273. Habibpur | 295. Islampur |
| 274. Nokari | 296. Bhula |
| 275. Suearnapur | 297. Naikuri |
| 276. Krishnaganj | 298. Kamalpur |
| 277. Maheshbathan | |

STD Tariff in Rural Areas

147. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present STD tariff weighs against rural areas as compared to urban areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a move to reduce STD tariff for all calls emanating from rural Panchayats in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The present pulse rate for STD calls are the same for rural and urban areas.

(c) to (e) No, Sir.

Supply of Defective Telephone Instrument by MTNL

148. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone instruments being provided by MTNL to its customers are not lasting for long and get defective within few months, like BPL's Model 5400;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment of the situation and taken any action to check the wasteful expenditure on the telephone instruments;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of complaints received during the last three years in this regard and the action taken thereon;

(f) whether such telephones are replaced with serviced telephone instruments which do not last much longer; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to provide new instruments of serviced ones and to avoid the inconvenience caused to the subscribers on this count?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. In general the telephone instruments provided by MTNL to its customers do not get defective within a few months.

(b) to (d) Not applicable in view of reply at (a) above.

(e) No complaints have been received in respect of above telephones within a few months of their supply/warranty period.

(f) and (g) Not applicable in view of reply at (c) above.

Bungling in the Purchase of Steam Generators for Talcher Plant

149. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations about the bungling in the tendering process for the purchase of steam generators for the NTPC's Talcher Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether BHEL has not been awarded the contract despite being the lowest bidder; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) A representation from the President, Combustion Engineering, USA (CE) was received by the Government in August, 1999. In the representation, an allegation has been made about arbitrary disqualification of CE's bid and NTPC's decision to negotiate the Steam Generator Contract with M/s Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL). Subsequently, on 31.8.1999, a writ petition was filed by ACC Vickers Babcock Engineers Union and others in the High Court of Calcutta challenging NTPC's decision to award the contract to M/s BHEL and stay was granted by the Court. The writ petition was dismissed by the Calcutta Court on 11.10.1999 on the ground of jurisdiction. Subsequently, ABB-ABL who was the proposed assignee of CE of its bid, filed a writ petition in the High Court of Allahabad on 26.10.1999. This writ petition was also dismissed by the High Court of Allahabad on 3.11.1999 *inter-alia* stating that the Court did not find that there has been any error in the decision making process relating to grant of contract by NTPC in favour of M/s BHEL.

Notification of Award was subsequently issued by NTPC to M/s. BHEL on 4.11.1999 which has been accepted by them.

National Highways

150. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme of the Union Government for the construction of new National Highways to improve the Transport system in the desert, hilly and backward areas in the country;

(b) whether the Union Government have received proposals from various State Governments to declare state roads as National Highways during the Ninth Plan period;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for the purpose during the said period, State-wise; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
(a) to (d) Central Government had invited proposals for declaration of new national highways from all the State Governments/Union Territories. The Central Government has declared 17,712 Kms. of roads as new national highways during the 9th Plan on the basis of the transport requirements of the country. Statement giving details of allocation to national highways (original) is attached.

Statement

*Statement Indicating Allocation of Funds Under National Highways (Original) (Rs. in Lakhs)
in various States during the 9th Plan Period.*

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2949.83	4500.00	5000.00
2.	Assam	1821.00	2600.00	3100.00
3.	Bihar	1900.00	3405.31	3400.00
4.	Chandigarh	30.00	82.00	100.00
5.	Delhi	800.00	1400.00	1200.00
6.	Goa	900.00	1100.00	1400.00
7.	Gujarat	3675.00	5346.96	5000.00
8.	Haryana	1100.00	2613.50	4000.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1700.00	2500.00	3000.00

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	150.00	100.00	135.00
11.	Karnataka	2900.00	3500.00	4500.00
12.	Kerala	3600.00	6744.46	6500.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1700.00	2200.00	3000.00
14.	Maharashtra	2900.00	4811.63	4900.00
15.	Manipur	700.00	700.00	1000.00
16.	Meghalaya	920.00	1000.00	1500.00
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	300.00
18.	Nagaland	100.00	200.00	450.00
19.	Orissa	2600.00	4000.00	4350.00
20.	Pondicherry	70.00	100.81	150.00
21.	Punjab	1300.00	2500.65	2500.00
22.	Rajasthan	2550.00	3450.00	3800.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	2500.00	3624.75	5000.00
24.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	50.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	4608.00	7078.14	6300.00
26.	West Bengal	5375.00	7150.94	6600.00
27.	Joggigappa Bridge	1244.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Ministry	0.17	3.86	506.00
29.	BRDB	7031.00	8500.00	10300.00
Total		55124.00	79213.01	88041.00

Free Internet Service

151. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Caltiger-Com. would provide free internet service to the residents of Calcutta;

(b) if so, the number of customers enjoying access to such offer would initially be restricted to 500;

(c) the manner in which customers are likely to be chosen;

(d) whether such facilities are being made available on similar conditions to other cities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) M/s. Patriot Automation Projects Pvt. Ltd. has been issued a licence for providing Internet Services with service area as Calcutta. As per the Internet Service Provider (ISP) Policy, the ISPs are free to fix their own tariff. However, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) may review and fix a tariff at any time. This company is providing free internet service to the residents of Calcutta under the brand name Caltiger.Com. The DOT call charges for access to the internet are to be paid by the customer as per regular DOT tariff.

(b) As per the company, the number of customers enjoying access to such offer is initially restricted to 500.

(c) As per the company, the customers are chosen on a first-come-first-serve basis.

(d) and (e) The company has been given licence for providing Internet services with service area Calcutta.

[Translation]

Allotment of LPG Agencies to SCs/STs

152. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new LPG agencies allotted during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of LPG agencies out of them allotted to the persons belonging to the SCs/STs, State-wise;

(c) the number of applications pending for allotment of these agencies, State-wise;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to clear these pending applications; and

(e) the number of these agencies proposed to be allotted in Maharashtra during 1999-2000 location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) 231 new LPG distributorships were allotted all over the country during the last three years i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99. Out of the above, 67 LPG distributorships were allotted to SCs/STs.

(c) and (e) 2585 LPG distributorships were pending for allotment all over the country, out of which 277 are in Maharashtra.

(d) Dealer Selection Boards were constituted all over the country for making selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products.

[English]

Private participation in Diesel and Petrol Sectors

153. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed private sector participation in the LPG sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to open the diesel and petrol sector as well for private participation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any Indian or foreign company have submitted any proposals for their participation in diesel and petrol sectors;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The Government allowed private sector participation in the LPG sector with effect from April, 1993 and now private parties are free to import and distribute LPG in the country by making their own arrangements. The intending parties are required to obtain rating certificate from approved rating agencies.

(c) to (h) Some multinationals and Indian companies have expressed their desire to participate in sale of diesel and petrol in the country. However, as per the extant Government decision, marketing of diesel and petrol will continue to be with Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP up to March, 2002.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections on Priority Basis to Senior Citizens

154. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide telephone connections on priority basis to the senior citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Instructions as shown in the enclosed statement have already been issued on 5th October, 1999 that senior citizens of the Age 65 years and above can register telephone connections under N-OYT-Special category.

Statement

Copy of the Circular No. 2-12/99-PHA dated 5.10.99

Subject:— Provision of Telephone Connection on priority to Senior Citizens.

As a welfare gesture, it has been decided that the senior citizens of the Age 65 years and above shall be

entitled to register their demand for one telephone connection in their names under "Non-OTY-Special" Category. Telephones thus provided shall be transferable only in the name of spouse, if alive after death of the subscriber as a general category telephone and subsequent transfers shall be governed by prevailing telephone transfer rules.

WIDE PUBLICITY MAY PLEASE BE GIVEN TO ABOVE SCHEME.

Sd/-

(S.K. Bhardwaj)
Asstt. Director General (PHA)

All Chief General Managers
Telecom Circles/Telephone Districts
Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MTNL New Delhi
Chief General Manager, MTNL Mumbai/New Delhi.

[*English*]

Regularisation of Encroachment on Forest Land

155. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received demands from various organisations to regularise the encroachment of Adivasis on the forest land; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) So far 15 proposals from eight different State Governments have been received for regularisation of encroachment of forest land which has taken place prior to 25.10.1980 under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Out of these, five proposals have been approved, two have been approved in-principle and one proposal has been rejected on merit. On the remaining seven proposals no decision could be taken as they were incomplete and the concerned State Governments are yet to furnish the wanting information.

[*Translation*]**Construction of Bridges and National Highways**

156. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bridges and National Highways constructed in the various States and particularly in Bihar during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the number of Bridges and National Highways to be constructed during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) whether the construction work of most of the Bridges and National Highways is lagging behind the Schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) State-wise details of number of bridge works and national highway works constructed during 1992-97 (Eighth Five Year Plan) are given in the enclosed Statement.

The number of bridge works and national highway works to be constructed during the Ninth Five Year Plan is as under:—

(i) Widening to two-lanes	1194 Kms.
(ii) Widening to four-lanes	202 Kms.
(iii) Strengthening of weak two lanes	2908 Kms.
(iv) Construction of bypasses	20
(v) Construction of major bridges	40 and
(vi) Construction of minor bridges/ road overbridges	226

(b) and (c) Some of the bridge works are lagging behind the schedule mainly due to contractual and site problem.

(d) Progress of the National Highways works is reviewed three times in a year in the Ministry and corrective measures, if any, required to be taken are decided during the Review Meetings.

Statement

(In Kms)

Sl. No.	Name of States	Widening to two lanes	Strengthening	Widening to Four Lanes	Bypass	Major Bridges	Minor Bridges
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	80.30	230.12	17.76	—	1	15
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.25	4.00	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	41.59	148.98	—	—	—	17
4.	Bihar	12.00	181.39	—	—	—	11
5.	Chandigarh	—	33.00	—	—	—	—
6.	Delhi	—	5.40	7.00	—	1	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Goa	7.25	15.95	—	1	1	2
8.	Gujarat	36.20	221.30	100.65	2	6	9
9.	Haryana	—	200.65	0.50	3	2	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	109.65	46.81	—	—	1	11
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	83.20	168.70	—	—	2	10
13.	Kerala	7.95	79.90	—	1	1	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	142.69	169.72	—	—	2	34
15.	Maharashtra	13.00	264.96	6.54	—	6	48
16.	Manipur	34.10	33.42	—	—	—	—
17.	Meghalaya	21.94	34.00	—	—	—	5
18.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Orissa	164.00	171.00	—	1	—	23
20.	Pondicherry	—	9.00	—	—	—	2
21.	Punjab	6.40	307.23	52.61	—	4	4
22.	Rajasthan	131.00	279.50	69.00	—	3	14
23.	Tamil Nadu	2.10	534.65	2.20	1	11	15
24.	Uttar Pradesh	16.08	593.68	21.00	—	3	11
25.	West Bengal	—	128.70	—	—	2	18
Total		917.70	3862.06	277.26	9	45	249

*[English]***Postal Facilities in Rajasthan**

157. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms for opening of Post Office in rural, urban, tribal, desert and backward areas;

(b) the reasons for not providing this facility to certain villages of the Desert area of Western Rajasthan which fulfil the prescribed norms;

(c) the number of villages in the said areas where the said facilities have yet not been provided despite fulfilling the norms, District-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide postal facility in Western Rajasthan during the current financial year, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Existing norms for opening of post office in rural, urban, tribal, desert and backward areas are mentioned in the enclosed Statement I.

(b) The opening of post offices is a PLAN activity of the Department. The targets are assigned to open post offices in tribal areas and other areas every year. This would include desert areas also.

(c) District-wise information regarding no. of villages where these facilities have not yet been provided are given in the enclosed Statement II. These fulfil only 2 norms of distance and population. The cost & income is to be examined according to targets fixed in every Annual Plan subject to targets assigned and Justification according to norms BOs are opened.

(d) Target fixed for Western Rajasthan in the Annual Plan 1999-2000 is 11 Extra departmental Branch Offices, in the Identified Location which are mention in Statement II. These will be opened according to justification.

Statement I**Norms for Opening of Post Offices****Norms for Opening of New Branch Post Office****Population**

(a) *In Normal areas:*

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO Villages)

(b) *In the hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:*

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages

Distance:

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

(b) *In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:*

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

Anticipated Income:

(a) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33¹/₃% of cost.

(b) *In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:*

The minimum anticipated in come will be 15% of the cost.

Norms of Opening New Departmental Sub-Post Offices:**In Rural Areas:**

The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day. The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

2.2 In Urban Areas:

2.2.1 The urban Areas, the Post office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

2.2.2 The distance between two Post Offices should not be less than 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other urban areas. If it is a Delivery Post Office, the distance from the nearest Delivery Post Office should not be less than 5 Kms.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

2.2.3 A delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Norms for Opening of Additional Head Post Offices

(a) Each district should have a Head Post Office provided a minimum of 20 Sub Post Offices can be attached to it. In the case of backward areas or places where there will be a definite improvement in financing Sub Post Offices/Branch Post Offices, a Lower standard may be adopted, subject, as at present, to the approval of the Directorate.

(b) An existing Head Post Office should be bifurcated if the number of sub offices attached to it exceeds 60. It should, however, be ensured that as a result of the change, neither the new nor the old Head Post Office has less than 20 Sub Offices attached to it.

Statement II

The number of villages in the said areas where the said facility yet not provided despite their fulfilling the norms, district-wise.

The list of districts covered under the desert development programme as identified in the Seventh Five Year Plan Documents (1985-90 Volume II) issued by the Planning Commission is as follows:

Jaisalmer	Jodhpur	Nagaur
Pali	Barmer	Jalore
Bikaner	Churu	Jhunjhunu
Sikar	Sriganganagar	

Name of District	Nos. of villages which fulfil distance norm & population norm where PO's are not opened.
Jaisalmer	26
Jodhpur	109
Nagaur	143
Pali	Nil
Barmer	20
Jalore	49
Bikaner	34
Churu	49
Jhunjhunu	18
Sikar	33
Sriganganagar	79

BOT Programme by N.H.A.I.

158. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (N.H.A.I.) have launched the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response thereto; and

(c) the progress achieved in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Concession Agreements have been signed for four projects namely Durg bypass, Nellore bypass, ROB at Kishangarh and Moradabad bypass. Estimated cost of these projects is Rs. 258 crores.

**Recommendations of TRAI on
Tariff Structure**

159. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has made some recommendations recently about the tariff structure of the Telecom service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Recently, on the 17th Sept. 99, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has notified tariffs in respect of Cellular services by introducing the concept of Calling Party Pays, which was to be implemented from 1st November, 1999.

(b) and (c) The proposed tariffs, wherein the caller from an ordinary telephone has to pay additional charges in respect of calls made to cellular subscribers, could not be implemented, as the case is subjudice on account of legal issues raised in a Public Interest Litigation as well as by one of the basic service operators. The case is pending before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court.

Expansion of Election Commission

160. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for expansion of Election Commission is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the main objectives thereof;

(c) whether the Government are likely to convene all party meeting before taking any decision in this regard:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Declaration of New National Highways

161. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have declared new National Highways in the country during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the roads declared as the National Highways during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) whether the Government have given more allocation for maintenance and constructions of the National Highways as compared to the past two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached herewith.

(c) Yes, Sir. Details of Allocation for maintenance of National Highways for the last two year are:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Allocation For NH (O)	Allocation for M&R
1998-99	792.13	549.80
1999-2000 (upto November, '99)	772.41	703.00

Statement

Sl. No.	NH. No.	Route	State		Total Length
1.	152	Patachikuchi-Bhutan Border	Assam	40 Kms.	40 Kms.
2.	214	Kattipudi-Kakinada-Pamaru	Andhra Pradesh	270 Kms.	270 Kms.
3.	83	Patna-Punpun-Gaya-Dobhi	Bihar	130 Kms.	130 Kms.
4.	85	Chapra-Siwan-Gopalganj	Bihar	95 Kms.	95 Kms.
5.	82	Gaya-Rajgir-Bihar Sharif-Mokama	Bihar	130 Kms.	130 Kms.
6.	84	Arrah-Buxar	Bihar	60 Kms.	60 Kms.
7.	81	Korha-Katihar-Malda Rd.	Bihar West Bengal	45 Kms. 55 Kms.	100 Kms.
8.	88	Shimla-Bilaspur-Hamirpur-Nadaun-Ranital-Kangra-Bhawan-(at NH 20)	Himachal Pradesh	115 Kms.	115 Kms.
9.	212	Kodhikode-Mysore-Kollagal	Karnataka Kerala	160 Kms. 90 Kms.	250 Kms.
10.	213	Palghat-Calicut	Kerala	130 Kms.	130 Kms.
11.	86	Kanpur-Sagar	Madhya Pradesh Uttar Pradesh	180 Kms. 180 Kms.	360 Kms.
12.	215	Panikoli-Rajamunda	Orissa	348 Kms.	348 Kms.
13.	89	Ajmer-Bikaner	Rajasthan	300 Kms.	300 Kms.
14.	87	Rampur-Bilaspur-Patnagarh-Haldwani-Nainital	Uttar Pradesh	83 Kms.	83 Kms.
15.	151	Karimganj-Sutrakandi	Assam	14 Kms.	14 Kms.
Total					2425 Kms.

[Translation]

Statement

Shortage of Dak Employees and Recommendation of Talwar Committee

162. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations of Talwar Committee;

(b) the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the Government have made any survey in regard to the shortage of dak employees in the various cadres in the entire country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for low increase in lower cadres as compared to the ratio of increase in the posts in officer cadres in the Department of Posts in the country; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Government has extended by orders dated 17.12.98 a package of benefits to Extra Departmental Agents (EDAs) in full and final settlement of all pending demands relating to the implementation of the recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee. A summary of the committee's recommendations is attached as Statement.

(c) to (f) A system of unit-wise establishment review is followed by the Department as a continuous process to assess the man-power requirements. Post found justified in terms of the prescribed norms and standards are created with the approval of Ministry of Finance in terms of their instructions issued from time to time. The sanctioned strength as on 1.4.99 issued from time to time. The sanctioned strength as on 1.4.99 is as follows:

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	EDAs
785	1884	234119	56284	309915

Summary of Justice Talwar Committee Recommendations Postal Extra Departmental System

Scales of pay

The scales of pay have been recommended for a minimum of 3 hours 45 minutes to 7.5 hours for all categories of ED Agents other than EDBPMs/EDSPMs. In the case of EDBPMs and EDSPMs, the minimum scale fixed is for 3 hours and 5 hours respectively. For excess workload of half an hour or more, a lumpsum pay has been prescribed. The lumpsum pay be treated as 'pay' for all purposes. The recommended scales are given in Annexure I. The combined duty scales have also been recommended for BPMs/EDSPMs doing delivery and conveyance of mails and for EDDAs conveying mails.

Assured Career Progression

Since, the Committee has recommended that the ED Agents should look forward to an assured career progression within the E.D. System, the Committee has, further, recommended financial upgradations for categories of E.D. Agents.

Weightage to the length of service

The Committee has recommended that ED Agents be given the following increments in the proposed pay scales for different lengths of service:

1 to 5 years	Nil
6 to 10 years	1 increments
11 to 15 years	2 increments
16 to 20 years	3 increments
21 to 25 years	4 increments

Split Duty

The Committee has recommended that a split duty allowance of Rs. 100/- be given to the extra-departmental agents whenever the gap between one duty and the other is more than one hour.

Compensation to ED Agents if detained beyond duty hours or detained beyond 5 hours

1. *Compensation to ED Agents for detention beyond 5 hours*

The Committee has recommended that if extra-departmental agents are brought on duty for a period beyond 5 hours, they should be duly compensated and paid for the same subject to a maximum of 7.5 hours.

- (ii) *Compensation to ED Agents for detention beyond duty hours for exchanging mails with outside agency*

The Committee has recommended that the detention compensation should be increased.

The Committee has also recommended that ED Agents, like the whole-time employees, should be suitably compensated whenever they are brought on duty beyond working hours and on holidays/week off days.

Other allowances

The Committee has recommended that the E.D. Agents working in A, B-1, B-2, C class cities and unclassified places should be granted House Rent Allowance and City Compensatory Allowance on the same lines as applicable to the whole-time employees subject to the same conditions.

Compensatory Allowances

The Committee has recommended that the ED Agents should be granted the various types of compensatory allowances subject to the same conditions as are applicable to the whole-time employees.

Travelling Allowance/Daily Allowance

The Committee has recommended that Travelling Allowance and Daily Allowance be paid to the ED Agents on the same lines as applicable to whole-time Government employees subject to a minimum of TA/DA admissible to a Group 'D' employee. The committee has further recommended that on transfer, an ED Agent should be given all the transfer benefits as prescribed for a regular departmental employee.

Medical Facilities

Keeping in view the limitations of the infrastructure, the Committee has recommended that a reasonable fixed minimum lumpsum amount per month as medical allowance be given to the ED Agents in rural areas. However, full benefit may be given to ED Agents and their family members in case of indoor treatment *i.e.* hospitalisation. Ed Agents working in the urban and semi-urban areas may be given the same medical facilities as in the case of whole-time departmental employees.

Bonus

The Committee has recommended that the ED Agents should be treated on the same lines as whole-time departmental employees and paid bonus accordingly.

Financial relief to the dependents of the deceased ED Agents

The Committee has recommended that the dependents of ED Agents should be given the same amounts of financial relief and assistance as are admissible in the case of whole-time departmental employees.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Committee has recommended that the ED Agents be granted pension, gratuity and General Provident Fund. The minimum pension has been fixed at Rs. 610/- per month.

Other pension related issues

The Committee has made recommendations on all other pension related issues.

Voluntary retirement

- (i) Based on the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, the Committee has recommended the golden Handshake Scheme for ED Agents on the same lines as admissible to whole-time employees.
- (ii) The Committee has also recommended that the services of ED Agents who have put in a service of less than 3 years may be terminated by giving a fixed lumpsum amount which should not be less than 6 months of pay and allowance in the recommended grades per year of service.
- (iii) It has further been recommended that all the ED Agents who are over 60 years of age may be retired subject to the condition that they be paid all the pensionary benefits as recommended by this committee.

METHOD OF RECRUITMENT AND CONDUCT RULES

Educational qualifications

It has been recommended that the minimum educational qualifications be raised to matriculation. No weightage should be given for higher educational qualifications.

Method of recruitment

It has been recommended that an opportunity in the matter of employment as an ED Agent be made available not only to the candidates whose names are sponsored by the employment exchange but also through other means.

Age of retirement

It has been recommended that the maximum age of retirement be reduced from 65 years to 60 years.

Age at the time of appointment

It has been recommended that the maximum age of entry in the system should be 35 years subject, however, to the usual relaxations upto 5 years to be given to SC, ST, OBC candidates and also to the ex-servicemen.

Condition of ownership of property

It has been recommended that the condition of owning immovable property be deleted and instead the amount of the fidelity bond may be enhanced to Rs. 10,000/- for the BPMs and to Rs. 5,000/- for other categories of ED Agents.

Office rent allowance

The Committee has recommended that the obligation of EDBPMs/EDSPMs to provide space for the post office preferably in business area should continue. If the said premises is not situated in the business area it should be ensured that it is exclusively earmarked for the post office purpose having an independent approach to it without the public having to enter the living quarters. Instead of maintenance allowance of Rs. 25/-, the Committee has recommended an office Rent Allowance of Rs. 100/- per month in rural areas. However, in urban areas it should be Rs. 200/-.

Selection on merit

The Committee has recommended that, subject to the reservation quota for some categories as prescribed by the Government from time to time, the selection of ED Agents should be strictly based on merit.

Recruiting authority

The Committee has recommended that the recruiting authority of all categories of ED Agents should be Divisional superintendents.

Leave

The Committee has recommended the following kinds of leave for ED Agents;

- (i) Earned Leave: One day's E.L. for each completed calendar month of service.

- (ii) Half Pay Leave: 8 days half pay leave in a year.

- (iii) Commuted Leave: Half the amount of the half pay leave due to be granted on medical certificate.

- (iv) leave without pay: The leave of 180 days at a stretch has been reduced to 60 days in a year.

- (v) Casual Leave: 5 days casual leave in a year.

- (vi) Maternity Leave: It has been recommended that female ED Agents be granted the same maternity leave as applicable in the case of full-time female employees of the Government of India as per CCS (Leave) Rules, 1972.

Leave encashment

The Committee has recommended that the same principle may be applied to ED Agents as in the case of whole-time departmental employees.

Put off duty

The Committee has recommended that the put off duty allowance may be increased from 25% to 50%.

The Committee has recommended that the 1964 ED Rules should be made statutory.

FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED TO PUBLIC

The Committee has recommended that the limit of withdrawal of Rs. 500/- in Saving Bank by the BPM be increased to Rs. 1,000/-. This limit of Rs. 1,000/- may further be increased to Rs. 2,000/- by the Regional PMsG/CPMsG.

RE-ORGANISATION

The Committee has recommended that there should be no further creation of posts of ED Agents and neither should any post office in ED category be opened atleast for the next 10 years.

It has been recommended that there should be total freeze in filling up of the posts. All vacant posts should be abolished and the work be managed by combination of duties. In case of operational requirements and exigencies of service, the post may be filled up by re-deployment.

It is possible that the re-organisation of the system may involve transfer of ED Agents. The Committee has recommended that the ED Agents be made liable to transfer within Accounts Office jurisdiction or maximum within the sub-division.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATION

Financial implications as on 1.1.1996

The net annual expenditure of the allowances being paid to the ED Agents in the existing system of fixed allowances is Rs. 394.58 crores. Based on the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, it would increase to Rs. 475.63 crores on fixed allowances. On giving scales of pay, based on the Fifth Central Pay Commission's recommendations, the annual expenditure would be Rs. 578.54 crores. The increase in the annual expenditure due to pay and dearness allowance, therefore, would be Rs. 183.96 crores. There would be an additional liability of Rs. 72.33 crores per annum due to pensionary benefits, leave expenditure, uniforms, split duty allowance, house rent allowance, city compensatory allowance and office rent allowance. The net increase in expenditure due to pay and other benefits would be Rs. 256.29 crores. However, increase in expenditure due to medical facilities, LTC, Bonus, transfers and other compensatory allowances have not been taken into account.

SCALES OF PAY

1. *Scales of pay for EDMCs/ED packers/ED Runners, ED Messengers and all other categories of ED Agents who do the same work as Group 'D'*

(i)	Rs. 1220-20-1600	3 hrs 45 mts	19 years
(ii)	Rs. 1545-25-2020	4 hrs 45 mts	
(iii)	Rs. 1870-30-2440	5 hrs 45 mts	
(iv)	Rs. 2195-35-2860	6 hrs 45 mts	
(v)	Rs. 2440-40-3200	7.5 hours	

For excess workload of half an hour or more a lumpsum pay of Rs. 162/- be given.

2. *Scales of pay for EDDAs/EDSVs:*

(i)	Rs. 1375-25-2125	3 hrs 45 mts	30 years
(ii)	Rs. 1740-30-2640	4 hrs 45 mts	
(iii)	Rs. 2105-35-3155	5 hrs 45 mts	
(iv)	Rs. 2470-40-3670	6 hrs 45 mts	
(v)	Rs. 2750-50-4250	7.5 hours	For excess workload of half an hour or more, a lumpsum pay of Rs. 183/- be given.

3. *Scales of pay for EDBPMs:*

(i)	Rs. 1280-35-1980	3 hrs	20 years
(ii)	Rs. 1600-40-2400	3 hrs 45 mts	
(iii)	Rs. 2025-50-3025	4 hrs 45 mts	
(iv)	Rs. 2450-60-3650	5 hrs 45 mts	
(v)	Rs. 2875-70-4275	6 hrs 45 mts	
(vi)	Rs. 3200-80-4800	7.5 hours	

For all BPMs the minimum scale is for 3 hours of attendance. But those workload is beyond 3 hours, they would be entitled to the higher scale of 3 hours 45 minutes. For excess workload of half an hour or more, a lumpsum pay of Rs. 212/- be given. This lumpsum pay will also be given if workload increases from 3 hours to 3.5 hours.

4. *Scales of pay for EDSPMs:*

(i)	Rs. 2125-50-3125	5 hrs	20 years
(ii)	Rs. 2550-60-3750	6 hrs	
(iii)	Rs. 2975-75-4475	7 hrs	
(iv)	Rs. 3200-85-4900	7.5 hours	For excess workload of half an hour or more, a lumpsum pay of Rs. 212/- be given.

COMBINED DUTIES

5. *EDBPM-cum-EDDA-cum-EDMC*

Instead of giving a delivery allowance, it is necessary to have separate scales for BPMs who are doing delivery work and/or conveying mails. The Scales proposed are:

(i)	Rs. 1550-35-2145	3 hrs 45 mts	Lumpsum pay per half hour (17 yrs) Rs. 206/-
(ii)	Rs. 1920-45-2685	4 hrs 45 mts	Rs. 202/-

(iii) Rs. 2285-55-3220 5 hrs 45 mts Rs. 198/-

(iv) Rs. 2650-65-3755 6 hrs 45 mts Rs. 196/-

(v) Rs. 2925-75-4200 7.5 hours Rs. 195/-

6. *EDDA-cum-EDMC*

(i) Rs. 1300-20-1810 3 hrs 45 mts 28 Years

(ii) Rs. 1645-25-2345 4 hrs 45 mts

(iii) Rs. 1990-30-2830 5 hrs 45 mts

(iv) Rs. 2335-35-3315 6 hrs 45 mts

(v) Rs. 2600-40-3720 7.5 hours

For excess workload of half an hour or more; a lumpsum pay for Rs. 173/- be given.

*[English]***Price hike of Diesel**

163. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of diesel have been recently increased;

(b) if so, the extent thereof, indicating the effective increase in different States;

(c) the extent to which it has resulted in pushing up the transport cost of goods and passengers;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the hardship of the consumers, especially the farmers and other weaker sections including the commuters; and

(e) the impact of price hike on economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The ex-storage point price of diesel has been increased effective 6th October, 1999 from Rs. 6882.15/Kilolitre to Rs. 9634.60/Kilolitre. The net increase in the retail selling prices varies from State to State depending on freight, local taxes and other levies. A statement indicating the effective increase in different States is attached.

(c) to (e) Under the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, State Governments have been vested with the power to fix fares and freight. Besides, transportation of goods by road is mainly in the private sector where market determines the cost of transportation. The price of diesel is fixed on the basis of import parity. The impact of rise/fall in international price of diesel is accordingly passed on to consumer. Since September, 97, the prices of diesel were revised on ten occasions including six downward revisions.

Statement**RSP of HSD in Various States**

		As on 05.10.99 (Rs./Litre)	As on 06.10.99 (Rs./Litre)	Increase (Rs./Litre)
1	2	3	4	
Andhra Pradesh	Sikandrabad	15.57	11.72	3.85
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	12.45	9.25	3.20

1		2	3	4
Assam	Guwahati	14.59	10.81	3.78
Bihar	Patna	14.64	10.89	3.75
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	13.86	10.23	3.63
Delhi	Delhi	13.91	10.35	3.56
Goa	Panjim	15.42	11.40	4.02
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	15.50	11.48	4.02
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	13.73	10.18	3.55
Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar	15.08	11.30	3.78
Karnataka	Bangalore	16.16	12.05	4.11
Kerala	Trivandrum	16.09	11.94	4.15
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	15.88	11.90	3.98
Maharashtra	Mumbai	16.54	12.23	4.31
Meghalaya	Shillong	13.45	9.99	3.46
Manipur	Imphal	13.31	9.88	3.43
Mizoram	Aizwal	13.06	9.70	3.36
Nagaland	Kohima	14.41	10.70	3.71
Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	15.41	11.53	3.88

1	2	3	4	
Pondicherry	Pondicherry	14.59	10.69	3.90
Rajasthan	Jaipur	14.89	11.11	3.78
Tamil Nadu	Madras	15.24	11.27	3.97
Tripura	Agartala	13.13	9.75	3.38
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	15.18	11.33	3.85
West Bengal	Calcutta	14.20	10.52	3.68

Price revision also includes the impact of increase in state surcharge rates, FDZ charges and delivery charges beyond FDZ.

Declaration of Additional Road

164. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare some additional roads leading to the ports in Gujarat as National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is being considered at present due to constraint of funds.

Dues from the Telecom Companies

165. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were large amounts due from the private and multi-national companies who were given licences for mobile telephones and other telecom sectors;

(b) the names of the companies and the amounts due from each of them in this financial year, separately;

(c) whether the liability to pay such amounts were waived, reduced or mitigated or postponed by any decision of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether those licencees did pay the entire licence fees and arrears due from each of them;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to realise the dues from these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The details of amounts due from Basic & Cellular Companies for the year 1999-2000 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Subsequent to the adoption of New Telecom Policy 1999 (NTP '99) by the Government, the existing licensees of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service and Basic Telephone Service were offered to migrate to NTP '1999 in order to, among other things maintain uniformity between the licensees. As per this package, the licensees were offered migration to NTP '1999, subject to inter-alia payment of atleast 35% of outstanding dues including interest payable as on 31.07.99 and liquidated damage charges in full on or before 16.08.99. The balance dues have to be paid on or before 31.01.2000 alongwith interest calculated upto the actual date of payment.

(e) and (f) Payment upto 35% of the licence fees outstanding, have been made by the operators who have accepted the migration package unconditionally. The balance dues are to be paid by 31.1.2000 as per the migration package.

(g) The companies have already paid 35% of outstanding as on 31.07.99. In terms of migration package, they are to further give Financial Bank Guarantees by 30.11.99 to cover the outstanding amounts due including further sums which may become due. Migration has been made conditional to the clearance of all dues by 31.01.2000.

Statement

I. Outstanding position of licence fee due as per Migration Package

Cellular Mobile Services (Circles)

Sl.No.	Name of Operator	Outstanding dues as on 31.07.99 including interest (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
1.	M/s. Bharati Telenet Ltd.	0.00
2.	M/s. Birta Communication Ltd.	276.34
3.	M/s. Escotel Mobile Comm. Ltd.	39.26
4.	M/s. Fascel Ltd.	127.00
5.	M/s. Hexacom India Ltd.	56.52
6.	M/s. J.T. Mobile Comm. Ltd.	250.65
7.	M/s. Modicom Network Ltd.	265.41
8.	M/s. Srinivas Cellcom Ltd.	0.00
9.	M/s. RPG Cellcom Ltd.	2.96

1	2	3
10.	M/s. Reliance Ltd.	62.30
11.	M/s. Tata Communication Ltd.	77.52
12.	M/s. BPL US West Ltd.	154.22
Total		1312.18

Cellular Mobile Services (Metro)

Sl.No.	Name of Operator	Outstanding dues as on 31.07.99 including interest (Rs. in crores)
1.	M/s. Bharti Cellular Ltd.	40.36
2.	M/s. Sterling Cellular Ltd.	32.52
3.	M/s. Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd.	23.58
4.	M/s. BPL Systems and Projects Ltd.	45.67
5.	M/s. Skycell Comm. Pvt. Ltd.	6.43
6.	M/s. RPG Cellular Service Ltd.	6.50
7.	M/s. Modi Telstra Pvt. Ltd.	10.50
8.	M/s. Usha Martin Telekom Ltd.	3.48
Total		169.04

Basic Telephone Services

Sl.No.	Name of Operator	Outstanding dues as on 31.07.99 including interest (Rs. in crores)
1.	M/s. Reliance Telecom Ltd.	75.25
2.	M/s. Hughes Ispat Ltd.	164.41
3.	M/s. Telelink	6.75
4.	M/s. Tata Teleservices Ltd.	32.48
5.	M/s. Bharati Telenet Ltd.	9.00
6.	M/s. Essar Comm. Ltd.	38.32
Total		326.21

II. Outstanding position of licence fee per Cellular Mobile Services (Circles), terminated cases/who have not migrated to NTP '99 (upto date of termination/as on date)

Sl. No.	Name of Operator	Outstanding dues excluding interest (Rs. in crores)
1.	M/s. Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	264.66
2.	M/s. J.T. Mobile Comm. Ltd.	293.60
3.	M/s. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	295.96
Total		854.22

Oil Exploration by ONGC in Deep Waters

166. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prospects of deep water oil exploration in the country have brightened with the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation striking oil in a well in the Krishna-Godavari offshore area;

(b) if so, whether this is the first deep water oil found in the country;

(c) if so, whether the initial results are very positive;

(d) if so, whether the ONGC has so far invested about Rs. 100 crore on collection of seismic data and other deep water exploration activities; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the ONGC has derived the results after spending huge amount on its data collection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) No Sir, the latest discovery is a new pool in an otherwise hydrocarbon bearing prospects struck in 1980s. Though the discovery is significant, it is technoeconomically marginal in nature and detailed assessment of the prospect is underway. ONGC has spent about Rs. 250 crores in collection of seismic data and drilling of wells in deepwater areas and has established presence of number of drillable prospects in water depths ranging from 400m to 3000m off east and west coast of the country.

**Telephone Advisory Committee in
North Eastern States**

167. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telephone Advisory Committee have been constituted in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

Telephone Advisory Committees for all the eligible Secondary Switching Areas in the North Eastern States and Sikkim have been constituted as detailed in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Statement

	Name of TAC	No. of existing Members	Tenure of TAC upto
	1	2	3
1.	(i) Assam Circle	60	30.06.2000
	(ii) Cachar (Silchar)	63	30.06.2000
	(iii) Kokrajhar (Bongaigaon)	26	31.03.2001
	(iv) Kamrup (Guwahati)	50	30.06.2000
	(v) Lakhimpur (Dibrugarh)	33	30.06.2000
	(vi) Sibsagar (Jorhat)	23	30.06.2000
	(vii) Tejpur (Sonitpur)	28	30.06.2000
	(viii) Naogaon	29	30.09.2000

	1	2	3
2.	(i) North East Circle	44	31.12.2000
	(ii) Agartala (Tripura)	50	31.03.2000
	(iii) Mizoram (Aizwal)	23	31.03.2000
	(iv) Dimapur (Nagaland)	43	31.03.2000
	(v) Imphal (Manipur)	43	31.03.2000
	(vi) Arunachal Pradesh (Zero)	36	30.06.2000
	(vii) Shillong (Meghalaya)	43	31.03.2001
3.	Sikkim (Gangtok)	11	31.03.2001

Implementation of MOUs/Accords

168. DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the MOUs/Accords signed so far between various groups/organisations and State Governments with the Central Government also being a party to them for the restoration of peace in certain disturbed areas;

(b) the main features of such MOUs/Accords;

(c) whether all these MOUs/Accords have been implemented in the letter and spirit;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these MOUs/Accords are likely to be fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Government has signed following MOUs/Accords with various groups/organisations and the States Governments:

- (i) Assam Accord (Memorandum of Settlement);
- (ii) Bodo Accord (Memorandum of Settlement);

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding with the representative organisations of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills Districts.

(iv) Mizo National Front Accord.

(v) Tripura National Volunteers.

(vi) Rajiv Longowal Accord.

(vii) Gorkha National Liberation Front Accord etc.

(b) The main features of Memorandum of Understanding/Accords are to provide maximum autonomy within the framework of the constitution to the people of area for social, economic, educational, ethnic and cultural advancement.

(c) to (e) Government is committed to implement the various Memorandum of Understanding/Accord signed with the State Governments and Representative organisations.

The implementation of some Memorandum of Understandings/Accords are a continuing process and are regularly monitored in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

[Translation]

**Complaints against LPG/Petrol Pumps
Dealers in Jamnagar**

169. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received against petrol pumps and LPG agencies at Jamnagar in Gujirat some time ago;

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

(c) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps cancelled in Jamnagar and other districts of Gujarat on this count during the last three years; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) No complaints have been received against retail outlets dealers at Jamnagar in Gujarat recently. As regards LPG distributorship a few complaints were received pertaining to disruption in supply, charging of installation charges etc. The same were attended to.

(c) and (d) The number of LPG agency and petrol pump cancelled in Jamnagar and other districts of Gujarat:

Year	LPG Agency	Retail Outlet
1996-97	—	—
1997-98	1	1
1998-99	4	2

The retail outlets dealerships have been terminated on account of adulteration. The LPG distributorships have been cancelled on account of release of unauthorised connection, non remittance of amount to oil companies, induction of spurious equipment, blackmarketing etc.

[English]

Bench of High Court at Trivandrum

170. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI GEORGE EDEN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has sent a proposal for setting up a bench of High Court at Trivandrum; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) No complete proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala, in consultation with the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, for establishing a bench of the High Court at Thiruvananthapuram. As such, it is not possible for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.

Women Reservation Bill

171. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are delaying deliberately the tabling of Women Reservation Bill in Parliament;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the specific time by which the Government are likely to introduce Women Reservation Bill in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government intends to introduce the Women Reservation Bill in the current session of Parliament.

Hogenakkal Hydro-Electric Power Project

172. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Hogenakkal Hydro-electric Power Project in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Government of Tamil Nadu had sought the concurrence of CEA in respect of Rasimanal (600 MW) and Hogenakkal (250 MW) hydroelectric projects. However, a separate proposal was received from the Government of Karnataka in respect of two hydroelectric projects, namely Mekedatu (360 MW) and Hogenakkal (200 MW). The project reports submitted by the two State Governments are not mutually reconcilable. Also on account of the inter-State river water dispute, the CEA has returned the project reports to the State Governments.

With a view to resolving the problem in respect of hydro-electric power projects in the Cauvery basin between KRS Dam and Mettur Dam, including the Hogenakkal Hydroelectric Project, the views of the Government of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu has been sought for the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation to build, own and operate the power projects in an integrated manner.

Militancy in Kargil Sector

173. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "ISI, Pak Army Fomenting Trouble Post-Kargil" appearing in 'Asian Age' dated 29.10.99;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Government is aware of the sinister designs of Pak ISI to destabilise India by sponsoring terrorism and subversive activities in different parts of the country including its effort to target and train misguided youths for engineering violence. A close and continuous watch is, therefore, being kept on the situation and all necessary efforts, including sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements, are being made to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed. Government have taken several steps which include sensitising and gearing up of the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and coordinated action by concerned Central

and State agencies, border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, upgrading of technical equipment with the security forces, increase in number of check posts as well as sensitising and alerting various State Governments regarding movement of Pak ISI agents, anti-national elements and insurgents from time to time.

Declaration of War by Bin Laden against India

174. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bin Laden declares Jihad against India" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated April 18, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the press report; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The said news item appeared in the 'Times of India' issue dated September 18, 1999.

The said statement was purportedly issued on behalf of Osama bin Laden declaring Jihad against India at a time when the US counter terrorism team was visiting India (September 17) for discussing measures to counter international terrorism. However, according to a New Network International (NNI) report about 'Jehad' was, refuted by Maulvi Saeed ur Rahman Haqqani, the Taliban envoy in Pakistan, stating that "Osama has neither issued any statement nor met any person since November, 1998 and the statement about Kashmir attributed to him was totally baseless".

Government is, however, vigilant regarding any threat to national security from all possible quarters and has sensitised all concerned in this regard.

Show Cause Notices to NGOs

175. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently issued show cause notices to some Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976;

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

(c) whether some NGOs have made any requests for the withdrawal of notices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Twelve NGOs covered under the provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 1976, were asked, *inter alia*, to show cause why they should not be brought under section 5(1) of the said Act and required to seek prior permission of the Central Government before accepting any foreign contribution for being associated with the issues of certain advertisements and documents the contents of which were considered to be comments of a political nature.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

Losses to SEBs

176. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the annual profit/loss of the State Electricity Boards for each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether some States have undergone the exercise of restructuring their Electricity Boards;

(c) if so, the results achieved by them;

(d) whether any steps have been taken to improve the efficiency of the State Electricity Boards;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken in the recent past to encourage private sector participation in the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Statement I & II indicating the surplus/deficit of the SEBs during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are enclosed. The accounts for the year 1998-99 from most of the SEBs have not been received.

(b) States like Orissa, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh have restructured their Electricity Boards. The SEBs in these States have been unbundled and corporatised. Thermal generation and distribution sector has been privatised in Orissa. The States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka have passed their Electricity Reforms Bills/Ordinance which *inter alia* provide for unbundling/Corporatisation of SEBs. Other States have taken policy decisions to reform and restructure SEBs.

(c) It is, only in recent past that the reform and restructuring of SEB's has been initiated. It would take some time to assess their performance.

(d) and (e) Unbundling and Corporatisation of SEBs is aimed at improving the efficiency of SEBs. Setting up of SERC's by the State Governments are also expected to lead to improvement of efficiency of SEBs.

(f) The following initiatives have been taken in the recent past, which would encourage greater participation by private sector in the power sector and would also streamline further, the process of development of projects:—

- (i) The automatic approval route for approval of Foreign Direct Investment has been extended to cover generation, distribution and transmission projects upto Rs. 1500 crores for upto 100% foreign equity.
- (ii) Guidelines have been circulated to the states on award of private sector power projects through International Competitive Bidding.
- (iii) A modified liquid fuel policy was announced in July, 1998.
- (iv) The procedure for issue of Government of India counter guarantee has been simplified, which has enable issue of counter guarantee to three of the pending projects.
- (v) The 40% cap on debt financing by Indian Financial Institutions has been removed.
- (vi) A revised mega power projects policy has been announced in November, 1998, under which certain multi-state projects have been identified for development both by the Public as well as Private Sector. A Power Trading Corporation has also been established, which would purchase power from the private sector mega projects and sell it to the beneficiary States.

Statement I

Statement indicating the surplus/deficit of the SEBs during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 without subsidy as booked in the accounts for the years.

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	SEB	Without Subsidy		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	APSEB	-1129	-721	-1134
2.	ASEB	-261	-411	-440*
3.	BSEB	-28	-819	-225*
4.	GEB	-1003	-1070	-1274*
5.	HPSEB	36	25	29
6.	HSEB	-537	-594	-713
7.	KEB	-499	-652	-322
8.	KSEB	-30	-254	-297
9.	MESEB	-22	-42	-52
10.	MPEB	-458	-470	-753
11.	MSEB	-280	88	37
12.	OSEB **	-231	-231	N.A.
13.	PSEB	-326	-296	-555
14.	RSEB	-344	-500	-640
15.	TNEB	-76	-257	-318
16.	UPSEB	-1495	-1386	-1548
17.	WBSEB	-64	-227	-164

* Unaudited

** Provisional

Statement II

*Statement indicating the surplus/deficit of the SEBs during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98
with subsidy as booked in the accounts for the years*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	SEB	With Subsidy		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	APSEB	131	129	122
2.	ASEB	-116	-359	-387*
3.	BSEB	-28	-327	-327*
4.	GEB	108	110	119*
5.	HPSEB	36	25	29
6.	HSEB	78	48	20
7.	KEB	51	54	58
8.	KSEB	23	24	25
9.	MESEB	-13	-34	43
10.	MPEB	134	127	123
11.	MSEB	350	347	342
12.	OSEB	27	N.A.	N.A.
13.	PSEB	143	108	49
14.	RSEB	81	63	65
15.	TNEB	339	330	-68
16.	UPSEB	22	171	292
17.	WBSEB	17	18	20

* Unaudited

Constitution Review Panel

177. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up a Constitution review panel;

(b) if so, the likely time by which it will be set up, and

(c) the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Government has so far not taken any final decision in the matter.

Allotment of LPG/Kerosene/Petrol Pump Agencies/ Outlets in Andhra Pradesh

178. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for the allotment of L.P.G. agencies, kerosene outlets and petrol pumps;

(b) whether these agencies are allotted in different States according to their population;

(c) if so, the number of L.P.G. agencies, kerosene outlets and petrol pumps allotted in Andhra Pradesh during last three years;

(d) whether these agencies are sufficient to meet the demand of the people of the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, if not the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) As per the existing policy, the following criteria are adopted for setting up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country:

(i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.

(ii) Urban locations having population of 50,000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms radius.

(iii) Cluster to villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.

(iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above.

The criteria for setting up of Retail Outlet dealerships and SKO/LDO dealerships is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) During the last three years i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, a total of 10 retail outlet dealership and 37 LPG distributorships have been allotted in Andhra Pradesh. However, during this period no SKO/LDO dealership was allotted in the State.

(d) and (e) As on 1.4.1999, 1304 RO dealerships and 482 LPG distributorships and 606 SKO/LDO dealerships were in operation in Andhra Pradesh. In addition to the above, in order to cater the increased demand, 85 Retail Outlet dealerships, 124 LPG distributorships and 4 SKO/LDO dealerships have been included in the Marketing Plan 1996-98 for Andhra Pradesh.

Statement

Locations for Development of New Dealerships/Distributorships are Identified Based on Surveys Conducted by the Oil Industry from time to time keeping the following Norms into consideration

Market	Distance Norms	Volume Norms
1	2	3

I. RETAIL OUTLETS**(a) Lone HSD or MS/HSD**

'A' Class—Cities having a population of over 10 lakhs as per 1981 census

1. Metropolitan cities and other cities (including 15 km periphery from municipal limits).

1. Lone HSD: Should yield a min. of 50 kl per month during second year of operation.

1	2	3
	<p>2. Average combined MS/HSD thrupt (within a radius of 3 km) should not be less than 80 kl per month.</p> <p>3. No restriction for ear-marked sites by Town Planning authorities.</p>	<p>2. Combined MS/HSD: HSD..25 kl per month. MS..30 kl per month.] During second year of operation.</p>
<p>'B' Class — Cities having population between 2 and 10 lakhs as per 1981 census.</p>	<p>1. Average combined MS/HSD thrupt of retail outlets within 5 km of municipal limits should be more than 80 kl per month.</p> <p>2. No restriction on ear-marked sites by Town Planning authorities.</p>	<p>1. Lone HSD: Should yield 50 kl per month during second year of operation.</p> <p>2. Combined MS/HSD: HSD..50 kl per month MS..5 kl per month] During second year of operation</p>
<p>'C' Class—Other Towns.</p>	<p>Average combined thrupt within a radius of 5 km from the existing outlet should exceed 80 kl per month.</p>	<p>1. Lone HSD: Should yield 50 kl per month during second year of operation.</p> <p>2. Combined MS/HSD: HSD..50 kl per month MS..5 kl per month] During second year of operation.</p>
<p>'D' Class—National/ State Highways.</p>	<p>Combined thrupt per retail outlet within 15 km (either side) of the proposed retail outlet should exceed 80 kl per month.</p>	<p>1. Lone HSD: Should yield 50 kl per month during second year of operation.</p> <p>2. Combined MS/HSD: HSD..50 kl per month MS..5 kl per month] During second year of operation</p>
<p>'E' Class (remote areas not covered by NH/SH and pockets of agricultural concentration having no retail outlets within 10 km radius).</p>	<p>In these markets, only Low Cost retail outlets are developed</p>	<p>Lone HSD: 25 kl per month during second year of operation</p>

1	2	3
(b) LONE MS:		
'A' Class	None	Should yield 30 kl per month during second year of operation.
'B' Class	Average trade of retail outlets should not be less than 35 kl per month within 5 km radius of the proposed location.	None.
'C' Class	Average trade of retail outlets should not be less than 35 kl per month within 5 km. radius of the proposed location.	None.
'D' Class	Minimum volume 35 kl per month within 15 km along the Highway on both ends.	None

Note: MS can be added to the existing HSD outlet provided the minimum potential of 5 kl is available. However HSD cannot be added to the existing MS retail outlets.

II. SKO/LDO DEALERSHIPS

- (a) Minimum potential of 75 kl of SKO per month for creation of new SKO/LDO dealerships.
- (b) New Dealerships can be created at unrepresented Block Headquarters/Taluka Headquarters. SKO/LDO dealerships to be created at the District Headquarters need to be cleared by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

[Translation]

Installation of Optical Fibre Cables in Bihar

179. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to lay down optical fibre cables in place of existing cables in Bihar to modernise telephone industry during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise including Begusarai Lakhisarai, Shekhpura and Jamui districts; and

(c) the cost of such cables to be procured during the current Financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Optical Fibre Cable is being laid for interconnecting Telephone Exchanges to provide reliable media for STD/ISD services and for Junction Network in Bihar.

(b) Total 3500 km. Optical fibre cable is planned to be laid in Bihar. Details of links planned for Begusarai, Lahisarai, Shekhpura & Jamui districts is given below:

- (i) Baraurni-Bachwara (ii) Bachwara-Rani (iii) Lakhisarai-Ramgarh-Shekhpura (iv) Sheikhsari-Sikandra-Jamui (v) Jammui-Havelikharagpur

The above works are likely to be completed by March 2000 subject to timely availability of material. Following

stations have already been connected with optical fibre cable:

(i) Begusarai-Patna-Purnea (ii) Sheikhpur-Biharsharif
(iii) Lakhisarai-Munger-Bhagalpur (iv) Lakhisarai-Jamui-
Deoghar-Dumka.

(c) Cost of 3500 Km. optical fibre cable planned for Bihar for the year 1999-2000 shall be Rs. 15 crores approximately.

[English]

Expansion of Jurisdiction of MTNL

180. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:
DR. NITISH SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been received by the Government for taking over the Madras and Calcutta Telecom by MTNL for setting up a new Mahanagar Corporation covering Calcutta and Madras Telecom for better and efficient operation of telecom services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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 COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) A request was received from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to bring greater Chennai under the operational jurisdiction of MTNL.

The request was examined in detail with reference to the National Telecom Policy 1999. In view of stipulation of corporatisation of DOT by January 2001, it was decided to include in the Terms of Reference, the issue of grant of special status to Greater Chennai as also a proper Organisational set-up for Chennai and other similar Metro towns within the frame-work of Corporatised Dept. of Telecom.

[Translation]

Consumption and Demand of Petroleum and Natural Gas

181. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the increasing consumption and demand of Petroleum and Natural Gas in the country and the steps being taken by the Government to meet this demand;

(b) the details to the scheme formulated by the Government to make the country self-dependent in Petroleum and Natural Gas; and

(c) the details of the schemes under implementation in the new areas of the country for the exploration, exploitation and availability of Petroleum and Natural Gas in the public as well as the private sectors in the various States in the recent past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Consumption of Crude Oil, Petroleum Products & Natural Gas during last 3 years and current financial year upto September, 1999 was as under:—

	Crude Oil (TMT)	Petroleum Products (TMT)	Natural Gas (MCM)
1996-97	62870	79168	21495
1997-98	65166	84290	24522
1998-99*	68538	89362	25716
1999-2000 (April-Sept.)	39090	44477 [⊙]	13190

*Provisional

⊙ Excludes consumption through private imports.

In order to attain self dependence in petroleum sector, steps are being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application and improved technology, better understanding of reservoir behaviour, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector. The refining capacity is also being increased in the country by expansion of existing refineries in the public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector.

(c) To accelerated exploration of oil and gas in the country and find new reserves, recently, in January 1999, Government had offered 48 blocks, both in onshore and offshore including deep waters.

STD/ISD/PCOs Booths in Bihar

182. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCOs booths functioning in Bihar at present, District-wise;

(b) the number of applications for installation of the said booths pending and cleared during 1999-2000 in the State, District-wise; and

(c) the time by which the remaining applications are likely to be approved and cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The information is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) Progressively by June 2000.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	STD/ISD/PCO Booths Functioning	Applications pending	Cleared during 1999-2000 (upto Oct, 99)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ara	287	352	11
2.	Bhagalpur	404	148	54
3.	Chapra	1354	713	75
4.	Daltonganj	288	150	57
5.	Darbhanga	1072	405	Nil
6.	Dhanbad	1152	398	289
7.	Dumka	489	45	250
8.	Gaya	891	350	348
9.	Hazaribagh	447	1117	80
10.	Jamshedpur	841	1260	181
11.	Katihar	939	212	176
12.	Motihari	416	410	383

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Munger	185	310	71
14.	Muzaffarpur	1797	350	200
15.	Patna	2427	4581	200
16.	Ranchi	1178	70	260
17.	Saharsa	197	15	23
18.	Sasaram	290	1080	45

[English]

TADA Detenues

183. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of detenues under TADA, comprising insurgents, militants, mercenaries in Jammu and Kashmir, who despite serving their full terms in jails by April, 1999, continue to be imprisoned;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure their speedy trial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Instructions have been issued to the State Govt. for speedy disposal of pending TADA cases. As per the directions of the Supreme Court these cases are to be periodically reviewed at the State level by the State Review Committee. State Government has also been advised to finalize cases pending investigation within a definite time frame.

Scheme for Sacred Groves

184. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any special scheme to promote and propagate the 'Sacred Groves' comprising of Neem trees, Pungai trees and other trees having Medicinal values; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Telephone Directory in Hyderabad

185. SHRI RAJAI AH MALYALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of Telephone Directories in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to overcome this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Hyderabad Telephone Directory was printed in the year 1997. Supplementary Directory was brought out in the year 1998. Thereafter, the contractor did not come forward to print the next issue of the Telephone Directory and the matter is under dispute.

(c) In order to make available the latest Telephone Directory to the consumers, process has been initiated to call for fresh tenders for printing of Hyderabad Telephone Directory.

[*Translation*]

Filling up of Vacant Posts

186. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

	Gr. 'A'	Gr. 'B'	Gr. 'C'	Gr. 'D'	Total
BSF	272	125	2187	45	2629
CRPF	260	109	5442	22	5833
CISF	106	—	2370	—	2476
ITBP	64	37	734	—	835
NSG	164	60	592	—	816
A.R.	1	7	582	45	635

(b) These vacancies are filled up as per Rules which is a continuous process.

[*English*]

Sub-Committee for J&K

187. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to set up a high powered Sub-Committee to look into the entire gamut of financial developmental and security needs of the J&K; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the composition of Sub-Committee and also the measures taken by the Government to curb militancy operations in the State?

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in different categories of various security-forces under the ministry as on October 31, 1999; and

(b) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The number of posts laying vacant in various categories force-wise in respect of Security Forces under the Min. of Home Affairs as on October 31, 1999.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

However, in a meeting convened by the Home Minister on 17.11.1999 with the Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir, Union Finance Minister and Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, it was decided *inter-alia* that representative from the Planning Commission, Department of Expenditure and Ministry of Home would after discussion with the representatives of the State Government, make an assessment of the short and medium term financial requirements of the State. In this context, a meeting was held on 22.11.1999.

(b) With a view to tackling terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the Government has adopted a multi pronged approach which includes, *inter-alia* strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of the militants by proactive action against them in the hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, galvanising development programmes and deepening of the democrat process, etc.

Road accidents in Kerala

188. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Road Accident are on the rise in Kerala compare to other States in the country due to non-maintenance of National Highways in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rural Telephone Exchanges

189. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set-up rural telephone exchanges to provide telecommunication facility in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of such exchanges already set up in the state of Tripura during the last three years;

(c) the number of such exchanges proposed to be set up during 1999-2000 in the State;

(a) the number of such functional and non-functional exchanges in the State, exchange-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for providing satisfactory telephone services in the rural telephone exchanges of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A telephone exchange is planned if there is sufficient demand for telephone and this demand cannot be met from an existing exchange.

In Tripura, 14 telephone exchanges were set up during the last three years. Yearwise details are as under:—

1996-97	5
1997-98	4
1998-99	5

(c) During 1999-2000, it is proposed to set up 14 such exchanges in Tripura.

(d) All the telephone exchanges in the rural areas are functional.

(e) The telephone service is generally satisfactory. For further improvement, reliable transmission media is being provided to all rural exchanges.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in West Bengal

190. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to install electronic telephone exchanges by replacing old telephone exchanges in West Bengal during 1999-2000;

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

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) All telephone exchanges working in West Bengal are electronic.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of above.

Supply of LPG through Pipeline in Andhra Pradesh

191. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing activities of Gas Authority of India Limited in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to extend piped gas anywhere in Andhra Pradesh by GAIL;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether GAIL has not done study of the potential of piped L.P.G. in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Presently GAIL is supplying around 4.7 MMSCMD of gas in Krishna Godavari Basin to 12 consumers through its pipeline net work of around 330 kms.

(b) and (c) In view of additional allocation of gas to existing as well as new grass root plants including power projects, GAIL is laying additional pipelines in the K.G. Basin area. This would increase gas supplies to over 8 MMSCMD in K.G. Basin.

(d) and (e) GAIL has undertaken a study for transportation of LPG through a net work of about 600 km. pipeline from Vizag to Secunderabad in Andhra Pradesh.

Overhauling of Criminal Justice System

192. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to overhaul the criminal justice system to restore the confidence of the litigents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether criminal cases are increasing tremendously and there is a need to streamline the courts by way of trial of the criminal cases at the initial stage; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to clear the criminal cases pending in various courts of the country at an early stage?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (d) Changes/Reforms in the administration of criminal justice system are a continuous process. Government has been taking a series of steps to simplify procedures and speed up of disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission etc. Keeping this in view, Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill, 1994 has been moved in Parliament. The Law Commission, in its 154th Report has also made a number of recommendations in this regard.

Various measures have been taken by the Government including appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of other alternative modes of dispute resolution. In addition, the Supreme Court and High Courts have taken a number of steps for expeditious disposal of cases, viz; grouping and classification of cases involving similar question of law, setting up of specialised benches, computerization listing of cases, etc.

Further in pursuance of directions given by the Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 1.5.96 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1128 of 1996, Common Cause Vs UOI, the Subordinate Courts have been directed to close cases involving minor offences, pending for two years and more in which proceedings have not commenced.

Statements I & II on the pendency of criminal cases in courts are enclosed.

Statement I

Statement of Criminal Cases Pending in Supreme Court & High Courts

Sl.No.	Name of the High Court	As on		
		31/12/96	31/12/97	31/12/98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	140925	116993	122952
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3430	5564	7580
3.	Bombay	16254	18514	21074

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Calcutta	22593	29181	34653
5.	Delhi	10281	12884	12222
6.	Gauhati	4262	4459	4420
7.	Gujarat	16167	14965	16129
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3005	2604	2369
9.	J & K	4132	3572	3441
10.	Karnataka	6230	5270	4617
11.	Kerala	7520	9204	11183
12.	Madhya Pradesh	29642	32248	36049
13.	Madras	21167	22333	28717
14.	Orissa	5650	6641	8342
15.	Patna	19871	11856	14872
16.	Punjab & Haryana	29056	27963	24449
17.	Rajasthan	21685	19748	19710
18.	Sikkim	4	10	32
		361874	344009	372811

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA:

As on	No.
1.5.96	4586
1.5.97	3810
1.5.98	3394

Statement II*Statement of Criminal Cases Pending in the District/Subordinate Courts*

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTs	As on		
		31.12.1996	31.12.1997	31.12.1998
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	297149	357981	393985
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1781	1579	1550
3.	Assam	132058	128237	131760
4.	Bihar	953098	963011	974539
5.	Goa	15561	14718	13880
6.	Gujarat	2610531	2377411	2378975
7.	Haryana	205265	255951	255951
8.	Himachal Pradesh	55526	63901	67246
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	76110	73414	73414
10.	Karnataka	547366	583718	592707
11.	Kerala	258043	301625	354220
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1052040	1053504	1061682
13.	Maharashtra	2056938	2173162	2041894
14.	Manipur	3667	3598	3769 (6/98)
15.	Meghalaya	NA	1968	1968*

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Mizoram	679	686	1168
17.	Nagaland	— Not Available —		
18.	Orissa	533070	495002	519828
19.	Punjab	135232	149613	149613*
20.	Rajasthan	554742	577974	595049
21.	Sikkim	1369	2231	1352
22.	Tamil Nadu	249586	288092	286233
23.	Tripura	15189	14400	14400*
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2057821	2180670	2251365
25.	West Bengal	950789	910662	910662*
26.	And. & Nicobar	53	65	59
27.	Chandigarh	33671	35891	35891
28.	Dadar & N. Haveli	440	490	652
29.	Daman & Diu	361	502	560
30.	Delhi	282871	275622	281868
31.	Lakshdweep	27	37	48
32.	Pondicherry	4693	4515	4709
Grand Total		13085726	13290230	13400996

Figures as on 31.12.1997.

Non-Utilisation of Annual Plan Funds by Central Power Undertakings

193. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Power Undertakings are not fully utilising their annual plan funds which is resulting into delays and cost overruns;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action being taken in this regard;

(c) the funds earmarked and utilized by them during the last three years; and

(d) the target fixed and achieved for capacity addition in power generation during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Most of the Central PSUs under Ministry of Power have fully utilized the annual plan funds. However some of the Central PSUs could not utilize the annual plan funds in full on account of delay in land acquisition, delay in availability of financial resources, financial commitments, public agitations, natural calamities, rehabilitation and resettlement issues and law and order problems etc. The Government is closely monitoring such projects through high level committees and task forces, and periodic reviews.

(c) The funds allocated and utilized under Central Plan during the last three years namely, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as follows:

	Funds Earmarked (Rs. in crore)	Utilized (Rs. in crore)
1996-97	6359.00	5625.58
1997-98	7386.36	6707.72
1998-99	8066.52	7627.72

(d) The targets fixed and achievement for capacity addition in power generation during 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as under:

	Target (MW)	Achievements (MW)
1997-98	3239.00	3226.50
1998-99	3299.30	4242.00

Grant for National Highways in West Bengal

194. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration to provide grant to West Bengal Government for rebuilding the National Highways damaged by the recent floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government to preserve and protect the corridors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 10.00 crore has been earmarked during 1999-2000.

(c) The development and maintenance of National Highways is the responsibility of the Central Govt. The National Highways are being kept generally in traffic worthy condition within the availability of resources.

A sum of Rs. 66.00 crore have been allocated in the current Annual Plan 1999-2000 for improvement of National Highways, in the State of West Bengal. Further, an estimate for special repair for improvement of riding quality of various NHs has also been approved by the Ministry at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.59 crore.

[*Translation*]

Bill regarding Death Penalty to Rapists

195. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Police Act, 1861 and Indian Evidence Act, 1872 enacted during the British Rule are still in operation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce a bill awarding death penalty to the rapists;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such a bill is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMY): (a) and (b) 'Police' is a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Some States have enacted their own Police Acts to replace the Police Act, 1861. Parliament has also enacted the Delhi Police Act, 1978, which extends to the whole of Delhi. The Police Act, 1861 has ceased to be in force in Delhi.

The Indian Evidence Act, 1972 is still in force. However, this Act has been amended, from time to time, to fulfil the needs of the society. The last such amendment to this Act had come into force with effect from 19.11.1986.

(c) to (e) The Central Government intends to amend section 376 of the Indian Penal Code to provide "death" as one of the penalties for the offence of rape. The views of the Department of Women and Child Development have been sought in the matter. Further action will be taken on receipt of the views of the said Department.

[English]

Seizure of Arms and Ammunition

196. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a truck carrying fruit boxes from Ganderbal in Kashmir to Delhi was involved in a mishap near Patnitop on Srinagar-Jammu highway on the September 30, 1999 and arms and ammunition were found loaded in the truck;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some militants were also travelling in the truck;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of arms and ammunition seized from the truck and the number of militants travelling in the truck apprehended; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, a truck carrying arms and ammunition in a hidden cavity coming from Kupwara side towards Jammu collided with another truck at Patnitop on 30.9.99 and some arms and ammunition were found.

(c) and (d) Militants who were reportedly in the truck fled.

(e) 30 IEDs, 4 anti personnel mines, 2 pistols, 4 hand grenades and some cartridges of AK-47 were recovered from the truck. No militant was arrested. However, the driver and cleaner of the truck were taken into police custody.

(f) With a view to tackling the problems of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes, inter alia, strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of the militants by proactive action against them in the hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, galvanising development programmes and deepening of the democratic process, etc.

[Translation]

Public Telephones facilities in Villages

197. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
SHRI K.A. SANGTAM:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to provide telephones to each and every village in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such telephones provided during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of such telephones proposed to be provided during the current financial year, State-wise;

(d) the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided in the remaining villages of the country particularly in Karnataka, West Bengal and Nagaland;

(e) whether the private companies are taking initiatives to provide said facilities in the rural areas of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Government policy is to connect every village in the country with telecom facility.

(b) and (c) There are 607,491 villages in the country. By 31.10.1999, VPTs have been provided in

344,508 villages. The target for 1999-2000 is 45,136 VPTs. State-wise progress during last three years and the current year's target are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) All the remaining revenue villages in the country including those in Karnataka, West Bengal and Nagaland are proposed to be covered by March, 2002 progressively.

(e) Private companies have so far not taken much initiative to provide telecom facilities in rural areas.

(f) The license agreements have been signed with six private companies. Only three of them. *i.e.* Tata Teleservices in AP, Bharti Telenet in MP and Hughes Ispat Ltd. in Maharashtra have started providing services in urban areas. M/s. Reliance Telecom (Gujarat), M/s. Essar Commvision (Punjab) and M/s. Telelink Network India Ltd. (Rajasthan) are yet to launch their service even in urban areas. The company-wise status is as below.

Private Company	Area of Operation	Whether Service has been launched	No. of villages supposed to be covered	No. of villages covered so far
Tata Teleservices	Andhra Pradesh	Yes	9,635	Nil
Bharti Telenet	Madhya Pradesh	Yes	11,000	5
Hughes Ispat Ltd.	Maharashtra	Yes	25,760	Nil
Reliance Telecom	Gujarat	No	8,635	Nil
Essar Commvision	Punjab	No	5,442	Nil
Telelink Network India Ltd.	Rajasthan	No	12,754	Nil

Statement

Sl. No.	Telecom Circles	Public Telephones provided in villages during			Approved Target 1999-2000
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	75	30	56	63
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2619	1566	526	0
3.	Assam	1665	2484	2907	3000
4.	Bihar	3526	2615	2137	8000
5.	Gujarat	1505	0	0	0
6.	Haryana	1204	195	0	26
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1034	1504	1208	2500
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	730	437	763	1500
9.	Karnataka	4120	3389	2521	2000
10.	Kerala	0	0	0	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7355	3878	3707	5000
12.	Maharashtra	4691	2725	2462	0
13.	Goa	36	36	10	0
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	104	50	21	750
15.	Manipur	81	115	48	300
16.	Meghalaya	86	180	233	300

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Mizoram	121	15	30	79
18.	Nagaland	120	44	21	307
19.	Tripura	132	70	51	264
20.	Orissa	3423	2402	2242	3000
21.	Punjab	3506	1327	173	0
22.	Rajasthan	5051	3269	2585	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	2608	2530	196	0
24.	UP (East)	5702	8618	8219	7000
25.	UP (West)	4000	2197	2937	6000
26.	West Bengal	2852	3153	3955	4945
27.	Sikkim	8	4	50	55
28.	Calcutta Telephones	365	22	0	47
Total		56719	42855	37058	45136

[English]

ONGC Marketing and Production to IOC

198. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:
SHRI A.C. JOS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited is intending to handover its marketing and entire production to Indian Oil Corporation Limited; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), is marketing its products at present according to the Government policy. For the marketing of its products in post APM (Administered pricing Mechanism) era, i.e. after 1.4.2002, preliminary discussions have been held by ONGC with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

Law and Order situation in Bihar

199. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the law and order situation in Bihar has been deteriorating steadily;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have recently sent any team to study the situation in Bihar;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) The law and order situation in Bihar has been a cause of concern. However, no Central Team has visited Bihar in this connection after February, 1999.

Profit Earned by NTPC

200. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has been earning dividends;

(b) if so, since when and the total profit earned by National Thermal Power Corporation during the last three years;

(c) the performance of each Thermal Power Plant during the last three years; and

(d) the details of the plan mooted by National Thermal Power Corporation for expansion during the Ninth Plan, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been declaring dividend from the year 1993-94 onwards. The details regarding dividend paid and profit after tax pertaining to NTPC for the last three years are given below:—

Year	Dividend (Rs. crores)	Profit after tax (Rs. crores)
1998-99	650	2815.73
1997-98	504	2153.50
1996-97	405	1679.43

(c) The performance indicating gross generation (MUs) for the last three years pertaining to NTPC's power plants are given in the enclosed Statement I.

(d) The detailed plan by NTPC indicating project-wise capacity addition and year-wise plan are given in the enclosed Statement II.

Statement I

Performance of NTPC's Stations during the last three years

Station	1998-99 Gross Gen. (MUs)	1997-98 Gross Gen. (MUs)	1996-97 Gross Gen. (MUs)
1	2	3	4
Singrauli TPS	15797.8	14870.8	15361.9
Korba STPS	16046.6	15690.6	15895.4
Ramagundam STPS	15859.2	16397.8	15673.8
Farakka STPS	5475.6	6038.4	6392.4

1	2	3	4
Vindhyachal STPS	9934.2	8749.6	9273.1
Rihand STPS	6817.7	7544.9	6685
Unchahar TPS	3023.1	2946.0	2950.3
National Capital TPP, Dadri	6727.5	6412.7	6072.8
Kahalgaon STPS	3988.7	3424.7	3318.4
Talcher (Kaniha) STPS	4592.5	4124.1	929.4
Anta GPP	2931.1	2855.4	2657.3
Auraiya GPP	4146.2	3847.2	3836.5
Dadri GPP	5099.2	4518.3	3974.9
Kawas GPP	4411.9	4131.3	1700.9
Gandhar GPP	2162.2	2641.9	2887
Kayamkulam GPP	243.3	17994.1	15056.6
Talcher TPS	2248.5	2096.8	1548.7
Badarpur TPS	4862.8	4475.7	4084.8
BALCO Capitive Power Plant	2028.3	2112.8	2044.8

Abbreviation:

*STPS — Super Thermal Power Station

**GPP — Gas Power Project

Statement II*Project-wise Capacity Addition Plan of NTPC for the IX Plan*

Project	State	Capacity (MW)	Commissioned Capacity (MW)
Vindhyachal II	Madhya Pradesh	1000	500
Unchahar II	Uttar Pradesh	420	420
Kayamkulam I	Kerala	350	350
Faridabad GPP	Haryana	430	286
Simhadri TPP	Andhra Pradesh	500	Nil
Kawas CCPP II	Gujarat	650	Nil
Gandhar CCPP II	Gujarat	650	Nil
Anta CCPP II	Rajasthan	650	Nil
Auraiya CCPP II	Uttar Pradesh	650	Nil
Total		5300	1556

Abbreviation:

*GPP — Gas Power Plant

**CCPP — Combined Cycle Power Plant

Year-wise Plant mooted by National Thermal Power Corporation Expansion Plan during the Ninth Plan

Year	Capacity Addition Plan (MW)	Achievement (MW)
1997-1998	Nil	Nil
1998-1999	115	940
1999-2000	1231	616 (so far)
2000-2001	854	—
2001-2002	3100	—
Total	5300	1556

Intelligent Network Service

201. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: (a) whether the Department of Telecommunications are planning to introduce intelligent network service in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):

(a) Department of Telecommunications services has already introduced Intelligent Network (IN) Services which is presently available in 29 cities.

(b) Six Intelligent Network (IN) Services namely — Free phone, Premium Rate, Virtual Card Calling, Televoting, Universal Access Number and Virtual Private Network can be provided.

So, far, one or more of the first three service listed above have been provided in 29 cities as per Statement enclosed.

Statement*List of Cities where "IN" Services Introduced*

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom Circle	Stations in which "IN" Service Operational
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
2.	Assam	Guwahati
3.	Bihar	Patna
4.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
5.		Gandhinagar
6.	Haryana	Ambala
7.		Gurgaon
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla

1	2	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
10.	Karnataka	Bangalore
11.	Maharashtra	Pune
12.		Nagpur
13.		Panjim
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
15.		Gwalior
16.		Raipur
17.		Indore
18.	North East	Shillong
19.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar
20.		Cuttack
21.	Punjab	Chandigarh
22.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
23.	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
24.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	Lucknow
25.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	
26.	Calcutta	Calcutta
27.	Chennai	Chennai
28.	Delhi	New Delhi
29.	Mumbai	Mumbai

Problems persist in Telecom Package

202. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecom bailout package remains mired in complications after the Delhi High Court judgement gave a conditional nod for its implementation;

(b) if so, whether technically none has migrated to the new formula because they are yet to fulfil all the conditions;

(c) if so, the problems which persist in telecom package and the details of the conditions imposed by the "High Court";

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to clear these problems; and

(e) the extent to which these problems have affected telecom package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) A Civil Writ Petition challenging the migration policy was filed by Delhi Science Forum in Delhi High Court and the matter is at present sub-judice. The Hon'ble High Court issued interim orders dated 10-8-1999 to the effect of allowing the Government to permit migration (of existing Basic and Cellular Service Licensees) in terms of the migration package subject to approval of the new Council of the Ministers and disapproval, if any, by the new Lok Sabha. Next date of hearing in Delhi High Court is 6-12-1999. Migration of the existing licensees of Basic and Cellular Services to the New Telecom Policy-1999 regime will be subject to the outcome of the court case.

In terms of the Delhi High Court interim order in the case, the New Cabinet reconsidered the matter afresh on 21-10-1999 and endorsed the decision taken by the Cabinet earlier with regards to the Migration Package.

(b) Migration to the New Telecom Policy-1999 regime will be subject to outcome of the court case as well as fulfilment of the conditions of the Package.

(c) to (e) Subject to the outcome of the court case, the Package of Migration will be implemented.

Privileges to Non Official Council Members

203. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision in the NDMC Act for providing privileges to the Members of the Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the privileges enjoyed by the Members of the Council;

(d) whether the NDMC chief has objected to the perks enjoyed by non-official members as brought out in the 'Hindustan Times' of November 3, 1999; and

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Section 16(2) of the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994 provides that the members of the Council shall be entitled to receive allowances for attendance at meeting of Council and of any of its Committees at such rates as may be determined by the rules made in this behalf. However, the New Delhi Municipal Council vide its Resolution No. 3(xii) dated 5th November, 1996 resolved to provide the following facilities:

- (i) Residential telephone or reimbursement of telephone charges upto 650 calls;
- (ii) Official vehicles for all "non-official" members;
- (iii) Petrol for vehicles @ 100 liters per month. (This was later in May, 1997 revised to 200 liters per month).
- (iv) Meeting allowance @ Rs. 200/- per day.
- (v) Medical facilities as admissible to Group-A officers of NDMC.
- (vi) Feasibility of providing independent room to non-official members may be examined.

(d) NDMC have denied that the Chairperson had made any such statement as referred to in the news-item in question.

(e) Does not arise.

Central Agencies in North Eastern States

204. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present status of the Central agencies concerning the promotion of agriculture, trade and industries with their financial involvement in each of the North Eastern States, including Sikkim;

(b) the scheme-wise, financial programme formulated for each State by the Central agencies during 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Information received from various Central Ministries/Departments for the year 1998-99 is indicated in the *Statement* enclosed.

Information for the year 1999-2000 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) (i) Department of Agriculture have intimated that National Seeds Corporation and States Farms Corporation of India are actively involved in the development of Agriculture in the North Eastern States.
- (ii) Ministry of Commerce have intimated that scheme called "Critical Infrastructure Balance" has been introduced in 1995-96 with a view to boosting exports. Under the scheme, five projects have been sanctioned for funding in the North Eastern Region. Two of these projects are located in the State of Meghalaya, two in Tripura and one in Mizoram.
- (iii) Ministry of Industry have intimated that to ensure balanced industrial development in the North Eastern Region, the Government have provided various incentives like Growth Centre Scheme, Transport Subsidy Scheme and the Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme.
- (iv) Department of Industrial Development have intimated that there is no agency or scheme under their jurisdiction for promotion of Agriculture, Trade and Commerce in the North Eastern States, including Sikkim.

(v) Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries have intimated that the National Small Industries Corporation Limited and Office of the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries are involved in the promotion of Small Scale Industries in the Northern States.

(vi) North Eastern Council has intimated that under the 9th Five Year Plan two schemes have been sanctioned for marketing support to the Agriculture and Horticulture Sector and Intensive Cultivation/Plantation in the North Eastern States.

(b) and (c) As per the available information, the scheme-wise financial programme and the progress made are as under:

(i) *Department of Agriculture*

During 1998-99, National Seeds Corporation Limited planned to supply 12375 quintal of seeds of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, fodders etc. to the North Eastern States. They also planned to supply 2000 quintal of various crop seeds to Sikkim in 1998-99. The progress made is as follows:

An office-cum-seed godown has been constructed at Guwahati at a cost of Rs. 33.77 lakhs to cater to the requirement of farmers in the North Eastern States. The Office of the National Seeds Corporation at Siliguri is catering to the seed requirement of Sikkim. Further, National Seeds Corporation has engaged 95 seed dealers for the North Eastern States and 6 seed dealers for Sikkim.

(ii) *Ministry of Commerce*

Meghalaya: Two projects were sanctioned as under:

(a) Construction of a Power sub-station at Export Promotion Industrial Park, Bymihat, Meghalaya at a cost of Rs. 2.43 crores.

(b) Improvement of the road connecting Bymihat to the main road, for which 0.65 crores were earmarked.

Mizoram: A project pertaining to construction of a composite building at ZOKHAWTHAR has been sanctioned, for which the Government of India's contribution was Rs. 2.00 crores.

Tripura: Two projects have been approved as under:

- (a) improvement of road from Fire Station, Chaumuhani, Agartala to Akhura Checkpost for which Government of India's contribution was Rs. 0.41 crores.
- (b) provision of weighbridges at Akhura and Raghna Land Custom Stations at a cost of Rs. 0.22 crores.

The progress made is as follows:

For Meghalaya, Rs. 1.25 crores and Rs. 1.18 crores were released in 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively. For Mizoram, Rs. 2.00 crores were released. For Tripura, papers related to release of funds were processed.

(iii) *Ministry of Industry*

For Growth Centres in the North Eastern Region, Rs. 15.00 crores would be met from the Central Assistance. Transport subsidy would be provided to promote industrialisation of hilly, remote and inaccessible areas of the North Eastern States.

The progress made so far is as follows:

Under the Growth Centre Scheme-1998, so far three Growth Centres have been allotted for Assam State and one Growth Centre each for the other States of North Eastern Region. One Growth Centre has also been allotted to Sikkim. Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres have also been sanctioned for Assam and Manipur.

(iv) *Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries:*

During 1998-99, the target for providing financial assistance to the Small Scale Industry Units in the North Eastern Region was as under:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| (a) Hire Purchase/Leasing: | Rs. 200 lakhs |
| (b) Raw Material Assistance: | Rs. 200 lakhs |
| (c) Internal Marketing Support Programme: | Rs. 200 lakhs |
| (d) Internal Marketing: | Rs. 100 lakhs |

The progress made upto 31.1.1999 was as under:

	Hire Purchase/ Leasing (Rs.)	Raw Material Assistance/IMSP (Rs.)
Assam	66.56 lakhs	249.10 lakhs
Meghalaya	5.98 lakhs	—
Manipur	1.19 lakhs	—

Further, the Office of the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries which has been implementing the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana in the North Eastern States and Sikkim, provides financial assistance in the form of subsidy for all economical viable activities including agriculture and allied activities but excluding direct agricultural operations like raising of crops and purchase of manure etc. Upto the year 1998-99, project costing upto Rs. 1.00 lakh were covered under the scheme. From 1999-2000 the project costing upto Rs. 1.00 lakh for business sector and project costing upto Rs. 2.00 lakhs for industry and service sectors are covered. For the North Eastern Region, the subsidy is 15% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 15,000 and in the case of Sikkim the maximum limit is Rs. 7,500.

In addition to this, the funds for training @ Rs. 1,000 per beneficiary for industry sector and @ Rs. 500 per beneficiary for service and business sector are released to the State Governments. The details of funds released to each of the North Eastern States and Sikkim during 1998-99 (upto Jan, 1999) were as under:

State	Rs. in thousands
1. Assam	2718.12
2. Arunachal Pradesh	379.30
3. Manipur	531.45
4. Meghalaya	320.50
5. Mizoram	101.25
6. Nagaland	82.25
7. Tripura	210.75
8. Sikkim	25.00

(v) *North Eastern Council*

The total sanctioned outlay in the 9th Five year Plan for "Marketing support to Agriculture/Horticultural Schemes" is Rs. 10.00 crores. During 1998-99, out of a budget provision of Rs. 120.00 lakhs, Rs. 87.25 lakhs were released. Since there was a question of equal distribution of fund for each State, an amount of Rs. 17.00 lakhs (approximately) were kept for each State.

Further, the total outlay in the 9th Five year Plan for the scheme "Intensive Cultivation/Plantation" is Rs. 700.00 lakhs. However, the scheme was suspended since July, 1998 due to unavoidable circumstances.

[Translation]

Adulteration in Petroleum Products

205. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any conspiracy is going on for adulterating diesel in petrol and underweighing in metropolitan cities and other towns;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government during the last three years and the number of persons against whom the action has been taken;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inspection of petrol and diesel sold at the petrol pumps by taking its samples to check its quality and to ensure the customers for getting the right quantity;

(d) if so, the number of inspections conducted during the last three years and number of persons found guilty;

(e) whether the Government have received any information regarding connivance of inspectors with the owners of the petrol/diesel pumps; and

(f) if so, action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Government is not aware of any conspiracy going as for adulterating diesel in petrol and underweighing in metropolitan cities and other towns.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

Number of checks conducted during the last three years is as follows:

Year	No. of checks	Case of Adulteration/ short delivery detected
1996-97	78029	325
1997-98	75461	400
1998-99	69806	504

(e) and (f) There are no inspectors in oil companies.

[English]

Release of Postage Stamp

206. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for the release of a postage stamp on late Shri E.M.S. Namboodiripad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to fulfil the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal was received from Shri E.K. Nayanar, Chief Minister of Kerala.

(c) Proposals for issue of commemorative postage stamps are considered by the Philatelic Advisory Committee in the Department of Posts on the basis of specific guidelines which *inter alia*, lay down that a stamp on personality of national/international importance can be issued either on the occasion of birth centenary or on 10th/25th/50th/100th death anniversary. As Shri Namboodiripad was born on June 14, 1909, and died on March 19, 1998 the proposal does not meet the requirements for issue of such stamps.

Accordingly it was advised that the proposal can be considered later either on the occasion of birth centenary or on the occasion of the 10th death anniversary of the personality.

Babri Masjid Demolition Case**Statement**

207. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the investigation in Babri Masjid demolition case;

(b) the number of Special Courts set up in Lucknow for the trial of accused;

(c) the names of the persons arrested and granted bail; and

(d) the manner in which both the Central and State Governments are monitoring the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMY): (a) The investigation in the Babri Masjid Demolition cases by C.B.I. was completed on 5.10.93 and the charge sheet was filed in the Court of Special Magistrate, (Ayodhya Prakaran) Lucknow, on 5.10.93 against 40 accused persons. After further investigation, a Supplementary Charge-sheet was filed against 9 more accused persons in the said court on 11.1.96.

(b) Two Special Courts were constituted *i.e.*, one court of Spl. Magistrate and another that of Special Judge (Ayodhya Prakaran) at Lucknow for trial of these cases.

(c) List enclosed as Statement.

(d) The Spl. Judge (Ayodhya Prakaran) has passed an order on 9.9.97 holding that there is a prima-facie case to frame charges against all the 49 accused persons. Against this 33 accused persons have filed Revision Petitions in the Lucknow Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad in October, 1997 which are being heard regularly. The Revision Petitions are pending for disposal in the High Court. In the trial court, pending disposal of the Revision Petitions, the proceedings are being adjourned. The Spl. Public Prosecutors appointed by the Govt. of India to conduct the trial of these case are attending the trial court and the High Court regularly.

List of Accused Persons who were Arrested in RC-8 (S)/92/SIC.II/SIC. IV/New Delhi and RC-1 (S) to 48 (S)/93/SIC. IV/New Delhi

(Babri Masjid Demolition Case) and Released on Bail

Sl. No.	Name S/Shri
1	2
1.	Suresh Pandey & Sachhidanand Pandey
2.	Lokesh Chander Sonar
3.	Jagdish Chandra
4.	Vineet Kumar Dwivedi
5.	Girja Shankar
6.	Arjun Prasad Ojha
7.	Rajjan Lal
8.	Ramesh Chandra
9.	Sukhdev
10.	Achal Singh
11.	Hajari Lal
12.	Hemraj
13.	Digambar Singh Rawat
14.	Shivmangal
15.	Ram Umesh Tyagi Kaushik

1	2	1	2
16.	Om Prakash Pandey	37.	Satish Pradhan
17.	Laxmi Narayan Das	38.	Murli Manohar Joshi
18.	Vinay Kumar Rai	39.	Acharya Giriraj Kishore
19.	Janki Das	40.	Vishnu Hari Dalmia
20.	Chedi Shah	41.	Vinod Kumar Vats
21.	Satya Prakash	42.	Ram Chandra Khatri
22.	Ram Lakha Das	43.	Sudhir Kakkar
23.	Devendra Kumar	44.	Amamath Goel
24.	Mehandra Kumar	45.	Santosh Dubey
25.	Kishan Bihari	46.	Prakash Sharma
26.	L.K. Advani	47.	Jaibhan Singh Paweya
27.	Kalyan Singh	48.	Dharmender Singh Gurjar
28.	Ashok Singhal	49.	Ram Narain Dass
29.	Vinay Katiyar	50.	Ramji Gupta
30.	Moreshwar Save	51.	Lallu Singh
31.	Pawan Kumar Pandey	52.	Champat Rai Bansal
32.	Brij Bhushan Saran Singh	53.	Navin Bhai Shukla
33.	Jai Bhagwan Goel	54.	Ramesh Pratap Singh
34.	Uma Bharti @ Gajra Singh	55.	Dharam Das
35.	Sadhvi Rithambara	56.	Baikunth Lal Sharma
36.	Maharaj Swamy Sakshi	57.	Dr. Satish Kumar Nagar

ISI Plot to Assassinate Leaders

208. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Haryana Police have unearthed a plot by the Inter-Services Intelligence to eliminate political leaders;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the persons arrested in this regard and the action taken against them;
- (d) the action proposed to be taken to arrest the absconding persons;
- (e) whether in view of the said plot the security of such leaders have been strengthened; and
- (f) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (f) Information is being collected.

Raising Battalions of BSF and CRPF

209. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the size of our central Para-military forces is not adequate to meet the needs of our security;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to raise new battalions of Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police Force; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO):

(a) The demand for security forces has increased because of the prevailing internal security environment. The Central Para-military Forces are over-stretched in order to meet these requirements. There is a need to raise more Battalions of CPMFs to meet the requirement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The information being secret cannot be made public.

Investments in Mumbai High Oilfields

210. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ONGC proposes to invest US\$ 1.5 billion in Mumbai High Oilfields; and
- (b) if so, the extent to which recovery of oil is expected to increase thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Studies with respect to additional development of Mumbai High Fields in consultation with M/s. Gaffney Cline and Associates have not yet been concluded. Therefore, the question of amount of investment involved does not arise.

[Translation]

Shortage of Power in Bihar

211. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is continuous shortage of power in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the total demand and supply of power in the State at present;
- (c) the sources of power supply in the State;
- (d) the average annual shortage of power in the State;
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the power generation in the State; and
- (f) the time by which the State is likely to become self-reliant in the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) There has been persistent shortage of power in Bihar which is attributable mainly to the inadequacy of transmission and distribution system in the State, and also due to de-electrification of a number of electrified villages, besides the inability of

the State Government to purchase additional power out of the surplus central sector generation available in the Eastern Region. The power supply position in Bihar during April-October, 1999 is given below:—

	Energy (MU net)		Peak (Mw net)
Requirement	5063	Peak demand	1352
Availability	4680	Peak met	1117
Shortage	383	Deficit	235
Shortage in per cent	7.6%	Shortage in %	17.4%

(c) Bihar meets its requirement of power mainly from (1) its own installed generation (1988 MW), (2) its share in Central Sector Stations (561.5 MW) in the Eastern Region, (3) its share in the power imported from Chukha Hydro-electric Power Station in Bhutan (74 MW).

(d) The average annual energy shortage in the State during 1998-99 was 8.1% and during 1999-2000 (upto October, 1999) was 7.6%.

(e) and (f) The Eastern Region, of which Bihar is a constituent, is already surplus in power. The shortage of power in Bihar could be met from the surplus power available in the region itself. However, the State would have to strengthen its T&D system to avail adequate power from the grid and improve its financial position to enable purchase of additional power available in the region.

[English]

LPG Connections in Palamu and Gadhwa Districts in Bihar

212. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the date upto which the waiting list of L.P.G. connections has been cleared in Palamu and Gadhwa districts in Bihar; and

(b) the number of L.P.G. agencies functioning in these districts and the number of L.P.G. connections sanctioned to each agency till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has cleared waiting list up to 31.10.1999 in both the districts of Palamu and Gadhwa in Bihar. At present Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is not marketing LPG in Gadhwa district of Bihar. The waiting for new LPG connection in the district of Palamu has been cleared up to 23.9.1992 by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (PBCL) is not marketing LPG in these two districts.

(b) There are 3 LPG distributors of Public Sector Undertaking Oil Companies functioning in Palamu and Gadhwa districts of Bihar. The details of LPG connections sanctioned to each agency is given below:

Districts	Name of Distributor	No. of Customers
Palamu	Gas Agency of IOC Dalton Ganj	2397
Palamu	Gas Agency of HPCL	6157
Gadhwa	Gas Agency of IOC	3511

United Jihad Council

213. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the so called United Jihad Council, an umbrella Organisation of 14 militant outfits in Jammu & Kashmir, killed a People's Democratic Party activist and injured another when unidentified militants attacked a vehicle carrying them on August 29, 1999 in the South Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether the UJC had warned the people of Jammu and Kashmir against participating in the recent general elections to the Lok Sabha; and

(c) the number and details of incidents involving militants perpetrating murders and deaths of innocent civilians during the electioneering in the State and the steps taken to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a)

According to inputs available with us unidentified militants attacked a vehicle carrying Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) activists on 29th August 1999, in which one Mustaq Ahmed Wani, PDP activist was killed and another Gh. Mohd. Bhat was seriously injured.

(b) Militant outfits including Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen which are constituents of United Jihad Council has warned the people against participating in elections.

(c) During electioneering in J&K a total of 62 election related incidents of violence took place in which 16 civilians were killed and 49 persons injured. A BJP candidate from Anantnag PC was among these killed in the anti-election militant violence. All possible security arrangements were made for the smooth conduct of elections and protection of candidates etc.

Forest Area

214. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forest are fast-depleting in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Forest Survey of India biennially assesses forest cover of the country since 1987. Forest cover in the country has marginally declined from 19.52% to 19.27% in the six assessments made so far. However, the country has lost 5482 sq.km of forests during the period from 1993 to 1995.

(b) Ministry has requested the concerned State/UT Governments to take serious note of the depletion of forest cover and to make in depth analysis of the factors contributing to the depletion of forest cover, to evolve effective strategy and action programme for arresting the trend so as to increase the forest cover are:

- (i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

- (ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.
- (iii) Guidelines to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.
- (iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.
- (v) A net work of protected areas has been established.
- (vi) Recently, Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources. Ministry has also requested Planning Commission and all State/UT Governments for increasing the allocation for forestry sector.

Private Sector Projects

215. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private sector power projects in operation in Andhra Pradesh at present

(b) the names and locations thereof; and

(c) the details of actual power produced by each of them vis-a-vis the power generation capacity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Two.

(b) the names and locations of these two projects are:

- (i) M/s. GVK Industries Ltd. at Jegurupadu in East Godavari District (216 MW).
- (ii) M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Limited at Kakinada, East Godavari District (208 MW).

(c) The details of actual power produced by each of them *vis-a-vis* the power generation capacity etc., are as follows:—

Period	Actual power generated (MU)	At PLF (%)
M/s. GVK Industries Ltd. (Capacity 216 MW)		
During open cycle period from 6.8.96 to 19.6.97	543.778	72.505
During first tariff year period from 20.6.97 to 19.6.98	1450.154	76.349
During second tariff period from 20.6.98 to 19.6.99	1557.620	82.006
Units generated from 20.6.99 to 9.11.1999	617.934	82.32
M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Limited (Capacity 208 MW)		
During open cycle period from 11.2.97 to 18.4.98	780.027	50.252
During first tariff year period from 19.4.98 to 18.4.99	1398.345	76.629
During second tariff period from 19.4.99 to 8.11.99	842.871	82.766

Shortage of Power in States

216. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States are facing acute power shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have requested to the Union Government for more allocation of Power from Central pool; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) State-wise power supply position during April-October 1999 is shown in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Allocation of power to various states from the 15% unallocated quota of the Central Government in the region is reviewed from time to time, taking into consideration relative power shortages, emergent and seasonal requirements and imbalances in demand and supply within States in the region. It is a continuous process. In the recent past, requests for higher allocation from unallocated quota have been received from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana.

Statement**Power Supply Position**

(All figures in MU net)

Region/ State/ System	April '99 — October '99			
	Requirement	Availability	Shortage	%
1	2	3	4	5
Northern Region				
Chandigarh	659	659	0	0.0
Delhi	10935	10668	267	2.4
Haryana	9590	9350	240	2.5
H.P.	1751	1745	6	0.3
J & K	3255	2847	408	12.5
Punjab	17435	17344	91	0.5
Rajasthan	13820	13397	423	3.1
U.P.	25720	22839	2881	11.2
N.R.	83165	78849	4316	5.2
Western Region				
Gujarat	28664	26862	1802	6.3
M.P.	18676	17990	686	3.7
Maharashtra	40587	38889	1698	4.2
Goa	1026	793	233	22.7
W.R.	88953	84534	4419	5.0

1	2	3	4	5
Southern Region				
A.P.	25476	24125	1351	5.3
Karnataka	15083	13921	1162	7.7
Kerala	7168	6655	513	7.2
Tamil Nadu	22314	20717	1597	7.2
S.R.	70041	65418	4623	6.6
Eastern Region				
Bihar	5063	4680	383	7.6
D.V.C.	4840	4973	-133	-2.7
Orissa	6271	6487	-216	-3.4
West Bengal	10706	10957	-251	-2.3
E.R.	26880	27097	-217	-0.8
North-Eastern Region				
Arunachal Pradesh	67.2	67.5	-0.3	-0.4
Assam	1666.3	1706.0	-39.7	-2.4
Manipur	246.4	219.6	26.8	10.9
Meghalaya	267.3	284.0	-16.7	-6.2
Mizoram	117.6	118.1	-0.5	-0.4
Nagaland	111.8	111.7	0.1	0.1
Tripura	335.4	338.1	-2.7	-0.8
N.E.R.	2812.0	2845.0	-33.0	-1.2
All India	271851	258743	13108	4.8

Damaged caused to Paradip Port by Cyclone

217. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent cyclone in Orissa has damaged the Paradip Port severely;

(b) if so, the estimated loss suffered by the Paradip Port as a result thereof;

(c) the details of important equipments/machines damaged due to cyclone at Paradip Port;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any plan to set right the equipments and machines at the Port within a stipulated period; and

(e) if so, the time by which the port will start functioning in a routine manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Paradip Port has suffered damages due to Cyclone. The estimated loss suffered to the tune of Rs. 68.5 crores excluding Rs. 49.5 crores to the Fishery Harbour.

(c) The main equipments are not damaged. However, motors and electrical installations damaged due to submergence.

(d) and (e) Government have made a time bound recovery plan. Port has started functioning since 5.11.99. All the main equipments have started working since 19.11.99 after resumption of power supply.

Oil Exploration by Public Sector Companies

218. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector oil exploration companies have discovered several new oil wells during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of wells discovered, company-wise with location thereof; and

(c) the quantity of oil explored and still left in each of these wells as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has discovered oil at 13 new structures during 1996-97 to 1998-99 in the states of Assam, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and in Western Offshore. Oil India Limited (OIL) has discovered 15 new oil structures in the state of Assam during the same period.

(c) The new oil finds are at different stages of delineation and appraisal. However, as per current estimates, reserves of about 6.27 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) have been established.

New Telephone Exchanges in Kerala

219. SHRI A.C. JOS:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning at present in Kerala;

(b) whether there is any proposal for opening up of new telephone exchanges in Kerala during 1999-2000;

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

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) As on 31-10-99, 858 telephone exchanges are functioning in Kerala.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) New telephone exchanges were planned to be opened at 36 Stations in Kerala during 1999-2000 subject to the availability of suitable accommodation, equipments, cables and power supply. Of the 36 new telephone exchanges programmed, 4 exchanges viz. Mamalakandam, Kadali-Kkudu, Chengara and Kizhattur are not likely to be commissioned due to non availability of suitable accommodation. The District-wise split up of 32 exchanges is as follows:—

Alleppey-1, Calicut-3, Malappuram-6, Wyanad-4, Cannanore-3, Kasargod-2, Ernakulam-1, Idukki-6, Kottayam-1, Quilon-4 and Trivandrum-1.

(d) The funds allocated for the purpose is Rs. 46.65 crore.

High Price of LPG compared to International Price

220. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of LPG in India is very high as compared to the international price;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether large fixed costs in the public sector oil companies is the basic cause of high prices of LPG in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to reduce costs of production and transport of LPG in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Refinery Gate price is being fixed on import parity basis with effect from 1.4.98. Cost reduction measure is a continuous process and a number of steps are being taken to reduce cost of production and transportation of LPG in the country.

Pending Power Projects in the Country

221. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to status:

(a) whether the fate of many power projects is hanging in balance;

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

(c) the steps being taken in the this direction?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) A detailed statement giving the status of power projects where Techno economic clearance is available and work is yet to commence is enclosed.

Statement

A. Thermal Projects whose fate is hanging in balance.

S.No.	Name of project/capacity and executing agency	Date of TEC Sanction	Reasons
1	2	3	4

NORTHERN REGION

Uttar Pradesh (Private Sector)

1.	Rosa TPP (2x283.5 MW) Ms. Indo-Gulf Fertilizer & Chemical Ltd.	19.9.97	Financial Closure is yet to be achieved.
----	---	---------	--

Rajasthan (Private Sector)

1.	Birsingsar Lignite (2x250 MW) M/s. Hindustan Vidyut Corp. Ltd.	20.4.98	Financial Closure is yet to be achieved.
----	---	---------	--

1	2	3	4
2.	Dholpur CCGT Gt (2x231.75 MW) ST (239.20 MW) M/s. RPG Dholpur Power Co. Ltd.	12.3.98	Financial Closure is yet to be achieved.
WESTERN REGION			
Gujarat (Central Sector)			
1.	Kawas CCGP St. II (650 MW) M/s. NTPC	19.8.98	Investment decision is yet to be taken by NTPC Board.
2.	Jhanor Gandhar CCGP St. I (650 MW) M/s. NTPC	12.11.98	Investment decision is yet to be taken by NTPC Board
Private Sector			
1.	Jamnagar Pet coke based TPP (2x250 MW) M/s. Reliance Power Ltd.	24.5.99	Financial Closure is yet to be achieved.
Madhya Pradesh (Pvt. Sec.)			
1.	Pench (2x250 MW) M/s. Pench Power Ltd.	19.9.97	Financial closure is yet to be achieved. The same depend upon granting of ESCROW account by MPEB. The matter is under litigation in Supreme Court.
2.	Korba West Extn. (Distt. Bilaspur) (2x210 MW) M/s India Thermal Power Ltd.	15.9.97	Financial closure is yet to be achieved. The same depend upon granting ESCROW account by MPEB. Matter under litigation in Supreme Court.
3.	Korba East TPP (Distt. Bilaspur) (2x535 MW) M/s. Daewoo Power (India) Ltd.	30.12.96	-do-
4.	Bina TPP (Phase I) (Distt. Sagar) (2x289 MW) M/s. Bina Power Supply Co. Ltd.	17.6.97	-do-

1	2	3	4
5.	Narsinghpur CCGT (Distt. Narsinghpur) GT (110.47MW+ST) (56.08 MW) M/s. GBL Power Ltd.	27.6.97	Financial closure is yet to be achieved. The same depend upon granting of ESCROW account by MPEB. The matter is under litigation in Supreme Court.
6.	Guna CCPP (Distt. Guna) GT (2x111.7 MW) + ST (106.6 MW) M/s. STI Power India Ltd.	19.9.97	-do-
7.	Bhilai TPP (Distt. Durg) (2x287 MW) M/s. Bhilai Power Supply Co. Ltd.	3.10.97	-do-
8.	Raigarh TPP Phase I (Distt. Raigarh) (MP) (2x275MW) M/s. Jindal Power Ltd.	17.11.97	-do-
9.	Ratlam D.G. Power Project (8x14.829MW) M/s. GVK Power (Ratlam) Ltd.	10.2.98	-do-
10.	Pithampur Kheda Diesel (Distt. Dhar) (8x14.96 MW) M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji Power Co. Ltd.	10.2.98	-do-
11.	Bhander CCGT (Distt. Datia) GT (2x112MW)+ST (118 MW) M/s. Bhandar Power Ltd.	5.3.98	-do-
12.	Khandwa CCPP (Distt. Eastt Nimar) GT (112.27MW)+ST (58.9MW) M/s. Madhya Bharat Energy Corp. Ltd.	29.5.98	-do-

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra			
(State Sector)			
1.	Patalganga CCGT (250MW) MSEB	9.7.99	(a) Approval of Planning Commission (b) Fuel supply agreement (c) Firm financial package
Private Sector			
1.	Patalganga CCGT (447 MW) M/s. Reliance Patalganga Power Ltd.	22.1.98	Financial closure is yet to be achieved.
2.	Bhadrawati TPP (2x541MW) M/s. Central India Power Co. Ltd.	29.12.94	Financial closure and fuel supply agreement is yet to be achieved.
SOUTHERN REGION			
Andhra Pradesh			
(State Sector)			
1.	Rayalseema Stage II TPP (2x210MW) APSEB	1/94	Project is pending for financial tie up.
Private Sector			
1.	Visakhapatnam TPP (2x520 MW) M/s. Hinduja National Power Corpn. Ltd.	25.7.96	(i) Delay in:— — signing of Escrow Agreement — acquisition of land (ii) achievement of financial closure
2.	Ramagundem TPP (2x260 MW) M/s. BPL Power Projects	26.6.97	(i) Escrow and hypothecation agreements (ii) Financial closure
3.	Krishnapatnam 'B' TPP (2x260 MW) M/s. BBI Power Krishnapatnam Co.	16.6.98	(i) Escrow Agreement (ii) GOAP counter Guarantee (iii) Financial closure

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

Karnataka

State Sector

- | | | | |
|----|--|------|--|
| 1. | DG set at Kollar
(12x6.48 MW) (KEB) | 2/87 | Scheme dropped due to paucity of funds. It is now being posed for Pvt. sector. |
|----|--|------|--|

Private Sector

- | | | | |
|----|---|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Mangalore TPS
(4x253.3 MW)
M/s. Mangalore Power Co. | 10.7.98 | Issuance of GOI counter guarantee |
|----|---|---------|-----------------------------------|

Kerala

Private Sector

- | | | | |
|----|--|---------|---|
| 1. | Vypeen CCGT
GT (3x146.9 MW)+ST
(238.5 MW) M/s. Siasin
Energy Ltd. | 25.9.98 | Non conclusion of PPA and slow progress of discussions on this issue. |
|----|--|---------|---|

Tamil Nadu

Private Sector

- | | | | |
|----|--|---------|--|
| 1. | Tuticurin TPP St. IV
(525 MW) M/s. SPIC
Electric Power Com. Ltd. | 31.7.99 | Financial closure is yet to be achieved. |
| 2. | Samayanallur DGPP
(106 MW) M/s. Balaji
Power Corpn. Pvt. Ltd. | 10.2.98 | Financial closure is yet to be achieved. |
| 3. | North Madras TPP St. II
(2x525 MW)
M/s. Videocon Power Ltd. | 3.4.96 | Financial closure is yet to be achieved. |
| 4. | North Madras Ph. III
(525 MW) M/s. Trisakti
Energy Pvt. Ltd. | 31.7.98 | Financial closure is yet to be achieved. |
| 5. | Cuddalore TPS
(2x660 MW)
Cuddalore Power Co. Ltd. | 13.8.99 | Financial closure is yet to be achieved. |

1	2	3	4
6.	Vembar CCPT (1873 MW) M/s. Indian Power Projects Ltd.	24.9.99	Financial closure is yet to be achieved.
7.	Neveli Zero TPS (250 MW) M/s. ST-CMS Electric Co.	19.8.94	Financial closure is yet to be achieved.
Andaman & Nicobar Admn.			
1.	DG Power Station at Bambooflat, South Andaman (4x5 MW) M/s. Suryachakra Power Corpn. Ltd.	20.11.97	Financial closure is yet to be achieved.
EASTERN REGION			
Bihar			
State Sector			
1.	Tenughat TPP St II (3x210 MW) M/s. TVNL	3/89	Financial tie up is yet to be made
2.	Muzaffarpur TP Extn. (2x250 MW) BSEB	12.95	Paucity of funds
Orissa			
Private Sector			
1.	Ib Valley TPP St. II (2x250 MW) M/s. AES Ib Valley Corpn.	26.2.99	Financial closure is yet to be achieved.
2.	Duburi TPS (2x250 MW) M/s. Kalinga Power Corpn.	29.4.99	Financial closure is yet to be achieved.
West Bengal			
Central Sector			
1.	Farakka STPS St. III (500 MW) M/s. NTPC	9/89	The scheme has been deferred for the time being

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

Private Sector

1.	Bakreswar TPP	23.6.98	Financial closure is yet to be achieved
----	---------------	---------	---

B. Hydro Electric Projects

S.No.	Name of Project	Inst. Capacity (MW)	Status
1.	Koel Karo (NHPC) Bihar	4x172.5+5+1x20	(i) Paucity of funds (ii) Problems in land acquisition and rehabilitation.
2.	Lakhwar Vyasi (UP)	3x100+2x60	Funds constraints
3.	Maneri Bhali-II (UP)	4x76	Funds constraints.
4.	Srinagar (UP)	5x66	(i) funds constraints due to cancellation of WB loan (ii) Finalising of executing Agency.
5.	Dhansiri (Assam)	5x3x1.33	(i) Funds constraints (ii) Law and order problem.

Ban on Plastic Bags

222. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are harmful effect on the environment due to dumping of plastic waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government to fight the menace, particularly in metropolitan cities—as banning carry bags etc.;

(d) whether the Government propose to take steps to promote the use of environment friendly materials instead of plastic; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Littering of plastics wastes is considered to be harmful to the environment due to their non-biodegradable nature, their propensity to clog the sewers and cause contamination of soil and groundwater.

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have brought out Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 which prohibit use of carrybags and

containers made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging of foodstuffs. Other salient features of the Rules are as follows:

- (i) Carrybags made of recycled plastics and used for purposes other than storing and packaging foodstuff shall be coloured as per the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Recycling of plastics shall also be undertaken as per BIS Guidelines.
- (ii) The manufacturers shall print on each carrybag or container as to whether it is made of recycled material or virgin material.
- (iii) Minimum thickness of carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastics has been specified as 20 microns.
- (d) and (e) Environment friendly materials like biodegradable plastics which may be used in place of plastics are in various stages of research and development. The technology has not yet been fully commercialised in the country.

[Translation]

Oil Refineries in Maharashtra

223. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is inordinate delay in the setting up of the oil-refineries at Pandarpur in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, whether the said proposals are lying pending since long;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the stage at which these proposals are lying pending; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to accord approval to the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) No proposal for setting up of an oil refinery at Pandarpur in Maharashtra is pending with this Ministry.

[English]

Adulteration in Petroleum Products

224. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a large scale adulteration in petroleum products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to launch a special mission to root out adulteration in petroleum products and ensure that the quality of fuel being sold at the retail outlets was the same as that which flowed out of the refineries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Oil marketing companies carry out regular inspections/surprise check of retail outlets, to check malpractices including adulteration. Also in this regard special drives are launched by the oil companies from time to time. To prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (PDS), furfural doping, filter paper test, stock reconciliation, inspection of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.

[Translation]

Rashtriya Rajmarg Pariyojna Bekar

225. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "RASHTRIYA RAJMARG PARIYOJNA BEKAR, BHARAT KO EXPRESS MARGON KI JARORAT" appearing in the "Dainik Jagran" dated November 2, 1999;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) whether the Government propose to re-consider the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Task Force on Infrastructure under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission considered the need for expressway in the country and recommended that expressway may not be taken up at this stage.

(c) No, Sir.

[English]

Involvement of Foreign Nations in Undesirable Activities

226. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign nationals residing in the country till date, State-wise; and nationality-wise;

(b) the number out of them having valid visas;

(c) whether a large number of such foreign nationals have been found involved in anti-social activities; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Powers of the Central Government governing the entry, stay, movement and exit of foreigners in India have been delegated to the State Governments and U.T. Administrations. As per the available information 1,45,382 registered foreigners, excluding refugees and Pak. nationals, were residing in India as on 31.12.1998. Nationality-wise and State-wise details are enclosed as Statement-I and II respectively

(b) All these registered foreigners had valid visas.

(c) and (d) Some foreign nationals are found to be involved in illegal or undesirable activities during their stay in the country. Action against such foreigners for their illegal/undesirable activities is taken as per law, depending on the nature of the offence, including deportation to their native country.

Statement I

Nationality-wise details of Registered Foreigners residing in India

As on 31.12.98

Afghanistan	9023
Afghanistan Stateless	4
Algeria	11
Angola	1
Argentina	59
Armentia	3
Australia	2058
Austria	482
Bahamas	1
Baharain	219
Bangladesh	21466
Barbados	11
Belarus	9
Belgium	363
Belize	20
Bhutan	11
Bolivia	8
Bosnia & Herzegovina	6
Botswana	3

Brazil	251	Czech Republic	120
British Overseas City	6	Denmark	439
British Sub. & Colo.	43	Djibouti	29
Brunei	1	Dominican Republic	3
Bulgaria	61	Ecuador	6
Bylorussia	6	Egypt	110
Cambodia (Kampuchia)	48	El Salvador	40
Cameroon	2	Eritrea	75
Canada	7211	Estonia	1
Cayman Island	1	Ethiopia	1615
Chad	1	Fiji	232
Chile	15	Finland	221
China	1862	France	2694
China (Taiwan)	106	Gambia	25
Cina Stateless	111	Georgia	14
Colombia	53	Germany	2973
Congo	1	Ghana	122
Costa Rica	11	Greece	66
Croatia	40	Grenada	1
Cuba	7	Guinea	3
Cyprus	3	Guinea Bissau	1
Czech	199	Guyana	37

Honduras	2	Lebanon	44
Hong Kong	30	Lesotho	8
Hungary	75	Liberia	6
Iceland	7	Libya	15
Indonesia	598	Lithoria	8
Iran	3846	Lithuania	1
Iraq	201	Luxemberg	4
Ireland	326	Malagasy (Madagascar)	9
Israel	472	Malawi	22
Italy	1075	Malaysia	7251
Ivory Coast	4	Maldives	600
Jamaica	4	Mali	1
Japan	3122	Malia	16
Jordan	1068	Mauritius	1823
Kazakhstan	36	Mexico	98
Kenya	4209	Moldova	1
Korea (North) DPR	42	Mongolia	43
Korea South	2433	Mongolian	113
Kuwait	71	Morocco	23
Kyrgyzstan	2	Mozambique	48
Laos	6	Myanmar (Burma)	541
Latvia	4	Namibia	9

Netherlands	960	Seychelles	135
New Zealand	406	Sierra Leone	7
Nicaragua	2	Singapore	2867
Nigeria	422	Slovak Republic	27
Norway	335	Slovenia	40
Oman	429	Somalia	541
Others	103	South Africa	617
Palestine	234	Spain	457
Panama	78	Sri Lanka	4628
Papua-New-Guinea	2	St. Lucia	3
Paraguay	1	Stateless	743
Peru	23	Stateless (Tibet)	478
Philippines	544	Sudan	2114
Poland	170	Suriname	9
Portugal	887	Swaziland	3
Qatar	3	Sweden	773
Romania	41	Switzerland	725
Russia	1287	Syria	99
Rwanda	194	Tajikistan	15
Samoa (West) Togolese	6	Tanzania	1152
Saudi Arabia	89	Thailand	1500
Senegal	24	Tonga (Togo)	3

Trinidad & Tobago	93	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3
Turkey	71	Daman & Diu	204
Turkmenistan	10	Delhi	33370
Tuvalu	1	Goa	2045
U.S.A.	15913	Gujarat	9421
Uganda	736	Haryana	2102
Ukraine	163	Himachal Pradesh	660
United Arab Emirates	106	Jammu & Kashmir	140
United Kingdom	22302	Karnataka	11978
Uruguay	7	Kerala	3115
Uzbekistan	83	Lak. M. & Islands	1
Venezuela	58	Madhya Pradesh	1322
Vietnam	362	Maharashtra	26588
Yemen	993	Manipur	7
Yugoslavia	71	Meghalaya	524
Zaire	26	Mizoram	137
Zambia	197	Nagaland	4
Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)	83	Orissa	344
Total	145382	Pondicherry	426

Statement II**Statewise details of Registered Foreigners
residing in India***As on 31.12.98*

Andaman & Nicobar	34	Punjab	6433
Andhra Pradesh	2985	Rajasthan	991
Assam	8839	Sikkim	7
Bihar	119	Tamil Nadu	14442
Chandigarh	1466	Tripura	18
		Uttar Pradesh	3147
		West Bengal	14510
		Total	145382

Reports of Probe Panels

227. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Govt. has been drawn to the news-item captioned "SC for swift action on reports of probe panels" appearing in 'The Hindu' dated September, 21, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein;

(c) the steps taken by the Govt. to ensure that all the State Govts. implement the Supreme Court's directive on this issue; and

(d) the total reports of enquiry commissions pending as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, the appropriate Govt. constituting a Commission of Inquiry has total jurisdiction over the entire process of an Inquiry. As such the Union Government does not monitor the Inquiry or implementation of the reports wherever the State Govts. are the appropriate Govts. The Supreme Court directive referred to in the news item pertains to the Commission of Inquiry constituted by the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh and they are therefore the appropriate Govt. for implementation of the Directive of the Apex Court. No report of any Commission of inquiry on communal disturbances ordered by the Union Government is pending for action with us at present.

Establishment of an Indian Institute of Maritime Studies

228. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish an Indian Institute of Maritime Studies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to start functioning; and

(d) the name of the training institutes which will come within its purview?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to giving definite direction to upgradation of maritime training in the country, it is proposed to establish an Indian Institute of Maritime Studies by forming a Society under Societies Registration Act, 1860 and placing the Government run maritime institutions within the domain of this society. The new institute will provide training in the maritime field in such a way as to prepare top class trained personnel for the Merchant Navy, will help the Indian shipping industry with up-to-date information through research and publication and will assist the training institutes in the country to carry out research in a number of relevant areas.

(c) As various agencies are involved in the matter to complete pre-requisite formalities to get the Society registered, it is too early to indicate the time by which the Society is to start functioning.

(d) The four Government run Maritime Training Institutions namely Lal Bahadur Shastri College of Advanced Maritime Studies and Research, Mumbai; Marine Engineering and Research Institute, Calcutta; Marine Engineering and Research Institute, Mumbai; and Training Ship Chanakya, Navi Mumbai will come within the purview of the proposed Indian Institute of Maritime Studies.

Problem of Cattle Grazing in Border Areas

229. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSF is having several camps at Indo-Bangladesh Border at Goalpokhar Chakulia and Panjipara P.S. of Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether several complaints have been received by BSF from the villagers of Goalpokhar to the effect that they have problems in cattle grazing in the area; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Some complaints have been received regarding problem in cattle grazing. These have since been sorted out in consultation with the District Administration.

Losses to Chennai and Mumbai Ports

230. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chennai and Mumbai Ports are set to incur heavy losses by the year 2001-02;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a study commissioned by the Asian Development Bank and prepared by management consultants, the Cornell group of USA has pointed out that there is a likely loss of tonnage to both these ports due to increased activity at the nearby ports of Ennore and Jawaharlal Nehru respectively;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check these losses;

(e) whether any concrete programme of action has been prepared; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (f) The Cornell Group Inc. engaged by the Asian Development Bank, in their Draft Final Report, have projected operating surplus for Mumbai Port Trust to decline to a negative of Rs. 1388 million and that of Chennai Port Trust to a negative of Rs. 100 million for the year 2002. Similar negative impacts on the tonnage of these ports have been projected due to the activities of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and Ennore Port Company, respectively. However, these projections have been made by the Cornell Group on certain assumptions, which require through verification. The Government is yet to receive the Final Report.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up papers to be laid on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952:—

(i) Report of Justice D.P. Wadhwa Commission on Inquiry to enquire into the facts and circumstances relating to the killing of Mr. Graham Stewart Staines, an Australian national and his two sons in January, 1999 in Orissa.

(ii) Memorandum of Action taken on the above Report.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-152/99]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): Sir, on behalf of Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-153/99]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-154/99]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Telematics, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development of Telematics, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-155/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Telematics, 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 Centre for Development of Telematics, 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-156/99]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Steel Authority of India Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-157/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): 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. 219 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 4/99-Cus., dated the 8th January, 1999.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 329(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind three notifications mentioned therein.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 330 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide exemption from surcharge on specified goods.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 331 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide exemption to high speed diesel oil from so much of additional duty of customs leviable thereon.
 - (v) G.S.R. 332 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide technical amendments in the Notifications Nos. 20/99, 25/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.
 - (vi) G.S.R. 333 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to substitute the references to existing authorities with the substituted authorities.
 - (vii) G.S.R. 334 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to substitute the references to existing authorities with the substituted authorities.
 - (viii) G.S.R. 577 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 20/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.

- (ix) G.S.R. 582 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th August, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying the preferential tariff margins extended to imports of specified goods from any of the SAARC countries.
- (x) G.S.R. 583 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th August, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 236/89-Cus., dated the 1st September, 1989.
- (xi) G.S.R. 646 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the list of specified goods mentioned in Sl. No. 16 of notification No. 39/96-Cus., so as to include "High performance polyethylene plates.
- (xii) G.S.R. (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking exempt standard gold bars from whole of customs duty, when imported into India by a Bank authorised by the Reserve Bank of India under the Gold Deposit Scheme in exchange of scrap gold to be exported out of India.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 99 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt second hand computer, computer peripherals including printer, plotter, scanner, monitor, keyboard and storage unit from the whole of the basic, special additional and Special duties of Customs leviable thereon when received as donation by a School run by Central Government, State Government and Government of Union Territory or a Local body.
- (xiv) S.O. 126 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion on certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.
- (xv) S.O. 127 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion on certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.
- (xvi) S.O. 185 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.
- (xvii) S.O. 186 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.
- (xviii) S.O. 283 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.
- (xix) S.O. 284 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.
- (xx) S.O. 384 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.
- (xxi) S.O. 385 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.
- (xxii) S.O. 495 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June,, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.
- (xxiii) S.O. 496 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.

- (xxiv) S.O. 602 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.
- (xxv) S.O. 603 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.
- (xxvi) S.O. 686 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of import.
- (xxvii) S.O. 687 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of export.
- (xxviii) G.S.R. 733 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the validity of the Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (xxix) G.S.R. 741 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 84/97-Cus., dated the 11th November, 1997.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT-158/99]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of sections 38 of Central Excise Act, 1944:—
- (i) G.S.R. 227 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe concessional excise duty rate of Rs. 332 per metric tonne on cement cleared from the factory in bulk for subsequent packing into HDPE bags or laminated paper bags outside the factory premises.
- (ii) G.S.R. 234 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 8/99-CE, dated the 26th February, 1999.
- (iii) G.S.R. 235 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 10/99-CE, dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (iv) G.S.R. 238 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making a technical amendment in the Notification Nos. 83/94-CE, 84/94-CE, dated the 11th April, 1994 and Notification No. 9/96-CE, dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (v) G.S.R. 239 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 5/99-CE, dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (vi) G.S.R. 321 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 5/99-CE, dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (vii) G.S.R. 335 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 6/99-CE, dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (viii) G.S.R. 336 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend certain Notifications mentioned therein.
- (ix) G.S.R. 337 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to substitute the references to existing authorities with the substituted authorities.
- (x) G.S.R. 338 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 20/99-CE (NT) dated the 28th February, 1999.

- (xi) G.S.R. 339 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in two Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xii) G.S.R. 340 (E) and GSR 341(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to substitute the references to existing authorities with the substituted authorities.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 343 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in two notifications mentioned therein.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 406 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 5/99-CE, dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (xv) G.S.R. 408 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 5/99-CE, dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 409 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 27/97-CE, dated the 7th May, 1997.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 422 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 15/99-CE, dated the 26th March, 1999.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 423(E) and G.S.R. 424 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt whole of the Central Excise duty and additional excise duty (in lieu of sales tax) on hookah tobacco and 'Gudaku'.
- (xix) G.S.R. 508 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt all excisable goods manufactured in certain units located in growth centres/IDC's/industrial parts etc. in states of Assam and Tripura.
- (xx) G.S.R. 509 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt excisable goods of specified industries when manufactured by units located in the states of Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 543 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt paper and paperboard manufactured by Ashok Paper Mills, Darbhanga, from 50% of the Central Excise Duty leviable thereon for a period of ten years from the date of commencement of production as per the revival scheme approved by the Supreme Court of India.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 610 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend two Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 641 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend three Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 661 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the definition of the "Armed Forces of the Union" so as to include the Special Frontier Force.
- (xxv) The Central Excise (Fourteenth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 510 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xxvi) G.S.R. 603 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt Carded Wool intended for making hand spun yarn upto 10 counts.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 742 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 108/95-CE, dated the 28th August, 1995.

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:—
- (i) S.O. No. 1729 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
 - (ii) S.O. No. 1730 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Prayas JAC Society," New Delhi and its constituent namely "Prayas JAC Trust" and "Naya Prayas Trust" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
 - (iii) S.O. No. 1731 Published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Arya Vaidya Sala," "Kottakkal, Kerala under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
 - (iv) S.O. No. 1732 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Jayaprakash Institute of Social Change, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
 - (v) S.O. No. 1733 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Hamdard Dawakhana (WAKF), New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
 - (vi) S.O. No. 1734 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "The Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency (Myrada). Bangalore" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
 - (vii) S.O. No. 1735 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Madhya Pradesh Council for Child Welfare, Bhopal" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
 - (viii) S.O. No. 1736 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Sant Nirankari Mandal, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
 - (ix) S.O. No. 1737 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
 - (x) S.O. No. 1739 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
 - (xi) S.O. No. 1740 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Exhibition Society Hyderabad" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
 - (xii) S.O. No. 1741 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Seva Mandir, Udaipur, Rajasthan" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
 - (xiii) S.O. No. 1742 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Children's Book Trust, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.

- (xiv) S.O. No. 1743 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (xv) S.O. No. 1744 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment year 1996-97 subject to certain conditions.
- (xvi) S.O. No. 1745 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Society for Social Forestry Research & Development, Madras" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xvii) S.O. No. 1746 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "National Culture Fund, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1996-97 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (xviii) S.O. No. 1747 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Children Book Trust, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xix) S.O. No. 1748 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Missionaries of Charity, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (xx) S.O. No. 1749 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxi) S.O. No. 1750 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Bangalore" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxii) S.O. No. 1751 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, Kerala" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxiii) S.O. No. 1752 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Ramakrishna Sarda Mission, Dakshineswar, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxiv) S.O. No. 1753 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxv) S.O. No. 1754 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Gandhigram Trust, Gandhigram" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxvi) S.O. No. 1755 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxvii) S.O. No. 1756 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Aurovila Foundation, Aurovila, Tamil Nadu" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1994-95 to 1995-97 subject to certain conditions.

- (xxviii) S.O. No. 1757 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "The J.R.D. and Thelma J. Tata Trust, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxix) S.O. No. 1759 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Population Foundation of India, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxx) S.O. No. 1760 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxi) S.O. No. 1761 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Gujarat Pollution Control Board, Gandhinagar" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxii) S.O. No. 1763 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mount Abu, Rajasthan" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1988-89 to 1990-91 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxiii) S.O. No. 1764 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mount Abu, Rajasthan" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1991-92 to 1993-94 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxiv) S.O. No. 1765 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mount Abu, Rajasthan" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1994-95 to 1996-97 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxv) S.O. 1766 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxvi) S.O. No. 1767 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxvii) S.O. No. 1768 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxviii) S.O. No. 1769 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Krishna Chandra Memorial Trust, Orissa" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxix) S.O. No. 1770 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "National Highways Authority of India, Ministry of Surface Transport, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1995-96 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xl) S.O. No. 1771 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "M/s. Heart Care Foundation of India, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xli) S.O. No. 1772 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Ramakrishna Mission, West Bengal" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003 subject to certain conditions.

- (xlii) S.O. No. 1773 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Institute of Marketing & Management, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (xliii) S.O. No. 1774 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "The Chartered Accountants of India, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xliv) S.O. No. 1775 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "National Institute of Bank Management, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlv) S.O. No. 1776 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Indian International Textile Machinery Exhibition Society, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlvi) S.O. No. 1779 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Calcutta Pinjrapole Society, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlvii) S.O. No. 1780 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mount Abu, Rajasthan" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlviii) S.O. No. 1782 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Sri Sarda Math, Dakshineswar, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlix) S.O. No. 1785 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Shri Param Hans Advait Math Publication Society, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (i) S.O. No. 1786 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon (Haryana)" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1987-88 to 1989-90 subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) S.O. No. 1787 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon (Haryana)" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (iii) S.O. No. 1788 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon (Haryana)" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (liii) S.O. No. 1789 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon (Haryana)" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (liv) S.O. No. 1791 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Lady Tata Trust" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (iv) S.O. No. 1792 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "J.R.D. Tata Trust, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99, to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.

- (lvi) S.O. No. 1793 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Children Book Trust, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (lvii) S.O. No. 1794 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Madhya Pradesh Mahila Kalyan Samiti, Bhopal" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lviii) S.O. No. 1795 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lix) S.O. No. 1799 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "The Theosophical Society, Chennai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lx) S.O. No. 1800 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Jagadguru Sri Sankaracharya Swamigal Srimatam Samasthanam, Tamil Nadu" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxi) S.O. No. 1801 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Civil Services Officers' Institute, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxii) S.O. No. 1802 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Khelaghar, Palm Avenue, Calcutta," under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxiii) S.O. No. 1083 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxiv) S.O. No. 1804 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Sanstha, Ahmedabad" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxv) S.O. No. 1805 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "The Annie Besant Trust" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxvi) S.O. No. 1806 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxvii) S.O. No. 1807 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Ramakrishan Math, Belure Math, West Bengal" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 2001-2002 to 2002-2003 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxviii) S.O. No. 1808 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Sree Saddaganga Mutt, Tumkur (Karnataka)" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxix) S.O. 1809 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "People's Action for Development, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxx) S.O. No. 1813 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Yug Nirman Trust, Mathura" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.

- (lxxi) S.O. No. 1814 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Swaminarayan Aksharpath, Ahmedabad" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxii) S.O. No. 1815 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Tibetan Homes Foundation, Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxiii) S.O. No. 1816 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Dehej Niwaran Avam Samaj Kalyan Prishad, Etawah, U.P." under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxiv) S.O. No. 2114 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Oil Co-ordination Committee, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxv) S.O. No. 2116 published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Society for Service to Voluntary Agencies, Pune" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxvi) S.O. No. 2118 published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Shri Anandpur Trust, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxvii) S.O. No. 2120 published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Pirojsha Godrej Foundation, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxviii) S.O. No. 2121 published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Maharashtra" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxix) S.O. No. 2122 published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Krishnamurti Foundation India, Chennai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxx) S.O. No. 2123 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Swadeshi Jagran Foundation, 60 North Avenue, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxxi) S.O. No. 2126 published in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi, Guwahati (Assam)" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1995-96 to 1996-97 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxxii) S.O. No. 2127 published in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 1999 regarding exemption to the "National Association for the Blind, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxxiii) S.O. No. 2144 published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 1999 regarding exemption to the "The Society for Promotion of Waste Lands Development, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxxiv) S.O. No. 2145 published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Tagore Society for Rural Development, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxxv) S.O. No. 2146 published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Adult Training Centre (Trust) for the Blind, Ahmedabad" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.

- (lxxxvi) S.O. No. 2147 published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 1999 regarding exemption to the "Centre for Advance Strategic Studies, Pune" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxxvii) The Income-tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 194(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 1999.
- (lxxxviii) The Income-tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 241(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 1999.
- (lxxxix) The Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 338(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 1999.
- (xc) The Income-tax (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 381 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 1999.
- (xci) The Income-tax (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 401(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 1999.
- (xcii) The Income-tax (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 404 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 1999.
- (xciii) The Income-tax (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 410 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 1999.
- (xciv) The Income-tax (Fourteenth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 420 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 1999.
- (xcv) The Income-tax (Fifteenth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 434 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 1999.
- (xcvi) The Income-tax (Sixteenth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 435 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 1999.
- (xcvii) The Income-tax (Seventeenth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 439 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 1999.
- (xcviii) S.O. 440 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 1999 specifying the districts mentioned therein as industrial backward districts of category 'A' and category 'B'.
- (xcix) The Income-tax (Eighteenth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 446 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 1999.
- (c) The Income-tax (Nineteenth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 447 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 1999.
- (ci) The Income-tax (Twentieth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 479 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 1999.
- (cii) The Income-tax (Twenty Second Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 500 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 1999.
- (ciii) The Income-tax (Twenty-third Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 515 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 1999.
- (civ) The Income-tax (Twenty-fourth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 519 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 1999.
- (cv) The Income-tax (Twenty-fifth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 535 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 1999.
- (cvi) The Income-tax (Twenty-sixth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 540 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 1999.
- (cvii) S.O. 627 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 1999 notifying certain categories of industries in the North-Eastern Region to be the industries.
- (cviii) The Income-tax (Twenty-ninth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 1009 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 1999.
- (cix) The Income-tax (Thirtieth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 1012 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 1999.

- (cx) S.O. 1013 (E) and S.O. 1014 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 1999 specifying the areas falling outside the local limits of the municipality or cantonment board.
- (cxi) S.O. 1032 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th October, 1999 specifying the centres as Integrated. Infrastructure Development Centre and Industrial Growth Centre.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-160/99]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs and Tariff Act, 1975:—

- (i) G.S.R. 201 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 71/98-Cus., dated the 8th October, 1998.
- (ii) The Customs Tarrif (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-dumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 521 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 1999, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) G.S.R. 347 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 103/98-Cus., dated the 14th December, 1998.

- (iv) G.S.R. 373 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to withdraw the provisional anti-dumping duty on Industrial Sewing Machine Needles originating in or exported from Japan, Korea RP and Peoples Republic of China and imported into India.

- (v) G.S.R. 690 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on the Thermal Sensitive Paper originating in or exported from Japan and Germany for a period of six months.

- (vi) G.S.R. 701 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose the provisional anti-dumping duty on general purposes polystyrene and high impact polystyrene originating in or exported from Hong Kong, Singapore, and Thailand for a period of six months.

- (vii) G.S.R. 725(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th October, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Low Carbon Ferro Chrome originating in or exported from China PR and Macedonia.

- (viii) G.S.R. 743(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber originating in or exported from Taiwan.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-161/99]

- (5) A copy each of the following Orders (Hindi and English versions) issued under clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 119 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:—

- (i) Order dated the 22nd June, 1991 seeking to condone the delay in filling the Audit Report in Form No. 10CCAC alongwith the return for the assessment year 1991-92 by Shri M.M.H. Sadique Ali.
- (ii) Order dated the 20th September, 1999 regarding relaxation of conditions laid down in Section 80HHC (4) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for Messers Orissa Mining Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar for the assessment year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-162/99]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 (No. 10 of 1999) (Hindi and English versions, promulgated by the President on the 18th November, 1999, under article 123(2)(a) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-163/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Zoo 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 Central Zoo Authority, 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-164/99]

12.04 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

National Shipping Board

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Sir, I beg to move the following:—

"That in pursuance of Section 4(2)(a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with Rule 4(1) of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960 the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four Members from among themselves, to serve as members of the National Shipping Board, for a period upto 27.6.2001, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(2)(a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with Rule 4(1) of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960 the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four Members from among themselves, to serve as members of the National Shipping Board, for a period upto 27.6.2001, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us take up item No. 12.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): It can be taken up after the 'Zero Hour'

MR. SPEAKER: Other items are also there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It can be taken up after the 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to the 'Zero Hour'. Now, let us take up item No. 12, Shri Yashwant Sinha.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we have given a notice to raise an important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why are you not allowing the 'Zero Hour' now?

12.06 hrs.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MANAGEMENT BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to foreign exchange with the objective of facilitating external trade and payments and for promoting the orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to foreign exchange with the objective of facilitating external trade and payments and for promoting the orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India."

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I gave a very important notice.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section-2, dated 29.11.99.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the 'Zero Hour'. The Minister moved for leave to introduce the Bill, and I have called Shri Basu Deb Acharia, who gave a notice concerning this Bill.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Those who have given notices, I will call their names.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Where is the 'Zero Hour'?

MR. SPEAKER: After this, it will be taken up. The Minister only asked for leave to introduce the Bill.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You have already taken up the legislative business. Where is the 'Zero Hour'?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister only asked for leave to introduce the Bill.

SHRI A.C. JOS: My humble submission is that it should be taken up after the 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not waste the time of the House. Shri Basu Deb Acharia gave a notice, and that is why I have called his name.

SHRI A.C. JOS: The Bill should not be moved during the 'Zero Hour'. Any Bill can be moved only after the 'Zero Hour'

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister only asked for leave to introduce the Bill. After that, the 'Zero Hour' will be taken up.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I do not know how a legislative item can be taken up during the 'Zero Hour' This is very much a legislative item. Once he opposes the introduction, the discussion can begin. It is very much a part of the legislative business.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister asked for leave to introduce the Bill. So, I wish to hear the objection being raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This was never the practice in the past.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: My notice is also there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This can be taken up after the 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has already asked for leave to introduce the Bill. What is your objection?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Please dispose of the 'Zero Hour' first.

MR. SPEAKER: There is only one Bill.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: But the moment he opposes the introduction, it becomes a part of the legislative business.

MR. SPEAKER: He has given a notice, and that is why I have called him to raise his objection.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This can be taken up after the 'Zero Hour'. There are two Bills that are to be introduced.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Nothing will go on record except Shri Basu Deb Acharia's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has given the notice. That is why, I have called his name. It is only an introduction of the Bill.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Introduction of the Bill is always done after the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): I have also given the notice.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: A number of Members have given notices on this. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: The 'Zero Hour' is always taken up after the Question Hour. I am not questioning your decision.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat because that is a courtesy. When the Speaker is speaking, you are also speaking. I am yielding to you, but you are not yielding to the Chair's observations. The Minister has already asked for leave to introduce the Bill.

* Not recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He has not introduced the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, what is this?

[Translation]

what kind of a practice it is, first, you sit down.

[English]

There is also another Bill, and that can be taken up after the 'Zero Hour'. The Minister has already asked for leave to introduce this Bill. Since Shri Basu Deb Acharia gave a notice, I am hearing his objection at the introductory stage. The second one can be taken up after the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: It is a bad precedent. Immediately after the Question Hour, maybe after laying the Papers on the Table, the 'Zero Hour' is taken up. The Chair has permitted the Minister to move the Bill. I am not questioning your decision, but it creates a bad precedent.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that previously also, this practice is there. What is this, Shri Jos?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have given notice to oppose this Foreign Exchange Management Bill, 1999.

My point of opposition to this Bill is for the reason that by bringing this particular piece of legislation, the Government wants to repeal the existing Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. This proposal was made long back in 1993 and this was because of the liberalisation policy initiated by the then Government in 1991. The main reason behind repealing the existing Act is to allow the *hawala* operators to continue with the black money — thousand crores of black money which is there in our country — transactions. If this Bill is enacted and passed by this Houses, then there would be a scope to siphon off the black money.

What are the defects in the existing Foreign Exchange Regulation Act? Now, this Foreign Exchange Regulation Act is proposed to be split into two parts. One Bill, the Money Laundering Bill, has already been introduced in the last Session of Parliament and the present Bill is being proposed to be introduced today.

Sir, I do not find any reason and sufficient ground for repealing the existing Act. This Act, if properly implemented, is sufficient to take care of the persons who are involved in black money transactions. There

are a number of cases in our country where operators of black money and violators of FERA have gone scot free.

What is the purpose of repealing this Act? Why does the Government want to repeal the existing Act and want to bring in a new Bill in its place? Would this proposed new Bill prevent siphoning off the foreign exchange or the money which is now there in the black market? This Bill would not be able to prevent such things. Rather this would help *hawala* operators and the black marketers. That is the reason why I am opposing this Bill. This Bill is not in the interest of our country.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received only one notice and that is of Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I have given a notice *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right. I am allowing Shri N.N. Krishnadas.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I have also given a notice *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, there are several notices in the 'Zero Hour'. Sir, I plead before you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I have allowed Shri N.N. Krishnadas.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: There are important issues to be taken up during the 'Zero Hour'...*(Interruptions)* You can take up the 'Zero Hour' after disposing of this matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: After this I will take up the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it was to be taken up after the submission by Shri Basu Deb Acharia. That is over now...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are two other Members also. They have given notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am sorry to say that the whole purpose of the 'Zero Hour' is being diluted...(*Interruptions*) It is not correct.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri N.N. Krishnadas please.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 'Zero Hour' is not dealt with in this way...(*Interruptions*) I have never seen in this House that the purpose of the Zero Hour' is being diluted in this way...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey): Sir, you are totally wrong...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we want zero hour. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnadas.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, you are setting a very bad precedent. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the hon. Members who gave notice have every right to raise their issues. The importance of zero hour cannot be diluted in this manner. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I fully agree with him, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, please cooperate with the Chair. You have already taken up the issue. Please understand.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 'Zero Hour' should be taken up after Question Hour and if any other business is taken before Zero Hour its significance is lost. Therefore this convention should be followed...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.*

[*Translation*]

You please take you seat. Shri Krishnadas please.

[*English*]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to foreign exchange with the objective of facilitating external trade and payments and for promoting the orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India, i.e., the Foreign Exchange Management Bill, 1999.

Sir, the intention of Government behind introducing this Bill is not to ensure the interest of the people of our country. It is only for the interest of the black money operators and havala operators. This amendment would dilute the existing FERA law. It goes totally against the best interest of the economy of our country.

Sir, once again, I register my opposition to introduce this Bill at the introductory stage.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I have my objection at the stage of introduction of this Bill. This is a new Lok Sabha. There are about 259 newly elected Members, and the Standing Committee, in relation to FEMA, had given its report in the 12th Lok Sabha...(*Interruptions*)...Sir, this is very important. Please listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: I am always listening to you but you are not listening to me.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am always doing that or at least, trying to do.

Sir, this is a new Lok Sabha and there are no less than 259 newly elected Members, and the Standing Committee in relation to the FEMA had submitted its report on 23rd April, 1999 in the 12th Lok Sabha, just three days before the 12th Lok Sabha was dissolved. But unfortunately, the report of the Standing Committee, as it used to be, was never circulated to the Members of the 12th Lok Sabha. Nor has it been circulated to the new Members who do not have any idea at all about the purpose of this Bill. This is my first point.

Secondly, when this Bill was examined by the Standing Committee, there had been certain things that the Government was to give its observation. The previous Government of 12th Lok Sabha and this Government are two different Governments. And, this new Government has come up with a new legislation which has got far-reaching consequences for the country. I am asking the legitimate competence of the Government at this stage and confining my argument only to the legislative competence. But this Government is basing its plea that

* Not recorded.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

'all these recommendations were given in the previous Lok Sabha by the previous Government, and they must have recommended or taken up certain recommendations, or part of the recommendations. We do not have any idea about the provisions accepted by the previous Government.'

So, we are totally in confusion about the purpose of this Bill, about the competence of this Government and about the legislative competence of this particular Bill. So, I demand that the Members should be supplied with the copies of the report of the Standing Committee as also the response of the previous Government with regard to that particular report before this Bill is introduced.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have also given a notice, and I may also be allowed to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I object to the introduction of the proposed Foreign Exchange Management Bill on the following grounds. I would like to take only three-four minutes for my two-three points.

Firstly, by replacing FERA with FEMA, the Government wants to give up all intentions of regulating the foreign exchange in the country. It would also dilute the control the RBI exercises over foreign investment.

Secondly, the said Bill is a very clear assurance to foreign investors that their investment will be protected.

Thirdly, the proposed Bill would be a blessing to the foreign exchange racketeers especially, the *hawala* operators and inter-country *hawala* payment would no longer be an offence.

Finally, moreover, the Government's claim that the position of India's foreign exchange reserves is at present satisfactory is not tenable. In fact, India's current account deficit is staggering at 3.5 per cent of the GDP. The deficit is covered through a net private transfer of foreign exchange but the proposed Bill would simply destabilize the process of private transfer.

For these reasons, I would like to oppose the introduction of this Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I had the notice of the hon. Members, through you, opposing the introduction

of this piece of legislation. I have gone through the rules and I have gone through Kaul and Shakhder's *Practice and Procedure of Parliament*. I find that the only ground on which the introduction of a legislation can be opposed is the legislative competence of this House.

A number of issues have been raised here by hon. Members. But only one Member has questioned the legislative competence of this House and that too on the ground that this is a new Lok Sabha and therefore whatever happened in the Twelfth Lok Sabha is of no consequence. I cannot find myself in agreement with that point of view. This Bill was introduced in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. If it was beyond the legislative competence of this House, it could not have been entertained by the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

As far as the Standing Committee procedure is concerned, that is an issue on which you will decide after the introduction of the Bill. So, that issue is not relevant at this point of time.

The other issues which relate to the merits of this legislation are issues that this House, I am sure, will discuss when we come to the consideration and passage of the Bill. But I would hasten to add that the point about foreign exchange is not valid. Today, this country has crossed the level of \$ 34 billion in terms of foreign exchange reserves, for the first time in its history. ... (Interruptions) Secondly, the hon. Member is not informed correctly, when he says that the current account deficit for the year 1998-99 is 3.5 per cent of the GDP. I have said in this House before—and I would like to repeat it—that it was less than one per cent of the GDP. This year, despite the abnormal and excessive increase in oil prices, which has put a burden on our foreign exchange reserves, I am hopeful that it will not exceed two per cent of the GDP. I do not know from where the hon. Member got this figure of 3.5 per cent. We are comfortable in regard to foreign exchange reserves and let this House understand that we have complete convertibility on the current account. It is only in regard to capital account that there are still some restrictions.

What we are trying to do through this legislation is to bring the entire management of foreign exchange in line with the changes which have taken place as a result of liberalization on current account. I strongly refute with all the emphasis at my command that this piece of legislation is going to help the blackmarketeers, the black money operators or the *hawala* operators. This is a figment of the imagination of a section of the Members of this House and I refute it as I said with all the emphasis at my command. This is in terms of meeting a new situation which has come about as a result of

liberalization of the foreign exchange management and the Act will only facilitate that management. That is the reason why we are introducing this legislation. We have already introduced the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill. The two legislations, I will suggest, should be considered together because they cover the entire gamut of the issues that are involved in these two pieces of legislation.

I, therefore, move that I should be allowed to introduce the Bill.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I seek your ruling on the point raised by me. This is the new Lok Sabha and the Standing Committee had submitted its Report in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. Nearly 259 hon. Members do not have any idea about the Report. *...(Interruptions)* I seek your protection. Even the Members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha were not supplied with the copies of the Standing Committee Report. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, the Minister has very clearly explained the position.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, this is the new Lok Sabha. So, I seek your ruling on this point. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to foreign exchange with the objective of facilitating external trade and payments and for promoting the orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I introduce* the Bill.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): I came here at 8.30 a.m. today to give the notice. At that time even the Notice Office was closed. It is because the subject is very important.

As you are aware, today lakhs of GIC, LIC and bank employees are on demonstration throughout the country in general and Delhi in particular. Protesting against this Bill, a petition containing 1.5 crore signatures was submitted to you by some of us. At that time itself Shri Rupchand Pal raised a point that he had given a notice

for taking up this subject with the Petition Committee. He presented the petition also. Up till now the Petition Committee has not met as it has no Chairperson. So, how has this Bill been introduced and how can it come up for passing before the Petition Committee discusses the Bill? Therefore, we firmly oppose this whole exercise. It is against the interests of not only the employees but also the interests of the whole country. This Bill should not be introduced and passed in this Session.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): I have given two notices. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ajoy Chakraborty and Shri Basu Deb Acharia have also given notices. They can endorse what Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has said.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have certain points to make. Thousands of insurance and banking employees are demonstrating and holding rallies throughout the country. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please hear me. I have called Shri Ajoy Chakraborty to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, our leader has already stated the reasons for submitting the notice for Zero Hour. Lakhs of employees of GIC, LIC and banks are holding demonstrations throughout the country. Thousands of GIC, LIC and bank employees are assembled in Delhi. They are demonstrating before the Parliament to lodge their protests against IRDA Bill. Earlier also, we had opposed this Bill at the introductory stage.

This is nothing but an infringement of economic sovereignty of our country. It is anti-national. More than one crore people have put their signatures and submitted to the House for its discontinuance. I would like to submit, through you, that the Government should not come forward with the Bill. It should instead be referred to the Select Committee for re-consideration. I strongly oppose IRDA Bill. The whole nation is opposing it. I humbly submit that it should be referred to the Select Committee for reconsideration and for arriving at proper decision.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Today, the lakhs of insurance and bank employees from every nook and corner of the country have been protesting and organising

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Basudeb Acharia]

rallies against it. The bill to open up the insurance sector which was presented in the last session of the Lok Sabha was also opposed by us. Not only in this House but outside too, it met with fierce opposition. Hon'ble Mr. Prime Minister, never before in the history of the country it had occurred that 1 crore and 50 lakhs people had signed over a petition in protest against the step taken by the Government. That petition is not signed by the people belonging to a single political party but all the political parties have done so. Even two Ministers of your Government have signed it. Congress too have signed it. Each and every political party has expressed its opposition to this step of the Government through this petition, rising above party politics. They have given a petition against it. We had met you in the last session regarding this issue. You were also of the opinion that it should be sent to the Petition Committee. The Minister of Finance should bring it after obtaining the opinion the Petition Committee. Firstly, it was considered by the Standing Committee.

[English]

The Report was not circulated among the Members.

[Translation]

The same argument has been advanced by Shri Roop Chand Pal that as 250 members of the House are new it should be circulated once again. The Bill should be brought up after that. When the United Front Government brought up this Bill, though we were the allies of the Government, we had opposed it. Hon'ble Prime Minister too had opposed the bill in this House. I would like to read out what he had said in this context at that time.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, in the Business Advisory Committee meeting held in the morning, we had discussed something about the 'Zero Hour' and you had also given some suggestions in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Prime Minister had said that I and my party have been demanding from the very beginning that we are against the entry of foreign companies in the Insurance Sector. What has happened today? When you were the leader of Opposition, you were against the foreign companies and today you have done a volte-face after becoming the Prime Minister...(Interruptions) Today you have become a great supporter of foreign companies. You please enlighten us

as to when this transformation took place? Since when you start thinking that the entry of foreign companies in Insurance Sector is in the interest of country. Why do you want to handover the Insurance sector to the foreign companies. What are the reasons? What good will they do if they come to our country?

[English]

Our public sector companies, namely, LIC and GIC, are more competent and more efficient than the multinational companies of United States of America. So, why is the Government allowing the opening up of Insurance sector to the multinational companies? Under whose pressure, are they doing this?

[Translation]

Under whose pressure you have bowed your head today. We would also appeal to the Congress to reconsider their decision. We have got the speech of Shri Rajesh Pilot with us. We can also read out that. He had expressed his concern over social sector. Today does the same thought and ideology exist? Therefore we would appeal the Congress party to rethink over it. This step is not in interest of our country and its people. When Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was in the opposition, he used to have different opinion over it. Now when he has assumed power, he is bowing his head under pressure. We have been opposing it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, this is not a debate.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You had said in the 12th Lok Sabha that the Bill would be referred to the Joint Committee but instead it was sent to the Standing Committee...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am having 30 notices given by the hon. Members I have to accommodate 30 hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Not once but thrice you had said that this Bill will be sent to the Joint Committee. Our demand is only that as this bill has been introduced, it should be sent to Joint Committee instead of passing it...(Interruptions) We do not want the foreign companies here. We are not against setting up of Insurance

Regulatory Authority. But we are against opening it. ...*(Interruptions)* You want to give 26 percent to the foreign companies. Today it is 26 percent, tomorrow it will become 50 percent...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Rupchand Pal will speak.

[*Translation*]

SHR BASU DEB ACHARIA: This move will only cause loss to our whole Insurance sector. We do not want this. We are opposing it. It is our demand from the Government that it should immediately be sent to the Joint Committee for consideration and only after that it should be passed...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I have written to you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, you have to give cognizance to the notices. I have given you notice. I want to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): You are calling the Members of only a single party. Fourth Member of the same party has been speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I have submitted a petition which you have circulated among the Members. I am making a reference to page 860 of *Practice and Procedure of Parliament* by Kaul and Shakdher.

Sir, please refer to page 860 under the heading 'Petitions after presentation'.

MR. SPEAKER: You are a senior Member. How can you speak like this?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHR RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, you have called me. This is dilution of Parliament and the Committee system.

MR. SPEAKER: Since Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has already raised the issue, you can associate yourself with her views.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Our petition is related to the dilution of powers of Parliament...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I have submitted a petition.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, you must also know the fact that as per the rules, it is not barred for the House to discuss it at any time even though the petition is pending before the Committee. You can go through Rule 307.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, please look at item No. 17.

MR. SPEAKER: Discussion on a Bill is not barred if such a petition against the Bill is pending before the Committee also.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I am reading out from page 860.

MR. SPEAKER: You first go through the rules.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Let me read it:

"In case a petition deals with a Bill or other matter which is under discussion or is to be discussed immediately in the House and the Committee is not able to meet for want of time or quorum, the petition is placed before the Speaker who directs that it be circulated *in extenso* or in summary form."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, with a heavy heart and anguish, I would like to mention about one thing in the House today...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You take your seat, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have given a chance to you and you have explained everything. Please understand that. Now you please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): At this juncture, the Prime Minister should say something.

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate that you are intentionally wasting the time of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, how will it benefit the country? How the handing over of country to the foreign companies will benefit the country—tell us this?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot direct the hon. Prime Minister to speak. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a dangerous bill. The Government should withdraw this bill...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, when a Petition has been presented to the Committee on the same subject, how can the Bill be taken up?...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I have referred to the relevant rule also...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Once again, I appeal to you to take your seats. This is not a good practice. Please understand it. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, as the hon. Prime Minister has not reacted to it, as the Government is not accepting our simple demand to refer this Bill to a Joint Committee as suggested by the last Lok Sabha, we are walking out as a protest.

12.53 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Insurance Bill is not in the interest of workers. Therefore we too walkout of the House.

12.54 hrs.

Thereafter Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members left the House

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, we are opposing the Bill. On behalf of the AIADMK, we are walking out.

12.54 hrs.

At this stage, Shri P.H. Pandiyan and some other hon. Members left the House

12.55 hrs.

RE: INVESTIGATION IN BOFORS CASE

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with a heavy heart and anguish, through you, I want to convey to the entire House in the presence of the hon. Prime Minister, and the hon. Home Minister that hundreds and thousands of people from various parts of India have assembled today with the Congress flag at the Ferozshah Kotla ground since morning to register their justified grievances...(Interruptions)

Sir, on 21st May, 1991, at Sriperumbdur, the tragedy took place. Our great son of India, the late lamented leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi became a martyr on that day. During his death, no message was there because he could not speak. It was only an explosion. Possibly, he did say like this: "Let me be torn into pieces. Let nobody identify me after my death. But let the country remain united. Let the world recognise India as one." And that great leader, who was the architect of the Africa Fund, that great leader who instituted the institutions like the Panchayati Raj through the legislation, who was a visionary of the 21st century, who gave the voting right to the youth of eighteen years of age which was dawning after a few days all over India, had the courage of conviction to come before the House in 1991 to say this

when Shri V.P. Singh was the Prime Minister: "Let the country and the Government, let the law of the land investigate whatever they can on the Bofors matter.

And we are interested to find out the truth." That leader was not interrogated by any agency when he was alive. Thereafter, investigation after investigation went on. No officer of the C.B.I. or the Government had the guts or had enough information to interrogate that man who was a great son of India. He died later on for the cause of the country and became a martyr.

Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for his nice words while paying tributes to him in this House. He had also treated him as a great son of India. That great son is no more with us. But today, it is a pity that he has been equated with the assassins of Rajiv Gandhi and assassins of Indira Gandhi in the same manner as per the argument of the Government given on the floor of this House. We do not like to say anything on this. But we would only like to say that it is our Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who has been championing the cause of parliamentary propriety, dignity of the House, the democratic character of all political institutions and the dignity of individuals. Shrimati Indira Gandhi was persecuted in 1977 by the Janata Party Government and they had cancelled her election to this House from Chikmagalur, but the people had responded....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH YADAV (Etah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a matter of urgent public importance....(*Interruptions*) An attempt has been made on the life of hon'ble Minister of State. I have given notice also in this regard. The same subject is being discussed here time and again.

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, they have taught a lesson to the whole nation that persecution never helps: persecution will only generate hatred and vengeaance.

Sir, I would like to say from the Congress Benches today that the man who had not been interrogated, the man who was innocent, the man who had not figured in any page of the C.B.I. documentation at any stage of the investigation, the man whose name was not taken by any recipient at any stage, that man's name has been brought into the charge-sheet as an after-thought.

Sir, our leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, who is not present here at the moment, has gone and represented to the President of India for the clemency of Shrimati Nalini on humanitarian grounds, because in India we should stand up for human values. I would like to ask the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee whether dragging Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name into the Bofors charge-sheet is necessary. He may take the plea that the C.B.I. is doing it and he cannot interfere with it. But we all know as to how the cases against distinguished persons, who are still members of his Cabinet, had been withdrawn when the Janata Party Government was formed in this country. I do not like to argue on this issue. But I can only say that if the Government has the determination and will to maintain the dignity of a person who was innocent and who was the Leader of the House, it could delete his name and begin a new era in the harmonious functioning of our political system.

Sir, I would like to plead before the hon. Prime Minister that this is not the plea of the Congress people alone, but of all the sensible people of the country. The Government's agenda, of course, is to find out the truth in the Bofors case. We also want that the culprits should be booked and punished. But in the name of the trial, please do not drag the name of the man who was not only innocent, but also a visionary of the 21st Century. He was the Leader of the House and was honoured by the President of India with the 'Bharat Ratna'. I would again like to say that the deletion of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name from the charge-sheet is not the plea of the Congressmen alone, but of all the sections of the intelligientia. The Government should not drag his name under the plea that the C.B.I. is doing it, because it is the same Prime Minister who said in the month of August that the Government would submit the charge-sheet after the second set of documents had been received. But the Government had filed the charge-sheet before the second set of documents are available. What was the hurry? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi, you have given notice to speak on some other subject. But you are speaking on a different subject now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, Sir. I have given a letter to you today.

MR. SPEAKER: In the list, your name has been mentioned as against the subject of reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Home Minister for having said in the last Session that he was dealing with the matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have an matter of urgent public importance ...*(Interruptions)* The same subject is being discussed here again and again.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to support what Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi has said. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes; you can also support Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi. Please take your seat now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is on his legs. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will take only two minutes time, I have an matter of urgent public importance...*(Interruptions)* I will conclude in two minutes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, you will be called later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: This is what the country wants.

MR. SPEAKER: No, Shri Ahamed, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: Please consider it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a statement earlier that this matter would be considered.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, please take your seat.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): This House will recall that on the last day of the last Session, this particular issue, which Shri Dasmunshi has just now raised, was raised by the Leader of the Opposition as well as some other important Members of the Opposition. Responding to it on behalf of the Government, I had said that the Government would consider the sentiments of the main Opposition and also the arguments that had been advanced and do whatever is appropriate.

Now, this matter has been raised once again today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, no; please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Let me complete. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you. Please take your seat.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: After I had made this assurance to the House, I reported to the Prime Minister whatever had transpired in the House. Accordingly, the Government had then sought the opinion of the learned Attorney-General of India on the demand that the name of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi should be deleted from column two of the charge-sheet filed by the CBI. It was also mentioned that some earlier cases had been withdrawn.

The issue regarding Janata Government, etc., was also referred to.

The learned Attorney-General gave a detailed opinion to the Government. He said:

"My opinion is sought on two questions: firstly, whether it is permissible for the Government to accede to the aforesaid demand with regard to the deletion of the name of Shri Rajiv Gandhi from the charge-sheet as filed by the CBI;

Secondly, whether Government should initiate any action or proceedings under section 321 of the Criminal Procedure Code in this behalf."

This is that section which empowers Government to withdraw prosecution. The dynamite case, etc., etc., was also referred to.

"In my opinion, section 321 of the Criminal Procedure Code does not come into the picture for the simple reason that no charge has been framed nor has any prosecution been launched against late Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

Consequently, the demand that Government should suggest to the Public Prosecutor that he may withdraw from prosecution or that there should be withdrawal of prosecution of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi under section 321 of the Criminal Procedure Code is entirely misconceived."

He has further said:

"The question about the competence and permissibility of the executive Government giving directions to the Enforcement agencies in the matter of investigation in prosecution of offences has come up before the Supreme Court in a number of cases."

The Attorney-General goes on to opine:

"In my opinion, having regard to the well-settled legal position, as declared by the Supreme Court, it would not be open to the Government to direct or seek from the investigating agency deletion of the name of one of the accused named in column two.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): He is not an accused...(*Interruptions*) He is no more alive ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a legal opinion.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: His name was not in the FIR. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am only quoting the opinion of the Attorney-General. ...(*Interruptions*) These are not my words. ...(*Interruptions*) These are the words of the Attorney-General. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Shri Advani, you are a competent Minister of Home Affairs. ...(*Interruptions*) How can you accuse?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: He says:

"Any such direction or action by the Government will amount to an interference with the course of investigation and prosecution by the agency, namely, the CBI and would be impermissible in law."

Look at the words that are used...(*Interruptions*) Sir, they may disagree with it, but I am merely quoting the opinion of the learned Attorney-General and I would beg to lay on the Table of the House the learned opinion of the Attorney-General in its entirety.

"...In the course of discussions that day, as for allegations that some people are being spared in the Bofors Case, these are entirely unfounded. Investigations are in progress and the CBI has the freedom to file supplementary chargesheet as and when documentary evidence against other persons mentioned in the FIR is received. The question of Government sparing anybody does not arise."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, how can he say that he was an accused?...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a matter of urgent public importance...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): How can you do that Sir? This is not correct...(*Interruptions*) I have a question to ask from the hon. Home Minister...(*Interruptions*) I am scrry, this cannot be done like that...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the elections in 1989, every opposition party levelled a charge against Shri Rajiv Gandhi that he had taken a bribe of Rs. 84 crores. We also got elected in those elections. I still remember the Patna rally. All the leaders in that rally had stated that the amount was deposited in Lotus Account. Today the Government is saying that there is no charge against him. The Government should tell the nation that Shri Rajiv Gandhi had not taken any bribe and he was not involved in it, but it is not doing so. Government is still fencing with the issue. It should tell the truth as to who has taken the money and where the money has gone. It should investigate the matter. We are with them on this issue. On one hand, the Government is saying that there

is no charge against him while on the other, the Government is not prepared to delete his name from the charge-sheet as he is one of the accused. How the Government is making two contradictory statements? These leaders had stated that 84 crores of rupees were deposited in Lotus Account. You can go through today's newspapers. During the elections it became difficult for us to reply to such an allegation. Why the Government is not unveiling the truth even today? The Government is accountable for that. They should bring out the truth before the nation. You can not defame the deceased leader. The Government should think over it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like the attention of the House towards a very important issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except what Shri D.P. Yadav says.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, an attempt on the life of Hon'ble Union Minister of State Sayeed Shahnava Hussain was made by some 200 unsocial and rowdy elements at Jokihat High School in Araria district of Bihar on 16th November, 1999 at 4.30 P.M. Hon'ble Minister got hurt in this incident...*(Interruptions)* Prior information regarding the itinerary of Hon'ble Minister was given to Bihar Government and Local administration. When demanded, the State Government could not provide an aircraft for the injured Minister. Later, with the help of a defence aircraft, he was brought to Delhi where he was admitted to the Ram Manohar Lohia hospital. He is in a serious condition. Similarly, 12 persons belonging to minority community were massacred in Palamu. In Palamu, Chatra and Hazaribag, people belonging to minority communities and weaker sections of the society were murdered. An attempt was made on their life...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a State matter. How can you raise all these matters in this House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is present in the House. Shri Sayeed Shahnava may please be called in the House to give a statement in this regard. The people there are unsecured and terror-stricken. Whole of Bihar is in the grip of fear and there is no law and order. There is constitutional break down in the State.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request that in view of the seriousness of the situation, hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should make a statement to clarify the situation prevailing there otherwise the people belonging to weaker sections and minority communities will remain terror stricken. The people are unsafe, therefore, through you, I would like to request the Government to respond to this issue and inform the House after collecting the facts.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any reply?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.10 p.m.

13.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up the discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before you take up the issue of cyclone, as we agreed, would you take up the issue which Shri Sangtam is going to raise? A sensitive thing in North-East had happened. The Chief Minister has been attacked this morning.

* Not recorded.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland): The Chief Minister has been attacked this morning.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Shri Advani is also here. You kindly hear him because all the North-East MPs are very sensitive in this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know under what rule I will have to allow him now.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): The Zero Hour was abruptly finished today.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this morning the life of the Chief Minister of Nagaland was attempted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can take it up tomorrow please.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This incident took place at 5.30 in the morning and in the Zero Hour, he gave a notice to take it up. You just imagine what message will go to the North-East. Their MPs are sitting in the House. The Chief Minister's life has been attempted.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Please give me only two minutes.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, please allow him for two minutes. Shri Advani is very sympathetic in all these matters. You kindly allow him to speak for two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Sir, I know that the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs are very sympathetic, but I want to make it clear to the House that something has happened which must be taken note of...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sangtam, it has to be mentioned under some procedure. Now, you are making some submission. It should be mentioned in the Zero Hour. Now, Zero Hour is not there.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we made the plea to the hon. Speaker. Hopefully, the Member was advised that around 2.30 p.m. he might make, but I thought that before you start the discussion, this could be disposed of in a minute. It is a very sensitive matter...*(Interruptions)*. It is not harming anybody's interest here in the House...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Sir, it is for the good of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, we would like to know as to who has attempted on his life. It concerns the life of the Chief Minister of a State in this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that at 5.50 this morning in the wee hours. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As a special submission I am allowing him and not under the 'Zero Hour'. Please conclude within two minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

14.13 hrs.

RE: ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF CHIEF MINISTER OF NAGALAND

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland): Thank you, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to a very important matter.

This morning at about 5.30 a.m., there was an attempt on the life of the Chief Minister, Shri S.C. Jamir by some unknown insurgent group whose identity has not been known. A series of bomb blasts were there when his motorcade was passing through the main National Highway between Dimapur and Kohima. About 14 powerful time devices were exploded, but his life was saved. But, immediately following the blast, mortars were showered on the motorcade and the firing continued for more than half-an-hour. In that incident two people were killed, three cars were blown up to pieces. It appears that the situation is very grave.

Now, in Nagaland, as we all know, extortion and kidnapping are going on by certain groups. More than 400 lives have been lost and on top of that, after the cease-fire, entire civilian population is put under threat. So, I would like to call the attention of the Home Ministry that more attention should be paid and Chief Minister's security should be beefed up. Even a few years ago, several attempts were made on his life in the heart of the Delhi city. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: So, I think that this is a very grave situation which is prevailing in the North-East, particularly in Nagaland. I would like to ask for security not only for him but even for many of our leaders as the

[Shri K.A. Sangtam]

situation is very grave. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs that immediately following the Kargil war, the people in the border areas were just left to fend for themselves. There was not a single Army person, not a single member of armed forces and they were guarded by village guards who had muskets which were out-dated and obsolete. They are paid only Rs. 200 p.m. So, such a situation is prevailing there.

I would like to request the Government that some serious measures should be taken in this regard. We are open, naked to this kind of an insurgent group. We can be attacked any time and attempts can be made on our lives. So, I think, this situation should be taken very seriously. The people, who have done wrong, should be brought to book.

Sir, with these few words, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, the Government is here. The concern is expressed by the hon. Member following this episode. It has been a bad episode. After all, the Chief Minister of Nagaland was travelling in a convoy of four or five vehicles from Dimapur to Kohima and at a place about 40 kilometres from Kohima he was ambushed and there was a heavy firing in which two jawans of the Kohima Armed Police lost their lives because the Chief Minister was there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: It is Nagaland Armed Police and not Kohima Armed Police...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It is Nagaland Armed Police. The Chief Minister was taken to the nearby Assam Rifles Camp. He is safe. But this episode certainly causes concern and the Government will take due note of it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): This is not enough, Shri Advani. I will take only one minute. The situation in the North-East, particularly in Tripura and Nagaland, is deteriorating. Let us accept that. The internal security is weakening in that part. Talks are going on with some groups like NSCN and the nation has a right to know. For last two years the cease-fire has been declared, but indirectly the groups are strengthening themselves. They are buying arms, their cadre is going up. Let us have a discussion on internal security in the North-East at a length. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rajesh Pilot, I gave him the chance as a special submission. The Government has already responded.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The Government can agree for a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give a notice.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, our idea is not to just bring to the notice of the Government; we want a solution for it. So, let us have a discussion under rule 193 whenever the Government agrees as the matter is serious...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give a notice and then the Business Advisory Committee will have to find some time, not now.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The Government just goes on saying that they will look into it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Government has already said that.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, the situation in North-East is very alarming and the Government should agree for a discussion. They should tell us about whatever discussion or talks are going on.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Sir, we are the representatives from that State and we do not know what is happening...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, they should take the House into confidence.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us take up the business now. Matters under rule 377 be treated as read and be laid on the Table of the House.

14.24 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

- (i) **Need to take over Gopalpur Port in Orissa and Develop it into an All-Weather Port**

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Sir, Gopalpur-on-sea has a fair-weather port. It is situated in Ganjam district of Orissa. The sea is quite deep within a short distance of the shore. This port used to cater to the wartime needs of the British Government till 1942. At present, the fair-weather port is being maintained by Government of Orissa. The Government of Orissa does

* Treated as laid on the table of the House.

not have funds to convert this port into an all-weather port. The recent devastating cyclone on the Orissa coast has exposed the vulnerability of fishing trawlers and traditional fishing boats. If Gopalpur-on-sea is made an all-weather port with a fishing harbour, it will serve the maritime and strategic requirements of the eastern coast, particularly Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. It will also serve as a shelter during storms and gales. Government of India is requested to take over the Gopalpur port and develop it into an all-weather port.

(ii) Need for early construction of a Tunnel Beneath Rohtang Darra in Himachal Pradesh

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Sir, it is a well known fact that due to heavy snowfall on the Rohtang Pass, Lahaul-spiti, the tribal area of Himachal Pradesh remains cut-off from other parts of the country almost for nine months in a year. A survey was conducted years ago for construction of a tunnel under the Rohtang Pass to connect this border area with other parts of the country. It is essential to construct this tunnel because of strategic importance and defence of the country as the entire army supply to kargil area passes through Rohtang Pass. Construction of tunnel will not only enable to keep this area open for a large period but also the distance will be shortened by 40 kms. The road between Mandi to Khokar gets damaged every year due to drifting of pieces of glaciers and lakhs of rupees are spent on its repair. This huge sum will also be saved.

Keeping in view the significance of this tunnel, the Prime Minister has stated during a public rally that this tunnel should have been constructed by now and as a citizen of the country he understands the importance of this tunnel. I therefore, would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister to give immediate approval for the construction of this tunnel in the interest of the nation.

(iii) Need to formulate a Plan for Rehabilitation of people displaced due to construction of Narora Atomic Energy Plant and NTPC in U.P.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Sir, Narora Atomic Power Plant (N.A.P.P.) in district Bulandshahar under my Parliamentary Constituency Khurja and National Thermal Power Corporation in district Ghaziabad under Dadri Legislative assembly area were established with the assurance that adequate measures will be taken for proper rehabilitation of the development of the area. However, till date no steps have been taken by the Central

Government for the welfare of these displaced people. They have been rehabilitated at a place where water logging is an acute problem during the rainy season. Neither the farmers have been given adequate compensation for their land acquired for the plants, nor the people of these areas have been given adequate employment in these plants. The roads enroute on these plants in Narora and Dadri area are in dilapidated condition. Even primary education facility is not provided for the children of displaced people and hospitals and toilets are not made available there.

I request the Central Government to formulate a special plan for the welfare of the displaced people of Narora Atomic Power Plant, which comes under Khurja Parliamentary Constituency and National Thermal Power Corporation (Dadri area) and an action plan regarding development should be implemented immediately so that adequate development can take place in that.

(iv) Need to send a Central Team to explore the possibilities of Development of Tourism in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamipur) (H.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bhakra Dam was constructed years ago to produce hydro electricity and to meet the demand of electricity in the country. Due to this dam, many villages in my district Bilaspur and Bilaspur city were ruined. Commitments made by the Union Government to rehabilitate the displaced people has not been fulfilled till date. Gobind Sagar lake in Bilaspur is a very important place but that too has not been developed from the tourism point of view. People of Bilaspur are facing lot of problems in the absence of any public park. There are lots of possibilities for sports beautification of the lake and many water like water skating, boating can be started there on the lake for the development of the place as a tourist spot. An artificial lake can also be constructed there. It will not only develop the area and provide employment to the local people but also promote tourism and increase the foreign exchange earning of the Government. In view of this, the State Government has send a detailed and complete proposal to the Centre, but the Government has given it a low priority.

I would like to request that a public park should be created at Bilaspur for the local people and to promote tourism in Bilaspur which in the district headquarter of Himachal Pradesh a survey team from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India should be sent there to study and find out the possibilities of beautification of Gobind Sagar lake and construction of an artificial lake and starting of water sports at Gobind Sagar Lake and give detailed report to the Ministry in this regard.

(v) **Need to Assist State Government of Andhra Pradesh to Prevent Spread of the Deadly Japanese Encephalitis Disease**

[English]

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah): Sir, the State of Andhra Pradesh is battling to control the deadly Japanese Encephalitis which has already claimed over 100 lives so far—mostly children. The disease is now spreading to the Telengana region and Hyderabad city. Five deaths were reported from the Government hospitals in Hyderabad. The fever was earlier confined to some pockets of Mahabubnagar, Warangal, Medak and Karimnagar districts, but has now spread to most of the Telengana districts.

Government data showed that there were 984 cases of Japanese Encephalitis, including 247 deaths in Andhra Pradesh in 1997 and 524 cases, including 201 deaths in 1998. Even though the death toll this year is less compared to the previous years, the Japanese Encephalitis is spreading with multiplier effect to other districts in the State, causing concern to the administration. The medical department in the State is unable to fight the diseases. Hundreds of tribals have died in Adilabad and other districts in the past due to a 'mysterious fever' that stalked the tribal belt.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to help the State Government and also send Central expert team to the State for urgent advice in meeting the situation.

(vi) **Need to make a Comprehensive Master Plan for All-round Development of Raiganj of Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, the new District Headquarter Raiganj of Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal lacks a lot of infrastructural support like major bye-pass to connect National Highway with the city. Civic amenities require major attention. Drinking water supply connections to every house by the Public Health Engineering System as well as Broadgauge Railway Network between Bursoi Junction of Bihar to Radhikapur of Uttar Dinajpur replacing the present metre-gauge line to connect the district with the rest of Bengal and the rest with broad-gauge line are required.

The city is threatened by Nagar and Kulik Rivers during every monsoon by floods. River beds have been badly silted and, therefore, dredging or excavation of river beds is necessary. From Bangladesh, during monsoon, water enters through Bishnupur border of Hemtabad P.S., and flows towards Karanjora, the administrative

Headquarter of the district, and further overflows to the municipal town of Raiganj logging the water for months together. Due to lack of proper railway culvert on the railway line as well as sluiceway, Millanpalli and Kanchenpally get flooded and people cannot move out of their houses. One of the unique bird sanctuary is in Raiganj at Kulik river point which is now being threatened every year by flood, land erosion and terrific smoke from road traffic. The city further requires a sports stadium. Unless Urban Development Ministry, Railway Ministry, Tourism, Sports, Environment Ministries as well as the Water Resources Ministry collectively decide about a comprehensive Master Plan involving the Departments of State Government, it will be difficult to develop and manage this city and district Headquarter for new millennium.

I request the Union Government to formulate a comprehensive plan for all-round development of Raiganj of Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal.

(vii) **Need for early completion of Narmada Project with a view to solve drinking water problem of Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA (Kapadvanj): Sir, the whole country is facing water problem today. Some areas are facing the problem of flood and other areas are facing shortage of water. People of Gujarat are compelled to lead miserable life due to shortage of water. Years ago Narmada Project was formulated for appropriate arrangement of water. Work on this project was started but due to some controversies and misunderstandings, this project is lying incomplete. But it is a matter of satisfaction that present Government has taken a notice of it.

I would request the Government, especially the hon'ble Prime Minister to take initiative to unravel the controversy and remove hurdles related to this project so that public of Gujarat could be relieved from the problem of shortage of water.

(viii) **Need to have cordial relations between locals and paramilitary forces along borders in West Bengal**

[English]

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad): Sir, my constituency, Murshidabad in the State of West Bengal, shares a long borderline about 100 km. in length with Bangladesh. As is natural, the BSF jawans are guarding

this long borderline at some points. But unfortunately, it is alleged that the BSF jawans are so often overstepping the jurisdiction of their supposed duties. Local traders are also complaining that merchandise are being seized by the BSF officers without any seizure list being provided to them. Such practices are scaring away traders and villagers so much that local 'hats' cannot sit as per schedule. It is learnt that the houses of local residents are being searched. Such incidents have occurred at Sagarpara in Jalangi Block, at Sheikhpara in Raninagar Block and at different places in Laigola Block within the constituency. This has very often led to skirmish between the local people and the BSF jawans.

Before the situation worsens further, I urge upon the Government to take the local panchayat bodies, administrative officials, MLAs of the concerned areas into confidence and ask the BSF authorities to sit with them to find out ways to put an end to such undesirable incidents and bring back normal relationship with the locals.

(ix) Need to look into pollution problem being caused by industries in Peddapalli Parliamentary Constituency in Andhra Pradesh

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli): I draw the attention of the Government towards the very serious problem of pollution in Peddapalli Parliamentary Constituency in the belt of Ramagundam, Godavarikhani, Manthani, Chinnur, Manchirayal and other areas which poses health hazards to the nearby fifty lakh population in Godavari river belt. The world is taking the problem of pollution very seriously.

There are many industries like Bhadrachalam Paper Board Limited, Bharat Heavy Water Plant, Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudam Thermal Power Station, NTPC Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station, Fertilizer Corporation of India, Kesoram Cement Factory, Sirpur Kagaj Nagar Paper Mills, Anthergaon Spinning Mills. Paper Mills at Kamalapuram and Rajahmundry, AP Rayons Limited. Most of these factories are either directly heavily polluting Godavari River and ground waters and indirectly causing highest environmental pollution. Moreover, the Government of India and the Central Pollution Control Board have cleared the BPL factory which will further increase the already existing high levels of pollution on all parameters. The BPL being a private investing company is more likely to circumvent the existing laws and curtail, cut short and avoid high

cost involving pollution control measures for their profits which will result in ill-health for the population and environment.

Hence, I request the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Power to reconsider earlier sanction permissions to BPL.

(x) Need to strengthen the Rail Track between Farrukhabad and Shikohabad in U.P.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Sir, the metre gauge line between Kanpur and Farrukhabad is being converted into broad-gauge. Broad gauge line between Farrukhabad and Shikohabad is already there but track on this route is so weak that the speed of trains plying on it cannot be increased more than 35-40 km per hour.

I would like to request the Central Government that while widening the gauge arrangements should also be made for strengthening the rail track between Farrukhabad and Shikohabad, so that express trains could also be provided from Delhi to Kanpur via Farrukhabad.

(xi) Need for early laying of Railway Line between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi in Bihar

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Sir, every year all the main roads, bridges and culverts get damaged due to flood and heavy rains and there is heavy loss of life and property in northern Bihar. There is only one main road between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi which is in extremely dilapidated condition. What to talk of motor vehicles, even pedestrians can't walk on it. The project of laying new railway line between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi was included in the Railway budget of 1996-97 but so far, work on it could not be taken up. On 28th August, 1997, the former Minister of Railways had given orders vide letter No. 971/W-1/N. E/L.C.T.16 to conduct survey for laying new rail line on Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa-Bhiththa Mor-Madhvapour-Jaynagar and from Janakpur Road Madhubani to Jaynagar but so far nothing has been done in this regard.

I, therefore, would like to make a submission that in view of problems of local people and development of villages, survey on the above mentioned railway line should be taken up on priority basis so that laying of railway line could be started before 2000-01 to fulfil the aspiration of the people.

- (xii) **Need to proscribe the book titled 'The Company of Women' published by Penguin Books India, 1999.**

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I draw the attention of the Government to the book 'The Company of Women' by Khushwant Singh, published recently by Penguin Books India, 1999. To say the least, the book is a gross misuse and abuse of the right to freedom of expression. It is a highly indecent book with also extremely offensive misrepresentations of religious tenets in a derisive, perverted manner (see, for example, pp. 110-112). I appeal to the Government that the book be banned and its copies be confiscated.

14.22 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Loss of life and property due to super cyclone in Orissa and the need to declare it as a national calamity.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall take up discussion under rule 193.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on the first day itself on this subject as per the wishes of hon'ble Members.

We all are aware of the tragic super cyclone that hit Orissa in the end of this century. As it is appearing in the newspapers that more than one crore persons have been affected. Unofficial sources reveal that millions of people are missing and more than 10 thousand have been killed. This cyclone caused huge loss of life and property. The eight or nine coastal districts of Orissa, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Balasore, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Khudda, Paradip, Jagatsinghpur and Puri are the most affected. It will not be exaggeration if we say that these districts have been ruined totally.

We have been reading about this tragedy in newspapers. Our sympathies are with the affected people, however after the occurrence of the tragedy of cyclonic storm, the situation has turned even worse. We have seen that in our country after such tragedies, situation become more serious be it earthquake, cyclonic storm or any other such tragedy. Recently, Gujarat also faced such a tragedy and suffered huge loss of life and property. In the same way, Orissa also suffered heavy loss due to cyclonic storm. A few days back, Shri George Fernandes had given a statement that still there are 400 such villages where relief has not reached. Government machinery could not reach there to provide any assistance. This is the testing time for our administrative system and it has to rise to the occasion.

We all know about this tragedy through newspapers and our brethren who come from Orissa feel that people affected by such tragedies do not get required sympathy.

I feel that the country has not realised the intensity of the situation. However, administrative failure is also before us. It has been told that relief material sent by foreign countries as well as by people of our country is available but could not be distributed properly due to inefficiency of administrative machinery. It could not be of any help in relieving people from their sufferings caused due to this tragedy. Though efforts were made for it. I have seen it on television and read in newspapers that the Government has tried its best to provide help to the affected people. But 'India Today' and several newspapers have been publishing news items about miserable condition of the people affected by cyclonic storm. The worst point is that in the aftermath of cyclone, cases of anarchy, looting and high handedness of administration have been reported. It exposes shortcomings in our so-called reliable administrative system and there is need to reconsider its persuance, ability and capacity. We cannot control occurrence of natural calamities like earthquakes, cyclonic storms or hailstorms. But the attitude of our administrative system towards the affected persons is a sad commentary. Time and again, it is being said that several villages have been completely perished and there are several villages where administrative machinery could not reach. In such a situation I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Prime Minister and hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that efforts should be made on war footing in that state. Though army has been sent and volunteers from several states have gone there to help the victims but the facts being brought before us reveal the actual situation. It seems that ill effects of the cyclonic storm will be felt for a long time.

I would like to say one more thing that we have witnessed cyclonic storm recently and we have also

witnessed the war. Prior to that, we have witnessed storm in Gujarat and several such other incidents. It appears from reactions of Indian public and society that media has been unable to invoke feelings among them. The people of far flung areas remained unmoved. Though at the time of Diwali festival, some of our colleagues were of the view that since the country has witnessed such a tragedy, we should sympathise with the victims. In spite of it, there were celebrations every where. Though such feelings are personal but as natives of one nation, our feelings should be alike in such cases. We have been unable in invoking feelings of our people for the millions who suffered due to this tragedy. That is why, difficulties are being faced in carrying out the relief work.

We all know that this cyclonic storm hit Orissa at a speed of 300-350 km. per hour and devastated the area. Not a single house, tree or pole has remained intact there. It is the responsibility of our Government to build the area. our 1 crore people are directly affected and Government is responsible for their rehabilitation. It is a big challenge. We are moving towards new millennium and we have to achieve a big objective efficiently in a short time.

I hope that all the people of this country will consider this matter seriously and create an atmosphere for tackling the aftermath of such an incident efficiently be it a natural calamity or accident. We should be able to help the affected people. Hon'ble Prime Minister has given an indication to declare it a national calamity. I request the Government to create a national calamity Fund so that State Government could do concrete work in the event of a huge loss caused due to some natural calamity. The Government of Orissa has demanded Rs. 10 thousand crore. I know that it is a big task and challenge. In view of occurrence of natural calamities very frequently, a Calamity Fund should be created to help and make special arrangements for the large number of affected people who will need this assistance for a longer period.

[*English*]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, even after five weeks of century's worst disaster, our people are remaining under the open sky in the season of shivering winter. At the moment when I am speaking here thousands of people are dying of cold and pneumonia and their number may multiply.

Sir, before I go into the details of the disaster and my suggestions to combat disaster and for the restoration and reconstruction, I want to place on record, on behalf of the affected people of Orissa, our deep gratitude to Shri Chandrababu Naidu and his team of Andhra Pradesh

who came as saviours. We also place on record our gratitude to our Prime Minister who came to us at the time of our greatest distress and devastation.

I want to tell you that 14 out of 30 districts of Orissa, with 15 million of people have been totally devastated. Not only that, standing crops in 20 lakh hectares of the agriculturally richest area of Orissa have been completely damaged by this super cyclone, flood and saline-inundation. What worried us at this time is that we did not find the Government at the State level working with a mind to help the people, with a heart to serve the people and mitigate their miseries.

We did not find any dynamism and leadership with the Orissa Government. The Ministers did not go out of their chambers or their residences in Bhubaneshwar, whereas Shri Chandrababu Naidu and his team came from Andhra Pradesh to help us; of course, the Army went there. Under such circumstances, I am perplexed and I am at a loss to understand how this reconstruction process will take place or how the restoration will take place. Even after five weeks or a month, people do not have a cover over their heads. They are spending their time under the open sky in this shivering winter. Lakhs of people do not have access to safe drinking water. Thousands of cases of diarrhoea are being reported and hundreds of people have died; their number will soon multiply if this impasse is not over. If the State Government does not act, if the State Government with its inept handling of the relief operations is allowed to continue further, then thousands of people would die. It is the responsibility of the whole country and it is the responsibility of this august House of the largest democracy of the world to save the people would die. It is the responsibility of the whole country and it is the responsibility of this august House of the largest democracy of the world to save the people of Orissa from a very inefficient and corrupt Government.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Now, you are politicising it.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: I am not politicising it. I am bringing the facts before this august House.

I have a few suggestions to make. We have a relief code in Orissa. According to this, an adult will be given 500 grams of rice and a child will be given 250 grams of rice as an emergent relief per day. But I can vouch that not a single person anywhere in the affected regions of Orissa has received this amount of emergent relief, that is, 500 grams of rice to the adult and 250 grams of rice to the child for fifteen days as declared. According to them, emergent relief has been given for 15 days;

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

they are saying that records have been maintained and accounts will be given to you. I am not politicising it, but I am challenging it. Let a House Committee be formed and let them go and delve into the matter. If a single person has been given at this rate for 15 days, then I will humbly bow before you and this House that I shall quit this House; I shall resign from my membership. I represent the worst affected district of Orissa, and this is the state of affairs there.

Sir, under the circumstances, I have a few suggestions to make. This devastating disaster would never be forgotten and would go down in history as one of the biggest tragedies of the millennium. But this is a challenge and an opportunity as well to reconstruct a new and a prosperous Orissa. If the Central Government along with the State Governments and the world bodies come forward with their helping hand, then the reconstruction work for building a new and prosperous Orissa could start at the right earnest.

Fair price rice selling centres in each Panchayats, till the next harvest is made, at the rate of Rs. 4/- per kilogram should be made available to the people. They have lost their home and hearth. They have lost everything but their lives. More than 30,000 people have died and millions of people who have survived are virtually dying every moment. Should they not be saved? Should they not be helped? Should we not have sympathy for them? Should we not have sympathy for them? Should we not try to reconstruct this ravaged part of the nation? This is my submission.

Sir, my second suggestion is that test relief work should be started immediately so that the *harijans*, the people belonging to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes and others who were working on daily wage basis could earn something for their survival.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): The 'food for work' scheme should be started.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Either the 'food for work' scheme or the test relief work should be started immediately.

Sir, the third suggestion that I would like to make is, there is a provision in the Relief Code in Orissa for providing house building grants in three categories. First, for the completely washed away houses, there is a provision for payment of Rs. 3,500; second, for completely damaged houses there is a provision for payment of Rs. 2,000; and third, for partially damaged houses there is a provision for payment of Rs. 1000 per family. I would like to submit before this august House that, is it ever

possible to raise a thatched roof or a mud house with Rs. 3500/- or Rs. 2000/-? Should this provision of the Relief code not be amended immediately to raise this amount? This does not require the approval of any legislature. The Cabinet could have done it but that has not yet been done. I would like to urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to see that this amount is raised at least to Rs. 5,000/- and is made available as grant so that the affected people could raise at least one room. Without this it would not be possible to provide them with a cover over their head.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Rs. 500 crore should be provided as grant.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Sir, I have visited the affected areas. I asked the doctors on duty there — hundreds of people were suffering from cold and pneumonia — as to what is the cure for this and they immediately answered that they needed a covered dwelling and not medicines. Even after five weeks we have not been able to provide a cover over their head.

Is it not a shame on us that we could not provide them with a piece of polythene? This is the state of affairs in Orissa. No doubt the Central Government will give money. You have read about the story of polythene sheets from the newspapers and the suspension of the SRC as a scapegoat. Are we not ashamed of it? Should we not take action in such situations? Cutting across party lines I make this appeal to this august House. Should we remain mute spectators to all that is happening while million of people are suffering and yet say, from the other side, that it is all politicking? No, Sir, in my life, though I am a new Member here, but during fifty years of my public life., I never took recourse to politicking. I always called a spade a spade and spoke the truth. Sir, such a Government should not be tolerated in the interest of million of affected people. For heaven's sake, for those devastated people's sake, I urge upon you not to tolerate this.

Electricity restoration has not yet been done. We had a discussion with Shri George Fernandes. On the 15th or 16th of this month, he told me that within 15 days time, electricity would be restored. I had categorically told him that it was neither Kargil nor was it his Defence Department for things to move so fast. I said, 'it cannot happen in Orissa and that it would take months together'. He, however, assured us of it. After ten days, not a single village has been electrified. Electricity has been restored to some towns but not to a single village.

The people there have lost everything during this time of harvest. Programmes should be taken up

immediately for rabi cultivation, for providing seed, fertilizer, finance, etc. Please do not talk of politicking when I say this. Irrigation, Agriculture and Cooperation there in Orissa are in the hands of the most-corrupt man in this country. The C&AG report stands testimony to my statement. Most of us here know about this. Canal irrigation, lift irrigation should be facilitated. Number of diesel pump sets should also be provided so that rabi cultivation can be taken up in right earnest.

So far as long-term measures are concerned, I request all the housing finance institutions, including the World Bank if possible, to organise private finances to individuals for at least one 12 feet by 10 feet room with RCC roof per family so that they can take shelter in those rooms during cyclones and floods. No demand for no-encumbrance certificate should be made for this. If you ask for a no-encumbrance certificate, you cannot finance anybody. Soft loans at five to six per cent interest can be given. I am told, HUDCO is going to grant some loans at a rate of eleven per cent interest. I request the Central Government to take up this matter. The rate of interest should be reduced to five to six per cent with a five-year moratorium and a repayment period of 20 years. Some of the States have come forward to adopt some districts. It is a very nice thing.

We pay our thanks and gratitude to them. But what are they going to do? That have not yet been discussed with the State Government let alone with adopted district authorities. What are they actually going to do, nobody knows. They have not done anything in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Sir, I shall take a few minutes more because I represent Jagatsinghpur, which is the worst affected areas. Please do not ring your bell.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already taken 20 minutes. I have given a caution bell.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: I am smiling but the smile is not on my face.

Sir, it is a heart-rending incident. If the adopting States are really interested for reconstruction and restoration work, they should be given two items of work. One, they should rebuild all the public institutions from primary to college level which have been completely razed to the ground. Instead of providing asbestos they should provide RCC roof.

Second, they should take a community house with high plinth area of say, 30ft x 15 ft with 8 ft verandah on every side so that it can be used as a flood and cyclone shelter. That should be the work of the adopting villages. If they do not do that, they should not venture for calling it as adopted districts.

Road repairs should be taken up in right earnest and funds should be made available.

Thousands of looms have been destroyed and handlooms damaged. They should be revived and weavers should be assisted. Boats and nets are completely gone. Fishermen should be assisted financially to have their boats and nets.

Thousands of betel vines are razed to the ground. They are the lifeline of small and marginal farmers there. These farmers should be helped. Small-scale and village industries should be helped.

Plantation should also be taken up in right earnest. It should be taken up in such a manner that they could save the people in the State from Sun strokes and other hazards.

These are my suggestions, Mr. Prime Minister, Sir.

Sir, last but not the least, it has its advantages and it has also its necessities. It is for the psychological reasons, for the people of the affected areas to declare this calamity as a 'national calamity.' Mr. Prime Minister, from day one you have been telling that you have been treating this calamity as a national calamity. But Sir, if you are treating this as a national calamity, then what prevents you to declare it as a national calamity? What is the difficulty there?

If there is a political overtone, I am telling, let that be so. Sir, the psychology of the affected people is that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a magnanimous man...(Interruptions)...I am telling the psychology of the affected people.

I have written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister. But I have not received the acknowledgement. Of course, I have received the acknowledgement from the Home Minister but I have not received any acknowledgement from the Prime Minister as yet to whom I have addressed.

Sir, there are reports in the Press that there is no provision in the Statute to declare it as a national calamity.

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

In the Report of the Tenth Finance Commission, it has been clearly mentioned at page 44, para 9.18 and I quote:

"Once a calamity is deemed to be of rare severity (which you have recognized), it really ought to be dealt with—I repeat, it really ought to be dealt with—as a national calamity requiring assistance and support beyond what is envisaged in the CRF Scheme."

It ought to be dealt with as a national calamity. It is treated as a national calamity and it has been dealt with as a national calamity. But what is wrong in declaring it as a national calamity just to save the people?

It is only a psychological satisfaction. It will not bring anything more to them. Suppose you have declared it as a national calamity and shall not give any grant, what does it mean by declaration. But what is wrong in declaring it as a national calamity? It will give enough psychological and emotional strength to those ravaged people. For this reason, I request you to please declare it as a national calamity a hundred times. It is not a national calamity. What else can it be? Look at the magnitude and extent of the loss and damage; look at the magnitude of the loss of lives. If this is not a national calamity, what else can be called a national calamity? Should we not say that it is a national calamity? I request you to say, 'I declare, I say, a hundred times in this largest abode of the largest democracy of the world that it is a national calamity.' This is a request not just of political persons.

Shri Naveen Patnaik had gone to the interior ravaged villages and everywhere he was asked, 'What happened to the declaration of a national calamity?' This demand has been growing everywhere. Maybe, it is political but forget the politics and give that emotional strength to the people. My request is that it should be declared a national calamity not under pressure from us but on the prayer of the millions of ravaged people of Orissa.

I, in this august House of the largest democracy, appeal to you, the Central Government, the States of India, all the State Governments of any political hue and colour and to the world community at large to come forward to assist us. We are not extending our begging hands. As a matter of right of human beings, I am requesting then through this House to come forward to assist Orissa to rebuild Orissa, to rebuild a new Orissa. Let this cyclone be turned into an opportunity for building a new, modern and prosperous Orissa.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Sir, I am on a point of order. When the House assembled today at ten minutes past two, you had given permission to an M.P. to express his views on the Nagaland issue. Thereafter, you said that

[English]

Matters under rule 377 will be laid on the Table of the House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Sir, there is no such provision under Rule 377 and there is no such rule either under which special mention, special permission or submission can be permitted...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under what rule are you raising your point of order? Please quote the rule.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: My point of order is under rule 377 and I am quoting the rule:

"A member who wishes to bring to the notice of the House a matter which is not a point of order, shall give notice in writing to the Secretary-General specifying clearly and precisely the text of the matter to be raised. The member shall be permitted to raise it only after the Speaker has given his consent and at such time and date as the Speaker may fix."

You have not permitted us to raise it.

[Translation]

Those who have submitted notice to raise matters Under Rule 377 will never get a chance to speak if the matters are laid on the Table of the House every time...(Interruptions)

15.00 hrs.

You may postpone it. Sir, you may give you consent but you may not ask for the matters to be laid on the Table.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It says:

"The Member shall be permitted to raise it only after the Speaker has given his consent and at such time and date as the Speaker may fix."

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: You may fix the next date.

[*Translation*]

However, the matters should not be laid on the Table.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Speaker can give a ruling to the effect that the matters under rule 377 can be treated as laid, as has been the precedent earlier. You are not a new Member.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: It is not the question of precedent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Umpteen number of times, they had been treated as laid.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I am not talking of the precedent. I am talking of the rule. When the rule is there, you have to only postpone it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, you can fix another date for this. This is my submission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already told it. You have quoted the rule; you have also mentioned about the other matter. As a special case, I permitted that hon. Member to make his submission. The Chair has the right; and the hon. Home Minister also reacted to it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I would like to submit that whereas such a Member who had not even submitted a notice, has been permitted to speak, those who had submitted notices in advance were denied permission. You told them that

[*English*]

It is to be laid on the Table of the House. That is my submission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I said, "It is treated as laid on the Table of the House."

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: If the business of the House is to be conducted in this manner, you may ask for all the speeches to be laid. Then nobody would be able to make any submission. The submissions proposed to be made during Zero hour may also be treated as laid.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Goel, you are a senior Member. This is not the first time I am doing it like this. It had been done umpteen number of times in the past. There is no point of order.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: A discussion should be held in this regard. The procedure of laying matters on the Table of the House is not appropriate.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair. Now, Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (*Guna*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the night of the 29th and 30th October, a cyclone of unprecedented proportion hit the coastal areas of Orissa and went as far as 60 to 70 or almost 100 kms. into Denkanal and Angul areas; it is unprecedented over the last one hundred years.

We all know of the magnitude of this super cyclone which followed a cyclone of lesser proportions, but nevertheless a cyclone, on the 17th and 18th of October, off the Gopalpur coast in Gangam district. The storm was accompanied by torrential rains from the 29th of October to the 1st of November. The average rainfall over 35,000 sq. kms. was 600 mm. and the wind velocity was 300 kmph.

I do not have to repeat it over and over again. But I am afraid when we start talking about super cyclone and the proportion that it reached, one cannot help but get emotionally involved and visualize the scene that must have existed at that time. Therefore we go into these vivid descriptions. Thirteen districts were affected; telecommunications, roads and other transport facilities have completely broken down.

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

We visited—Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and I, as the General Secretary in charge of that State—the areas two days later. They were under sheet of water. I am very happy that the Prime Minister also attempted to visit the areas, but due to bad weather conditions it became impossible for him to do so. At that particular time, that is, after 48 hours, I was quite amazed when we reached Bhubaneswar Airport, even Air Force helicopters were not able to land in spite of the tremendous efforts by the Indian Air Force; they just managed to land, only a little before we reached.

To add to this cyclonic fury, there was flood fury in three major rivers — *Baitarani*, *Budhabalanga* and *Shalandi* — which inundated large portions of territory. Due to cyclone one side is under a sheet of water and on the other side

[Translation]

whatever was left, had been affected by flood.

[English]

You can imagine the havoc. Unless you visit the place, it becomes difficult to visualise. Twenty lakh houses have been destroyed. One and a half crore people have been affected. Millions and millions of cattle wealth have also got destroyed. It is estimated that fifteen to twenty lakh hectares of crop have gone under water. The loss is estimated at about Rs. 2,000 crore. This is the unprecedented velocity of the natural disaster that took place earlier on 16th and 17th and then on 29th and 30th. We are extremely grateful to the defence forces — the Army, the Air Force and the Navy — for the tremendous assistance that they have rendered. Without them, it would have been impossible to reach the marooned area. There is no doubt about that. We have to understand the full magnitude before we start taking the critical appraisal of events.

Such a large number of people—I think about 50 to 60 per cent population of Orissa must be residing in the coastal districts—were involved and naturally that affected the Secretariat. As their families were involved in those coastal districts, we found that suddenly the people living in the coastal districts, which supply the main personnel to the Government administrative services, out of sheer worry for their loved ones just as you and I would do, immediately tried to go to the districts to find about their well-being. That added to the problem.

I am glad that the State Government immediately marshalled whatever resources it has to meet the requirements. The State Government's request to the

Union Government is justifiably a very large amount and it looks large because it is unprecedented. When we talk of Rs. 10,000 crore, it is not something to be laughed away. It is a fact that that much amount of money will be required. Whatever assistance the Armed Forces gave, we are happy that we got their cooperation. Apart from that, many State Governments rallied to the course. I do not have to go through what each State Government has done. It will be suffice to state that the State Governments of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and in their own ways, the Governments of Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Nagaland—West Bengal being a border State where a lot of people were affected, could feel the human pain and misery more vividly possibly—could get together the resources. There may be some other States which I might have omitted to mention, I think we are grateful to all the State Governments that have assisted a State Government in its hour of need. It is hoped that this effort will continue. It seems that the State Governments which have assisted are firm in their resolve. This is something which on human grounds is to be welcomed.

Sir, the initiator of this discussion talked about declaring this as the national calamity of rarest severity. He has already mentioned the Report of the Tenth Finance Commission. My hon. friend in Government, Shri George Fernandes, time and time again, has declared over media, "Show me that scrap of paper on which this is written". This is a copy of the Report of the Tenth Finance Commission for December, 1994. It has been read out by the initiator of the discussion. I would just like to go on to say that the Commission whilst understanding that there are some occasions which cannot be dealt with by the State Relief Fund, has talked about these extraordinary situations. Therefore, they have made this proposal stating that, "We, therefore, propose that in addition to the CRF, the Calamity Relief Fund in the State, a National Calamity Relief Fund should be created which the Centre and the States will subscribe to and it will be managed by a National Calamity Relief Committee. I think that the Union Agriculture Minister is the Chairman of the Committee and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Finance Minister are the *ex-officio* Members along with five Chief Ministers in rotation. This organ has been set up to deal with this situation. When the Finance Commission has recognised that we need an institution to deal with a human tragedy of proportions that cannot be even envisaged, surely it is also incumbent on Government not merely to operate through this, not merely to give the beleaguered State access to the National Calamity Relief Fund but equally and maybe more importantly to create the atmosphere and the psychology in the country that there is a major calamity that has struck a part of our country and for

that we expect the Union Government to go all the way. The affected State Government, of course, will have to do the same. To create that atmosphere, there should be a tremendous effort and nothing should be spread.

But what are we doing in the last three weeks or so? The Union Government is just debating about semantics, about the use of words, like 'we will not declare it is such, we want to treat it as such and so on'. What is this? What is the problem? There is access to the National Calamity Relief Fund in any case, but it is not enough. Only Rs. 200 crore has come from it. The Government should also give the entire calamity a profile, a profile of importance. A Chief Minister of a particular State—in this case Orissa but it can happen anywhere—saying this can never carry the same weight as the Prime Minister saying it. Therefore, it should be declared from the Centre. Why the Government is hesitating? The moment the hesitation is there, the moment the debate begins, people start wondering, why is this happening.

Is it possible that it may not be of that proportion? Is it possible that there may be an exaggeration? Why is the Centre hesitant or apprehensive about it?

Sir, the Prime Minister attempted twice to visit the affect areas. Unfortunately, both the times due to bad weather and rains, he was unable to land. Therefore, he had to take a view from 15,000 feet or 20,000 feet. It is no fault on his. But we believe that that sincere effort could have been continued further. We would still say that it is not too late. This is a situation — I am sure the Prime Minister agrees with me — where there is no space or place for politics. There cannot be. Therefore, I would besiege the Prime Minister even now to go on the National Television and declare an SOS, address the nation and tell them what it is all about. We will acclaim and applaud if you do this because as I said there is no space for politics.

[Translation]

There is no such motive. It is not politically motivated. We are not reacting on what the Union Ministers are doing.

[English]

So our request and appeal to you is to go on the national television.

The other day some media persons had come from the United States of America for a seminar here. About a week ago, I had met and talked to them. I said that this massive cyclone which you may not be even begin

to understand had 15 million people fall backwards...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whose cell phone is ringing?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): That should be confiscated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. Time and again, we have been warning about this.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I asked them what sort of coverage is this unprecedented cyclone receiving in the American newspapers? I was told by these media people that there was no much coverage and far less than the earthquake in Turkey. Now earthquake in Turkey was also a very major disaster. Our heart went out to all those who were affected. But if Turkey's was a disaster then this was the grandfather of all disasters. Yet the newspapers in America do not give much priority to this. Why? If the Chief Minister of a State goes on the television, very little attention is going to be given to him. But if the Prime Minister of a country goes on the television, he will attract not only more national attention but also more international attention. Instead of that, we are quibbling about whether it should be declared or whether it should be treated as a national calamity or what the Oxford English dictionary does say about this particular phrase.

[Translation]

He should make a liberal announcement in the wake of such an enormous human tragedy so that message goes out to the people that the Union Government is fully prepared and ready to use its financial resources for the relief operations.

[English]

Let us work in unison on this. This is what I am enquiring everyday on picking up the newspaper. Some time one Union Minister is making some statement and some time another Union Minister is making some statement. I was surprised to read that Shri George Fernandes has made a statement about Orissa asking the Centre to stop aid. And more than that he has gone on to say that the decision appear to be politically motivated. Now I would appeal to you that even if Shri George Fernandes was convinced that this was so, there is a time and place to say something. He is a Union Minister who is occupying a very senior position. Could he not restrain and get his honed finely tuned, political instincts over the last 50 years, and just manage to control them in this situation even if he was convinced about it?

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

I will deal with this a little later.

I would request the Prime Minister even now to declare it as such. There are ways and ways by which you can still do so. There is no question of any face-saving or any prestige. We are not going to run around in circles. Mr. Prime Minister, and say that it is our victory, we have finally got it declared. It would not come from us. We will be happy and we will be grateful. I do not have to tell you; you are a person who has been in Parliament and in politics much much before I am. So, I will have the restraint not to tell you this. But it will be becoming the dignity of the Prime Minister. Please go on to the national television even now. Please give it exposure. Once it acquires profile, you will find the response nationally doubling and redoubling and international agencies also taking note of this.

We were talking about the nature of the requirements. I would like to just mention here that even now the State Government is woefully short of supplies in certain sectors. Polythene rolls are very difficult to acquire. There are new orders being placed and we still have a heavy demand for polythene rolls. So, before the distribution area can get into operation, the relief material must arrive. If there is something that can be done to help accelerate the production of polythene rolls and the obtaining of polythene rolls, that should be done. The same I would like to say about blankets. The Orissa Government is still requiring a very large number of blankets and of course reassurance about the relief funds. The Chief Minister had made a plea that Rs. 500 crore should be immediately given. But, for final relief operations he was requiring a much much large amount. The State is naturally worried because the finances of the State...*(Interruptions)*

Let us not bring all this, please. It is not a matter of mirth. For God's sake, be a little serious. Hundreds of people have lost their lives and all you can do is interject with what you think is jocular.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Will you please yield for a moment? I am on a point of order.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I am not yielding to you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is on a point of order.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: He is a new Member. He does not know what a point of order is.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: My point of order is about the statement that he has made.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please quote the rule.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Rule 376. I would like to ask the hon. Member...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How can he ask?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I would like to ask the Chair. Through you Sir, I would like to say that the statement made by the hon. Member...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please read the rule. It says:

"376. (1) A point of order shall relate to the interpretation or enforcement of these rules or such Articles of the Constitution as regulate the business of the House and shall raise a question which is within the cognizance of the Speaker.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: It is within the rules. It is specifically regarding the cyclone. The hon. Member is making a statement regarding the inability of the Central Government to meet the requirements. But today it is seen that in Orissa they are having an intra-party squabble.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is no point of order. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the ruling that there is no point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I am not trying to score points here. I am saying it in all seriousness because I do want a response from the hon. Prime Minister or the hon. Minister for Agriculture or whoever would be replying. The amount that has so far been given to the Orissa State Government is Rs. 650 crore. Of this, Rs. 200 crore has come from the National Calamity Relief Fund. It has either been spent or has been apportioned. Something like Rs. 98 crore of the second grant is in the process of being spent. This leaves a balance of Rs. 450 crore. The financial situations in all the States of the country is one which causes worry to all State Governments. Therefore, the State Government has been asking for clarification because the Centre has been saying, "Here is another Rs. 450 crores. Spend the money; we will tell you afterwards how we will treat it."

* Not recorded.

Now, naturally, they have a planned budget; they have certain development projects and certain expenditure problem. What happens is that all this money is being spent because there is no alternative. But in this situation, it should be reassured in your reply that this will also be treated as grant because at present Rs. 100 crore is given as advance additional Central assistance under externally-aided projects which is due to the State eventually. An approximate amount of Rs. 40 crore is being given as normal Central assistance release in advance for the months of December, 1999 and a part of January, 2000 and Rs. 10 crore for the fourth instalment. An amount of Rs. 200 crore is being given as advance release, shared Central taxes for the months of December, 1999 and a part of January, 2000. Again, it is something which is due to the State, which comes in normal course but is given as advance. Then, there is ways and means advance of Rs. 100 crore. Sir, this sum of Rs. 450 crore is carrying 9 per cent interest and has to be repaid on 31st March, 2000 officially and technically. It may be in your mind that ultimately you will treat it as something else and waive it. But why don't you make these announcements now?

Shrimati Gandhi went with a deputation alongwith Dr. Manmohan Singh and myself to meet the Prime Minister and he had also assured that he will be looking into it. Dr. Manmohan Singh had written a letter but we have not received any reply to it. So, we would like a reassurance that these amounts are not being advanced against normal expenditure and normal budgets. Some of them are carrying 9 per cent interest which will be charged, some of them are asked to be repaid on 31st March, 2000 but they are special grants.

I think some more work is required to be done and the assistance of the Union Government is very much required in the international area. I think it will be very helpful if foreign missions and embassies are instructed to create awareness in various world capitals on this particular issue and to take it up with organisations which gear up to assist other countries in such circumstances.

Finally, there is a need immediate relief material, food, dhotis, sarees, garments, utensils, blankets, polyethylene rolls and direct financial help. But in the medium term, there will be more activity which needs to be coordinated alongwith the Union Government. We seek your assistance in matters like the construction of dwelling units, community shelters, schools — I am very happy that a team from the HRD Ministry has been asked to go and visit Orissa—supply of books, embankments, roads, bridges, agricultural materials, veterinary and rabi campaign which are extremely important so that they can recover at least something.

Then, employment through relief work, financial relief for the destitutes, drinking water and then, of course, the much-longer term rehabilitation plans come in. If the World Bank and the other major institutions could be involved in it in Orissa, we would be very grateful.

I finally once again like to say that it is most unfortunate and a matter of great regret that some views are manifested by some Ministers. I would request the hon. Prime Minister to try and curtail the sort of views that are manifested by some of the Members of his Council of Ministers who visited Orissa. They seem to try to infuse some politics into the whole venture because there may be an Assembly election a few months away. I do not even want to name those few Ministers because I do not want to get into a squabble on this. But all I can say is that it is entirely untrue what those Ministers have said. As far as the role of the Orissa Government is concerned, I think it is entirely untrue. I categorically refute what they have said about it. I would just say that even in your mind if you are even convinced about it, this is not the time to make your views known because let us have an atmosphere of cooperation. In that spirit, let us try and ensure that relief reached those who have really been harmed, those who have lost their loved ones and those who have lost everything they had in the world. So, this is my appeal.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the 18th of October, the Southern part of Orissa and a part of Andhra Pradesh was visited by a cyclonic fury. As if the Nature was not happy with that, it came with a redoubled fury on the 29th and caused extensive damage to 12 districts. I am talking of both the cyclones and the resultant flood.

Before I go into this matter, I would like to speak something about the Indian meteorological Department. They had given the warning on the 25th about the storm being raised 500 km. away from the Andamans. They had assessed the track of the cyclone. I am not casting an aspersion on anyone. But the storm came to Paradip, hovered around Paradip for about six hours and then hovered around for 48 hours inside the land but it was not tracked properly.

It is a fact that when there is a cyclone, there will be moisture content in the wind which will cause severe torrential rains. It was the duty of the Meteorological Department to assess as to what would be the moisture content inside the land even after 48 hours. For about 48 hours, with a wind speed of 100 kms., there was torrential rain all around which caused more havoc in two districts, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj and the nearby areas, as a result of which a number of rivers had

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

changed their course. I again say that it is not an aspersion on anyone. It is something of a weakness on our part not to be able to find out what type of cyclone could be coming what type of damages it would cause. Yes, it is a cyclone of severe intensity which is unprecedented in the history. But the State Government had the smug satisfaction of being able to tackle it in their own way although they had the experience of the cyclone of the 18th of October. This is not a place to recite English poetry. But I would definitely like to recite a stanza of the English poetry where it has been said:

"I falter where I firmly tread

And falling with my weight and cares

I gather dust and chaff."

That is what has happened to the Orissa Government on the 29th and thereafter. They had the experience of the cyclones. It might be a fact that they had become pygmies in front of the insurmountable difficulties experienced on the 29th of October, 1999. But even after two weeks, the pygmy could have come up to its own stature of governance and could have dealt with this matter in a more appropriate manner.

Till now, 10,000 dead bodies have been found out and most of the dead bodies have been found out by the R.S.S., the Anand Margis and the Army. The Government functionaries did not do anything. Even today, there is evidence to show that the dead bodies are still in their watery biers. The bodies are being recovered from water. As the water is receding, the bodies are coming out. Is it not the duty of the Government of the State to ensure that some sort of a solace is given to the lonely persons who have been hovering around, famished, emaciated and cadaverous? What has happened now? Even now, people have been telling that relief has not gone to the deep interiors of Ersema. In Ersema, the coastal areas, there has been illegal immigration. The illegal immigrants have been staying there for the last 25 to 30 years. We do not have any account of those people. They have been Bangladeshis and because they have been allowed to stay there, the mangrove forest was completely denuded and the casuarina forest had completely vanished as a result of which the super cyclone with 300 kilometre per hour wind speed had completely come inside. The creeks had been taken over by the aquaculture people as a result of which the five or six metre fury of tides could not be checked and we have faced all these difficulties.

My hon. friends from the Congress Party have said many things about whether it is a natural calamity or a national calamity. The tenor of the words, as Shri George

Fernandes has said, does not show that it has to be declared as a national calamity, but it has to be dealt with as a national calamity. Now, it has been dealt with as a national calamity. If you go into the details, you will know that it has been dealt with like that only. In the Calamity Relief Fund, it is indicated that 75 per cent and 25 per cent is the ratio of funding of the Centre and the State for the money that has to be spent. But when it is a near national calamity or in the nature of national calamity, the Government India has to give funds. The Government of India has already given Rs. 950 crore, out of which some amount is the Plan Advance and some amount is the Grant. But what has happened to this money?

In the first phase, an amount of Rs. 50 crore had to be given to Ganjam district wherefrom I come. Till now, —I have the report from the Collector that he has received only Rs. 26.50 crore and where has the other money gone? The hon. Minister, Shri Shanta Kumar had been to Orissa and he has categorically said that 2.5 lakh metric tonnes of rice has been given to the State. But till now, the state Govt. have only lifted 90,000 metric tonnes out of which I have got the Special Relief Commissioner's report - only 45,000 tonnes have been distributed. Who is to be blamed? The people are going without food. As I see from the report of the Special Relief Commissioner, who has been placed under suspension because of some scam here and there, 1,70,000 polythene sheets only have been given, although 1.50 crore people are affected. Taking into consideration that a family consists of five persons, it would come to about 30 lakh families and 30 lakh people must get 30 lakh polythene sheets.

Sir, it is a fact that in Orissa—and it must be well taken care of now—that human values have come down. In 1866, Orissa had a great famine when the landed gentry and the upper caste people would not accept doles from the Government. Now, whatever is going, whether he is a wealthy man or whether he belongs to the upper caste or anything of the sort or whether he has a *pucca* house, he is demanding his share of polythene sheets and rice. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent rice at the rate of Rs. 13 per kilogram and these people who are in power have appropriated—I do not call it misappropriation—the rice and one does not know where the rice has gone. I had made a request to the hon. Minister not to send rice which is costly because that will go to the black market. Now, in Kalinga Stadium, you will find hundreds of trucks which are lying idle and which requires about 100 officers to tackle the problem. But the State Government has kept only three officers. These are the things which require some sort of an introspection. I do not say whether it is a natural calamity or a national calamity or a calamity of severest nature but it is of severe maladministration.

Action has been taken only to politicise these figures. Why should we make so much of a hullabaloo? Let us face it. Money has been going. But it has to be spent properly. That is not being done. I would not go into the details because all the details have been spoken about by my friends here.

The total manpower loss is about 20,000 human beings. The deaths are 20,000. About 5,000 are missing here and there. But what is required is that we have to deal with it in a very proper manner to look to the people who are hungry, malnourished and living in polluted atmosphere. Polluted atmosphere means that there is no drinking water. The Air Force had been dropping food packets. They were not able to drop canisters or barrels with water because it would have burst. Even now, people have been drinking water from polluted areas where carcasses are lying and somewhere dead human bodies are lying.

A Task Force has been constituted. My earnest request to the Government is: kindly take the local representatives or Ministers who are there from Orissa to be Members of the Task Force. So, they would give some suggestions and would ask for some remedy here and there. That would be more appropriate and more constructive in its approach.

Now, I would only tell about the short-term requirements. The short term requirement is for polythene. I do not know whether a kilogram of polythene would cost Rs. 74 or not. But on 18th October, I had enquired that it was between Rs. 50 and Rs. 60 because of the emergent situation. The State Government has procured it from Delhi at the rate of Rs. 74 per kilogram. It is up to the House to decide as to whether it was a scam or not. I would not like to dilate on that matter. But polythene sheets are immediately required. Take the coastal area. The blankets are required. Food materials are required: 15 kilogram to 20 kilogram per PPL and 10 kilogram to 15 kilogram per APL. All these things have to be taken care of by the State Government and not the Central Government. Food materials are going. FCI have been giving this. But there is an intermediary supply agent and storage agent. He is making a lot of profit from this thing. That intermediary system should go. It should go directly from the FCI to the Gram Panchayat. That should be the way food materials and medicines should be distributed. The people are dying in large numbers. You will find from the SRC's report that he has indicated 197 snakebites and one death. I do not know, whether because of the severe cyclone, the snakes have lost their venom and only one person has died. These are the statistics which have been given. It seems that the snakes have disappeared. I do not know about crocodiles

whether they have also disappeared into the sea through the innumerable creeks which have been opened now. Long-term planning has to be done. The first long-term planning is shelters along the coast. My suggestion is that at every five kilometres along the 480 kilometres of the Orissa coast, storm and cyclone shelters should be provided. The shelters should be like this. It should be a two-tier system as a two-storey building. The ground floor could be used for schools and the first floor for storm shelters. One such centre is there at Gopalpur-on-sea which has been doing good work. In Andhra Pradesh also, there are a number of cyclone shelters. This should be taken up on a long-term basis.

Then, there should be saline embankments. There has been a lot of salination of paddy fields. About five lakh acres of paddy fields have been inundated by the saline water. The immediate requirement is to make a study of the entire coastal area and provide saline embankments. That would be very helpful. Take the case of Huma Salt Bay where salt is being made. Saline water is being brought from the sea by pumping system. During this cyclone, the water came on its own and 15-16 feet of tidal bore went up to 20 kilometres inundating areas of vast paddy fields. For desalination, it requires lime. And lime has to be provided immediately. I do not know whether anybody has thought of it. I have seen that whenever there is salination lime from the paper mills are taken. They are those last residue and put it into the paddy fields. Huma Salt Bay also requires adequate funding.

In Orissa what has happened because of this severe cyclone. About 12,000 small scale industries have been partially and completely damaged. The Orissa State Financial Corporation, I think, would have to bear the loss of about Rs. 600 crore. The Government of India has to come in an appropriate manner to refinance those industries. For that, I think, the minimum requirement will be Rs. 200 crore to the Orissa State Financial Corporation. The SIDBI and the IDBI should take up this matter immediately on a long term basis and all that and provide funds to OSFC.

As the hon. Member, Shri Kanungo has said, there should be a moratorium on payment. deferred payment. For three years. on the principal there should be no instalment payment and the interest on that be waived off so that these 12,000 industries can survive. Otherwise there will be unemployment and people would not get any work. For the last ten days I have been watching in the State that there has been mass exodus of people to Maharashtra and to Gujarat to work in different places.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

Last year, in the Budget, the Central Government had stated that when there is an exodus of people, the Employment Assurance Scheme has to be revitalised, 25 per cent extra money has to be given. Even till now it has not been done. There is a provision that the State Government has to give a proposal as to what is the amount that is required. I do not know whether such proposal has come to the Central Government or not. They should ask for 25 per cent more so that people do not go out of the State leaving the emaciated family to fend for themselves.

Electricity has not yet been provided. Andhra people came to help us. We are grateful to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. In Behrampore, in my city, within five days the entire area was electrified in the sense that they did wonder. But there are certain places, certain NACs in my constituency and in the constituency of Shri Naveen Patnaik where electricity has not yet been provided, not to talk of the lift irrigation points which have to be revitalised to get rabi crop.

The State Government has said that there would be subsidy of 50 per cent on rabi seeds. I would like to ask them, why should it not be 100 per cent subsidy and why only 50 per cent subsidy. Give them free. Only once you will give it to them. Why this niggardly behaviour of the State Government in asking for 50 per cent payment on rabi seeds? If they are not able to give it, why should not they ask the Agriculture Ministry of India to give it free of cost, at least for once.

Then I come to the cash crops. The *kewda*, a flower, gives scent. It is a shrub, wildly grown. I had made request to the Chairman of the Task Force, I have written a letter also to him, saying that another Task Force with an agricultural expert should go there immediately and see that these shrubs come up. They belong to the bamboo family and I am sure immediately some work can be taken up so that the *kewda* flower plant and the distillation plants can come up. Money has to be given to those distillers because they export *kewda* scents.

Regarding *paan*, betel nut, I had said earlier also during the Ganjam Cyclone, as to how it has to be tackled. The immediate requirement is to see that betel vines, betel nut orchards, coconut orchards and banana plantations are taken up in right earnest. The Government of India should do it. I am sure the Government of Orissa would not be able to cope up with this problem.

Lastly, I would say about the employment generation programme. The Government of India has already announced, only recently, about employment generation programmes to be taken up. In taking up employment

generation programmes, house building matter should also be taken up. HUDCO has been given a sum of Rs. 190 crore by the Government of India to take up construction of houses for those people who are in the BPL list, but what about those who are in the APL list and their houses have been damaged and they cannot construct their houses. I appeal to the Government of India to devise a means by which the banks could give loans with soft interest to those people who are interested in constructing their houses, maybe at the rate of four per cent or six per cent interest. They are willing to take loans and construct their houses again. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing a very severe cyclone which had occurred in this country with the rarest severity.

Sir, as we have seen, this cyclone-prone area was hit again and again. In the last 176 years, this part of our country was hit by about 22 cyclones. Lakhs of people were affected and thousands of people had been killed in the past. This is the most severest cyclone that we have ever seen in this region in terms of coverage and in terms of damage.

Sir, as has already been mentioned by the earlier speakers, this cyclone with the wind speed of 300 kilometres was an unprecedented one and never happened. In spite of our earlier warning, the Administration could not gear up to face the situation. Though it is not fully possible to face such a serious calamity, the inefficiency and slackness on the part of the Administration is an experience which should be kept in mind for the future because such cyclones may occur again. Even there has been a warning that in the middle of December one such cyclone may hit.

Secondly, the extent of damage has already been mentioned. My friends and our party delegations have visited the entire area and are working day and night for the relief, rescue and rehabilitation work. Certain questions should be kept in mind. I agree with the suggestion of my friend, Shri Anadi Sahu, that the Meteorological Department should have some better exercise to identify certain things and to decide it at a proper time so that people also can be aware of such things and take care of themselves.

Orissa is one of the poorest States with the richest reserves and it has the poorest people. It is the fortune of that part of the country for several decades. We do not know why it is so; maybe because of lack of proper administration. Sir, as you know, some part is the perpetual sufferer due to drought and this part is the sufferer due to cyclone.

Majority of these poorest people—60 per cent of Orissa people are living below the poverty line—depend on agriculture. The poor and marginal peasants are in larger number the largest number of agricultural workers is also there. They live on hand to mouth by their toil. This cyclone has damaged about 50 per cent of rice crops and it was worth about 17.55 billion rupees. How will these people survive? What has been lost is one thing. How can the next crop be planned? That is one of the major issues before the people of that State who depend on agriculture.

Secondly, the largest number of people in the coastal region that is thickly populated, also depend on fisheries and fishing in the seas. Their trawlers and houses have been destroyed. All their fishing materials, including boats, have been destroyed. If the largest number of those people, the fishermen, living in the coast are not provided with immediate relief, they will also face the challenge to their existence in the coming months. So, that is another area of concern which should be kept in mind.

Sir, about 10,000 people have died but the estimate goes up from 20,000 to 50,000. We do not know the actual figure. I think we have to find out this from the voters' list. Otherwise, we will not be able to identify the people who were living there. Names of many people also may not be in the list still.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Hannan Mollah, please address the Chair.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: If the voters' lists are there in the Government record, in the Election Commission, through them we have to find out the people who were living there because there are dozens of villages which are not existing now. There is no sign of those villages. Even if you go, you will not find any sign of those villages. So, how can you identify that how many people were living in those villages? So, you have to identify how many people have actually died and then, accordingly, we have to compensate their near and dear ones who are living and other people also.

In all these 14 districts, besides, rice, conconuts, cashewnuts and groundnuts have been destroyed. Next is rabi crop. As has already been mentioned, sea water has entered about 30 kilometres inside the land and a large portion of those lands are salinated. The next crop will be very difficult. We cannot leave how that land desalination could be planned to the State Government. It is a national calamity. The entire country should take the responsibility to rebuild that part of our nation, that part of our country.

So, how that can be done is a question. How desalination can be taken up and how at least the rabi crop can be started soon with adequate supply of seeds and credit are all questions. Seeds and credits are the two very important areas. The Central Government, in collaboration with the State Government, NGOs and other organizations, should put together all our forces and we have to find out how we can face this problem.

I am sorry to say that either those who are ruling in Orissa or in Delhi, are trying to take political advantage because the Assembly election is nearing. This is the most unfortunate thing. When a part of our nation is in danger, when they are dying and suffering, we should come together, stand together and work together to come out of this problem. That is the most important thing.

As it has already been mentioned here, the Central Ministers are making a lot of statements and electoral gimmicks. It is unfortunate those who are running the State Government, instead of unitedly fighting it, they themselves are fighting. It will damage their image. What the entire nation is concerned about this problem, how the ruling party people in the State, instead of joining hands and facing the challenge together, are fighting each other. These things are unfortunate. It is a crime for anybody at this point of time to do like this. So, that should be avoided and they should try to do the maximum.

Now, let me come to the question of damage and taking the responsibility.

16.00 hrs.

We cannot leave it at the hands of the State Government. The State Government is doing. Their weaknesses are clear, even before and after they were trying. I also understand that there are two administrative centres — Bhubaneswar and Cuttack — and they are totally damaged and destroyed. There is also a difficulty to immediately start the work. We understand that. We should not blame for political purposes. But after two weeks, we should now gear up our administrative machinery with the social organisation and political organisations put together. We have to face this challenge so that we can renew this State.

Another question is the ecological balance which has been destroyed. Because of that, it had happened. If we do not repair it, such things will happen in future also. So, how can we tackle it? The Ministry of Environment and Forests in the Central Government should take these coastal areas for a massive afforestation programme and plantation of mangroves and other plantations. It should

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

be done immediately. The State Government and the Central Government should sit together and while preparing the Five Year Plan, within two or three years at least we should bring back the ecological balance to some extent so that in future that can be avoided.

There is another problem. About one crore and sixty lakh cattles of different varieties have been destroyed or killed. It is a very huge number. Small and marginal peasants use these forces for ploughing and cultivation work as rich peasants might have some tractors or some this like that. But these poor and marginal peasants depend on their cows, bullocks and buffaloes which had been killed. Then, how will they cultivate their land? First, they have to desalinate their land and then they have to cultivate their land. How can they do that? The Central Government should also intervene. But wherefrom they will get cows in Orissa? They have to bring from other parts of the country. The Central Government can arrange it and that should be done. At the same time, the power tillers and other tractors also can be provided so that during the rabi crop, at least this damage can be repaired.

As I had already mentioned, there is another problem about the electricity. Only in some cities, it is partially restored. In the entire village areas, there is no electricity. The A.E.S. Corporation have come to the Government for help. What will they do? They have said that if the Government do not claim responsibility, then we should increase the tariff by three times. If the A.E.S. Corporation, an American company, increases its tariff by three times, where from the people will pay for it? It is because they are already suffering and they have nothing with them. That is also another area of concern. How will the Central Government and the State Government find a solution for proper power distribution and transmission? That is another area of concern to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government.

Another area of concern is that of telecommunications. Though Shri Sikdar and Shri Paswan have been saying that telecommunications will reach every village, but it is very difficult to reach the Orissa villages. So, there should be some Master Plan on how we can cover these fourteen districts within the shortest possible time, stage by stage. First the Block level towns should be covered and then they should try to go to the villages. So, some plan on those lines should be immediately drawn by the Central Government.

The next area of concern is the Paradip Port. That port is not only the lifeline of the State of Orissa but also of the entire eastern region. A lot of things are exported and imported through that port. So, that port should be rebuilt and revived very fast. For that also, I request the Government to draw some plan immediately.

In some areas the railway line has been restored but the trains are running without signals. Drivers have been asked to run the trains looking at the front. If they find some obstacle, they should stop the train themselves. So, they are running the trains with their own judgement, without signals because the signal system is damaged. In many areas, the railway lines and other things have not been restored. This is an infrastructural area which needs immediate restoration so that the local administration can make use of it and the affected people can get the benefit of that.

The next area of concern is the problem of epidemic. We have reports about epidemics, such as, malaria, cholera, and gastroenteritis spreading there. Already 90,000 people have been affected by these and some people have died also. This is happening because the hospitals and health centres are not functioning properly. So, we have to find out how we can face this challenge. Every calamity is followed by epidemic if adequate and effective measures are not taken on war footing. So, I request the Government to give the details of the planning they have made in this regard.

We need skilled people and personnel to implement and monitor the decisions speedily. So, efficient people are also required. Government has to find out how effective manpower can be provided to implement and monitor the works properly within a short time.

In Nandankanan and other zoos, almost all the animals have died. Those who have survived are not getting any food. So, the Government should immediately intervene to see how they can rebuild those zoos and save the animals.

Our Army, Navy and Air Force have done a wonderful job in flood-affected areas. When the persons in uniform are facing the challenge with sincerity, I hope the people behind them should also work with the same spirit. They should not try to politicise the efforts of those in uniform so that they can work in a better manner.

When the Prime Minister was to go there, I am told the arrangements made for him were so poor that even the flight was not available for him. He had to wait at the airport and he was forced to fly very late. He reached there in the evening. He could not see anything in the night, in the dark. Is this the way to organise the Prime Minister's visit to the affected areas? It shows the attitude of the Central Government. We have always been clamouring that the eastern region is suffering. When the problem is in the eastern region, when the people in the eastern region suffer, whether it is Orissa or Bihar or West Bengal or other areas in the eastern region, people take less care of those areas.

This is the complaint of the people of the Eastern Region. It has been repeatedly coming up. I think this callousness should go. It is a crime to deal with such a thing in that fashion when the area is in serious trouble.

I will request you to immediately give financial assistance. But do not give that in the cover of just assistance. It should be in the form of grants. Grants should be more. In the name of assistance you should not go tomorrow for recovering that money as a loan given in advance.

You take specific measures to prevent the epidemics. Drinking water is a major problem. You immediately go and arrange for pure drinking water. The problems like how it can be supplied in that area should be taken care of.

I mentioned about seeds. The rabi crop should be taken care of and proper seeds and loans on easy terms should be given.

I also request you to start 'Food for Work' programme. In the 1978 floods we have seen that the 'Food for Work' programme did a magic. The poor people want food immediately. If they get food for the work done, then the reconstruction work as well as their existence will both be preserved and developed. So, on these things, I request that 'Food for Work' programme should be introduced in a massive way.

Coming to the housing sector, some talk is going on regarding disaster-proof houses. We have to plan with proper technology as to how we can have such disaster-proof houses and buildings where we can face such calamities if they occur in future. HUDCO has intervened. But we need much more because the damage is so big and huge that with Rs. 190 crore you cannot do much. It is just a pittance in comparison to the damage.

Coming to the education, I am afraid education in Orissa will be put back in the coming ten years. They will go backward because the colleges and schools are all closed. There is no education. All institutions are closed and no examination will be there in the coming months. What will happen to those hundreds and lakhs of students? You have to immediately plan something so that education is started and the college and school buildings can immediately be opened even by constructing temporary sheds. Classes can be started with temporary sheds. Then, in a long-term programme, you can rebuild all those in a better way.

I have already told about the hospitals. The hospitals and health centres should also be immediately rebuilt.

That is also another area of importance. There should be massive plantation.

These are the areas where the Central Government and the State Government should put their heads together and should mobilise the N.G.Os. and other forces. We can also appeal to foreign countries for their help. In Russia, Turkey and many other countries, whenever there are national calamities, foreign assistance poured in. But I do not know what is happening in our country. I am told that our Ministry of External Affairs is standing in the way. Some people and some countries are ready to help. But our M.E.A. is standing in the way. I do not know whether this is correct or not. If it is correct then it is a wrong thing and they should clarify. We request the Government to mobilise funds. As submitted earlier, the hon. Prime Minister should appeal to the whole world that whoever can come forward to rebuild Orissa from this wreck is welcome. It can be rebuilt as a new Orissa and the scars can be reversed into a blessing. I request the Government to take care of the problem in that fashion.

With these few words I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as there is no one from the panel of Chairmen in the House now, if the House agrees I will call the senior Member Shri Basudeb Acharia to preside over the House.

SEVERAL HON MEMBER : Yes.

16.15 hrs.

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *In the Chair*)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Mr. Chairman Sir, it is most unfortunate that the State of Orissa was hit by two consequent cyclones, the first one on 17th and 18th October, 1999 followed, immediately after, by second one on 29th October, 1999. I think, this is the most unprecedented and unexpected havoc that has played in the State of Orissa where the devastation was so sizeable that it is beyond the imagination of anybody. In the past one hundred years, people say that, this type of havoc has never been there, particularly in Orissa. The torrential rains followed by high velocity winds at a speed of about 300 kilometres per hour and the unprecedented tidal waves, put together at one particular time have played such a big havoc in the State that has caused a lot of suffering to human beings, certain loss to crops and thereby a loss to the ecological balance in the state.

The statistics have been placed before the House that more than 1.6 crore population, 20,000 villages and 12 districts have suffered the fury of this havoc. The

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

crops in more than 21.5 lakh hectares of land have also suffered and the houses lost were more than 22 lakh. The human loss was placed a bit higher than 10,000 and cattle loss at about 1.6 crore. This amount of loss is not a loss to one particular State, it is really a loss to the whole country.

As such, we must congratulate the Union Government for having risen to the occasion immediately, declared it as a national calamity and extended its helping hand in several ways. Though the State Government had also taken immediate steps to provide relief, somehow there was a feeling — I am not entering into any area of dispute—that the required amount of help had not been rendered by the officials and the machinery of the State Government in times of need, and the State Government could not rise to the occasion. However, one particular point of dispute that is going on between the State Government and the Union Government that the help that has been rendered by the Union Government could not properly be utilised by the State Government and could not be properly handed over to the victims, is not a correct step in the right direction at this point of time. I am not going into the merits and demerits of the issue, but this type of message would not have gone to the victims that there is a help that is being rendered by the Union Government but it is not reaching the victims or the people. This is not a good message. We, as Indians first, will have to look at the sufferings of all the people unanimously and as a team of the entire country.

Sir, it is gratifying to note that a Task Force has been immediately constituted by the Government of India; the Union Government also placed its Armed Forces at the disposal of the Orissa Government, and 'Operation *Sahayata*' has been organised by the Ministry of Defence in that State. They have taken several steps, but I do not want to go into the details. They have placed about 35 Army Columns and about 5,000 Army personnel at the disposal of the State for taking up these operations.

Coming to the Central assistance, this particular point really pinches everybody. I do not know the actual situation. When the Prime Minister visited that State, he has extended the total relief to the extent of Rs. 950 crore: Rs. 450 crore comes as Advance Plan Assistance, and Rs. 500 crore as Calamity Relief Fund. This shows that the Government of India could rise to the occasion. However, unfortunately, the teams sent by many public sector undertakings have been turned away by the State Government functionaries. An example has been quoted that the Collector of Puri turned away a medical team sent by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation. When the Additional Secretary, Department of Coal and Mines spoke to the Collector of Puri, he confirmed that he does not

require any medical teams or the setting up of any community kitchens. When somebody sends certain amount of help to the State, be it the Union Government or the sister State Governments, it could not reach the victims, and this is one particular issue which is causing a lot of agony in the minds of several people. This ought not have happened.

Besides, I must certainly go on record on the help that has been rendered by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, and our Chief Minister Shri Chandrababu Naidu has risen to the occasion. On the very same day, that is, on 30th, he has sent the teams, and on 31st, our teams have reached Berhampore. He has risen to the occasion and sent our former Relief Commissioner, Shri Acharya, to Berhampore, to be immediately followed by the Director General of Police. It is really appreciable that our officer was the first man to reach Berhampore, in spite of several odds.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: They maintained the law and order also.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: On reaching Berhampore, the officers of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh have set up a Control Room to coordinate the activities of different departments, and they were the first people to provide relief in Orissa. When a telephone No. 201755 was installed, the Chief Minister was regularly contacting him and giving the directions for providing relief. The Relief Commissioner also visited Bhubaneswar on 1st November and met the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary and also the State Relief Commissioner.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Venkateswarlu, you should not read from your text.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, I am not reading; I am only giving some statistical data that is there. So, it is our Relief Commissioner who has coordinated with the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary and also the Relief Commissioner of the Orissa States and planned the total relief measures that have been taken up.

Sir, similarly the Director General of Police also immediately rushed to Orissa and the police department had deployed about 92 personnel in Paradeep; about 30 personnel in Kalinga; about 90 personnel in Cuttack and again another additional 93 personnel were deployed in Cuttack. The people from the Department of Communication, some of them hailing from Orissa, were also sent there. In all about 460 police personnel had been deployed in different districts of Orissa to take up the relief measures.

A lot of relief material had been sent to Orissa. The employees of the Roads and Buildings Department of Andhra Pradesh had gone there and sent their socketing machines etc. to clear the roads which involved an expenditure of Rs. 43 lakh. 268 people of the R&B Department of Andhra Pradesh worked day and night to clear the roads during those two to three days. Drugs worth Rs. 11,57,000 had also been sent on the very next day of the calamity. On the second day drugs worth Rs. 4,14,000 were also sent. Subsequently, on the third day of the havoc, people working in the Civil Supplies Department had been rushed to Orissa with Polythene tarpaulin, polythene bags, jaggery, biscuits etc. All these involved an expenditure of Rs. 2,52,44,551/-.

Subsequently, about 900 people working in the Vidyut Soudha, that is the Andhra Pradesh Transport and Electricity Department, were sent to Orissa to restore the electricity lines. This has involved an expenditure to the tune of Rs. 74 lakhs...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Sir, I have read in the newspapers and my colleague here also has been saying that their State Government had sent medicines and manpower and all that. Now, is it also a fact that they have sent a bill worth rupees eight crore to the Government of Orissa?

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: It is not for bills.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I just want to educate myself. My question is very simple. Is it a fact, which I read in the newspapers, that the Andhra Pradesh Government has billed the Orissa Government for rupees eight crore? Is it a fact or not?

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: It is only a help that has been rendered by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to the State of Orissa.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I agree with you. We are all thankful for that. More than that we are obliged. But is it a fact that the Orissa Government has been billed for rupees eight crore by the Government of Andhra Pradesh?

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: No.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: He should send everything but not the bills.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, this is all the help that has been sent to the State of Orissa from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Reddy, please conclude now.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, I am concluding in a minute. Handloom cloth worth Rs. 74,42,000 had been sent to Orissa. Besides this, even private individuals, voluntary organisations and also the salaried people in Andhra Pradesh have contributed and those were also sent as relief materials to Orissa. Even my colleague, Shri M.V.S. Murthy has contributed rupees five lakh. Food packets were organised and were distributed continuously for 15 days and it involved an expenditure to tune of Rs 75 lakh. These were organised from Vizag alone.

Sir, a lot of help has been rendered by the State of Andhra Pradesh to Orissa. We are proud that our Chief Minister had risen to the occasion and on humanitarian grounds have rendered help. He was the first person to have shown this national spirit and rendered this help to the people of Orissa.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, I am concluding in a minute.

In this connection I would like to submit one thing. The sufferings of the people of Orissa, at present, are of a low magnitude.

In the days to come the sufferings will be greater. What they have suffered now is not going to be all. We, in Andhra Pradesh, have a lot of experience in these things. We also suffer from frequent cyclones and floods. During the subsequent years when the crops are lost, when all the orchards are lost, when the total earnings are gone, the sufferings of these people which have to be dealt with in the days to come are going to be much more. The help that is being rendered by the Government, the State or the Central Government, at the present juncture is not going to be sufficient. They will have to go in for a long term plan as to how these people who are suffering can be helped. Even the restoration of orchards, restoration of coconut groves takes a long time. It takes not less than ten years after replantation for the orchards and groves to come to the stage of economic bearings. All these ten years the affected families will not have any income to sustain their livelihood. So, it requires a long term plan to help these victims in real sense.

Cholera and other epidemics that break out at these times will lead to an alarming situation. They will have to be met with a lot of commitment. At this juncture, the Union and State Governments should stand by each other and look at the victims first but not at the political or

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

other consideration which would come in the way of restoration work. One should rise to the occasion, reach above all other considerations in providing relief to the affected people.

I would like to give a small example for the benefit of the Government of India. For Latur earthquake victims KFW from Germany gave some grant. For 1996 cyclone victims in Andhra Pradesh also KFW, Germany, gave an outright grant of Rs. 42 crore for construction of houses. Similarly, even now a lot of international aid agencies can be roped in to provide funds and grants for taking up relief measures for the cyclone victims. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from a place called Dhenkanal. It was one of the first States to merge into India. The reason why I am saying this is that I would not like to refer to this super cyclone T-70 which is the severest and the rarest cyclone of this century, not designated so by K.P. Singh Deo but by the Indian Meteorological Department and international meteorological bodies. Hon. friend Shri Anadi Sahu and I were talking to the Met office on the 29th of October, the day we were discussing the cyclone of the 17th, exactly one month back, on that fateful and disastrous day of 29th October. The Indian Met Department said that the last cyclone which was of the rarest severity was only T-4.8 That means this was about 70 per cent more severe in magnitude and severity than the last one which hit Andhra Pradesh in 1990.

This super cyclone of rarest severity hit the eastern board of India. Let us forget the little States which were there before 1947—after 1947, I think, the whole thing is India. It is the eastern board of India which has been destroyed, devastated and damaged by winds of 300 kilometres per hour speed and by three days of incessant rainfall bringing in floods. It was 24 hours of hell for at least half the population of Orissa.

Orissa is that little area which has been an imaginary boundary by Cartographers, but part of India, where 3.19 crore people live out of which 1.5 crore have been going through hell, through hurricane gale and rains of destruction.

Sir, one-third of Orissa, which we now call, has been destroyed. Half of it is paralysed or totally wiped out. Some of us like Shri Kanungo, Shri Sahu, myself, my colleague Shri Madhavrao Scindia, my leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and many others have visited those areas. The only semblance of a habitation is a few tube wells and a level ground. Banian trees have been uprooted. Coconut trees have been uprooted. Even palm tree which

is as strong, or tough as steel or iron pillar at Qutub Minar, was uprooted. If a drop of water does not drop on that palm tree, it can survive for 300 years or even more. Even palm trees were cut, as if someone has cut it with an axe. This was the scene.

Today two lakh children are orphaned. They are destitutes. The other figures have been given by my eminent colleagues and my distinguished colleagues. The State Government claims 10,000 deaths by today's newspapers. Prime Minister's Office has leaked out to the Press that 25,000 thousand have died. BBC, British Broadcasting Corporation, says 100,000. So, Sir, I am only thinking of Gladstone and Disraeli who had said 'lies, damn lies and statistics.' The thing is that all these figures of 15 lakh families, for whom the scheme has come for emergent relief and rehabilitation, will very soon become 25 lakh families because every single day, new dead bodies are coming up. Just 15 minutes back, Dr. Nitish Sengupta was mentioning that bodies have been found in Contai and Shri Brajakishore Tripathy will bear me out that the dead bodies of the people from the Jagatsinghpur area, have been found in Chilka lake. And, we do not know because of the receding tide which came at six metre height, now many dead bodies have been washed into the sea and where they have gone; whether they have been devoured by sharks or they have gone elsewhere or to the coast of the Bangladesh or even to the coast of Andhra Pradesh?

Sir, therefore the figures as of today, *i.e.*, as of 29th of November, are only notional because more and more bodies, more and more carcasses, more and more evidence of the propensity, the magnitude and the severity of this holocaust is being unearthed. About the total damage, God alone knows.

The infrastructure belonging to the Government Department, on the last report which I saw of the Orissa Government, was 2,500 crore. Now, my friend, Shri Anadi Sahu is mentioning about industry which is 3,000 crore. Now, total agriculture has been wiped out. Today we are very fortunate that the new Cabinet Minister of Agriculture is present here who comes from Eastern India. The 1866 famine also hit at that time the composite State of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa where millions died. And that was the first time that the famine code was ever thought out by the Britishers. The famine code which is quite archaic and antiquated, I think, in the threshold of the next millennium requires a lot of revision.

Shri Kanungo was mentioning about the famine code. He has been a distinguished Member of the Legislative Assembly of Orissa. The Famine Relief Code in Orissa was revised last in 1980, about twenty years ago.

...(Interruptions) It might have been updated or amended later but the whole thing was revised last in 1980 and it says that the compensation for a totally washed Rs. 3500, total collapsed house is Rs. 2,000 and for a partially broken one is Rs. 1,000 and so on. What is the value of a rupee today? If it was a hundred paise for a rupee in 1960, it is nine paise today.

I met a young CRP officer who has just come back from Kargil. He somehow recognized me, got down from his vehicle and said, 'I am just coming back straight from Kargil but I would like to salute the people of Orissa, particularly Jagatsinghpur and Ersama. We took on only the Pakistanis but here the people have had the guts and courage to take on the Creator, the wind and are surviving.' This was the 18th day of the cyclone, that is, the 16th of this month. The people have been bearing it with a lot of patience, tolerance and a lot of courage.

What my hon. colleagues and friends have been very graphically mentioning about the trials and tribulations is a fact. For the first fortnight or so, nobody can deny the fact that all the relief material were not reaching the people. There was no way of reaching there. Hon. Ministers Shri George Fernandes and Shri Naveen Patnaik are here. They also visited that area. When they landed in Paradip, it was far less difficult compared to Ersama, Balikuda and Astarang. In those areas, the people were in such a mood that they were not willing to meet people. They wanted relief. It was only the Air Force helicopter - the Army Aviation Corps helicopter - which took the two Ministers there. Otherwise, there was no way of reaching there. It took some time for them to reach there.

It is a fact that many State Governments have helped. It has been already stated by Shri Madhavrao Scindia and I would not like to repeat it again. About 11 States rushed in food. In fact, Andhra Pradesh was the first because they sent in the relief material from the Vizag side. Had those policemen not come, I think, those food grains and those relief materials also would have been looted because there was organized looting, not by the affected people but by the antisocial elements.

When on the 1st I arrived in Bhubaneswar, I think, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathi was also with me. The former Union Minister Shri Srikanta Jena was also there. One Minister and an IG of Police were lamenting over the fact that as they were proceeding to Chandbali and the food trucks were arriving, some vehicles came, looted the relief material and went back. At that time, there was a breach on the National Highway No. 5 and so the antisocial elements also had a field day.

Thanks to the policemen of Andhra Pradesh and thanks to your Electricity Board, some restoration took place. The Government of Orissa did have some police force at its disposal. I say this because the first thing that happened was a communication failure: whether it was interpersonal, telephone, road, rail or air, there was no communication for four or five days. It is being restored gradually. I must thank and commend the Department of Communications as well as the Railways. They have done a fantastic job.

No one could have done better than the Ministry of Defence. The soldiers, the sailors and the airmen risked their lives and they had been doing an excellent work. Even the Department of Communication and the Ministry of Railways have done a fantastic job. But the work was very stupendous. If we in Parliament think that within a month's time, we can bring those 14 districts to normalcy then we are asking for the moon and we should go to Ranchi to have ourselves checked up. In Ranchi, there is a asylum!

The environment has been totally destroyed. As Shri Hannan Mollah was mentioning, there is environmental degradation. Last year, we had more than 3000 people who died of sunstroke or heat stroke. I think, in the coming year, we will have far more than 3000 because not a single tree is standing from Balasore right up to Gopalpur or Berhampur. The same is the case with the interior districts. Shri Madhavrao Scindia was mentioning about Dhenkanal and Angul; but I will say Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar, Khurd and Nayagarh which are at least 100 miles inside, that means, it is 160 kms. inside.

A map by the Indian Meteorological Department and by the Satellite Imagery have shown that for 400 kms. by 200 kms. depth, the cyclone has gone and along with the cyclone, there was incessant rain which has brought in floods. All the little rivulets had been over-flooded; all the cross-bunds and embankments had been broken. It was a tremendous task; and until and unless one goes there and sees the places, one will not get a full comprehension of the magnitude of the problem.

In fact, in these nine coastal districts, civilization or habitation has simply disappeared. We do not know how many people have died and we do not know how many people have to be given relief or rehabilitation. In fact, this was the most prosperous area of Orissa. The areas between Balasore and Berhampur are agriculturally and industrially most prosperous. Human resource-wise, I would say that it was the storehouse. That is what Shri Madhavrao Scindia said. Maybe, 60% to 70% of the bureaucracy and the administration of Orissa come from these districts and these districts are the old British India

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

districts where access to education was very easy. It is like Ms. Amartya Sen's book on 'Developmental Economics'. These are the people who had access to it. The entire State Government machinery was wiped out in 24 hours. But it is very easy for us to speak here after a month, after hindsight, why it did not respond or react.

Here we have a Chief Minister, a former colleague of ours, a valued and respected colleague of ours who frantically rang up the Defence Minister on the 27th. He has gone on record. I am grateful to hon. Defence Minister; like all good Defence Ministers, he has struck to the high traditions of the Ministry of Defence. He has called a spade a spade. He is one man who has not criticized the Chief Minister. When he visited those areas, he said that nobody told him that they had not received relief. That was the last statement made about three or four days back, and I am subject to correction. It has appeared in *The Indian Express*. ...*(Interruptions)* It appeared three or four days back; let us not make it frivolous.

Here was a person who was cut off from civilization. He was not even in communication with the Chief Secretary who was only 100 yards away because during those three days, wind was howling at 300 kmph. The Barabati stadium is one of the finest cricket grounds in the whole of the Eastern Hemisphere; there was no *chhath*; and the way the tin sheets, the corrugated sheets and the asbestos sheets were flying around looked as if the eagles were flying or it was like the Junkers-88 of the Second World War; it was making an awful sound.

The population of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar was terrified and petrified by the thought that at any time their houses may collapse. I saw this with my own eyes. I have brought the photographs which were taken while going from Ersama to Ambiti. Concrete columns and *Mandaps* collapsed in three places. Such was the velocity of the wind. And here was the Chief Minister who had one satellite phone. The Iridium batteries were discharged after a few hours and in that limited time, that is on 29th and 30th, he spoke to the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Defence Minister and all the Chief Ministers. The Defence Ministry was ready on 27th itself, but the weather was so foul and hostile that neither the Defence Minister nor any other Minister could come. Shri Jual Oram, the Minister of Tribal Affairs, could land only in Kolaikonda. They could not go further. They tried to go by chopper. ...*(Interruptions)*

The holocaust is worse than that of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I had the privilege of going to Hiroshima when I was part of 1994 Asian Games. Shri Prakash Shah

who was our representative in the United Nations took us to Hiroshima. When they explained that horrible experience, they said that when you go back to your country, please tell your people that no one should go through the kind of crisis that we went through in the forties. So, I also feel that no one should experience this kind of suffering which we went through. Civilization and habitation has been totally annihilated. There is no trace of forty-five or fifty villages. In some villages you find an old man, a little kid, and a middle-aged lady who are not related to each other. I saw dead bodies strewn around and there is no means for cremating them, excepting to push them into the sea or into the *nullah* which goes upto Padampur. Yet people are surviving with only what they have. There is nothing over their heads. One hundred miles inside, two villages were uprooted as if there was a *samudramanthan*. They were all tribals. The Scheduled Castes were staying in *chatayees*. What happened in Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Bhadrak and Balasore? Shri Anadi Charan Sahu was speaking about cashewnuts and coconuts. Those people who were above the poverty line have now become beggars and destitutes. They are now living below the poverty line. In Orissa 22 per cent tribals and 19 per cent Scheduled Castes were living.

Prof. Lakadawala had said that 58 per cent of the people were living below the poverty line. Somebody has to find out whether this percentage has increased or decreased. It is because many people must have died. History has the way of repeating itself. I do not blame anybody in particular. Right from Shrimati Indira Gandhi in 1965 to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, leaders are making pilgrimages to Orissa. We suffer from drought, flood and cyclone which have eroded the capacity of the people, and the State Government to mobilise the resources. Shri Ronajit Roy from *Anand Bazar Patrika* has written a very good book called '*Agony of West Bengal*' in which he has taken into consideration Bihar, Assam, Orissa and some parts of Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, and came to the conclusion that systematically the base has been eroded by natural calamities, by impractical and normative approach which we have been following right from the First Five Year Plan by equating these impoverished States with richer States like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kamataka.

So, the regional imbalances accentuated. Today, neither Shri Gamang nor Shri Vajpayee, if he goes as the Chief Minister of Orissa, will be able to bring up the State because the size of our Plan is Rs. 10,000 crore. Today, the loss is about Rs. 50,000-60,000 crore. As I said, statistics mean nothing.

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (Kendrapara): What can be done then?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: What can be done is, we should come together. Not only the State and the Centre which have already wittingly or unwittingly, but also the people of India have responded magnificently. Eleven to twelve Chief Ministers have responded. The Leader of the Opposition also got some of the State Governments to adopt districts which some people may like or may not like. My district is not one of them. I am quite happy. Angul is not one of them. If the people who have suffered are adopted by States, we should not dictate whether they should give us blankets or polythene or whether they should bring up schools or hospitals or help us in our Rabi programme. The Government of Karnataka have already started constructing two-storeyed building...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Nowhere.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: No, I beg your pardon. They have started constructing buildings, so that they can act as a shelter. So also, the Madhya Pradesh Government has printed a booklet, prepared a management plan in consultation with the State Government and the district administration. So, the valuable suggestions made by the hon. Members find place in Shri Gamang's announcement on what the Orissa Government wishes to do.

As far as rescue and relief work is concerned, it is over. One month has already passed. Let us not make parasites and beggars out of the society. Let us get into rehabilitation, restoration, re-building and re-construction. But what about the resources? Where from will the resources come? Can a tiny State like Orissa with impoverish tax base and with 35 years of natural calamity which has eroded it and broken the backbone of its economy do on its own? It cannot. It will be a wishful thinking. So, the Central Government has to come in and we should not stand on formalities of semantics.

I would just like to read out for the benefit of my good friend, the hon. *Raksha Mantri*. We did have a chat just before the debate. It is on declaring or not declaring a national calamity. I would quote para 9.17 of the Tenth Finance Commission Report. It says:

"We have considered the issue carefully and are of the view that a calamity of rare severity would necessarily have to be adjudged on a case-to-case basis taking into account..."

It is not a normative approach. It is a case-to-case approach. This calamity is the severest of the century.

"Inter alia, the intensity and magnitude of the calamity, the level of relief assistance needed, the capacity of the State to tackle the problem, the alternatives and flexibility available with the Plans to provide succour and relief, any definition bristles with insurmountable difficulties is likely to be counter-productive."

This is the catch word. The Tenth Finance Commission did not impose it on us. It left it to the Parliament and to the Government of India to use their discretion. We are grateful to the Tenth Finance Commission. I would quote para 9.18:

"Once a calamity is deemed to be of rarest severity, it really ought to be dealt with as a national calamity requiring assistance of support beyond what is envisaged in the CRF scheme."

It goes without saying that additional assistance, not only advance plan assistance but also grants, from the Centre would be required.

17.00 hrs.

It is because everything will have to be paid for like from Andhra Pradesh, we have got third reminder to pay up Rs. 8 crore. Prof. Venkateswarlu, I am sorry to say this. I have seen the third reminder myself only day before yesterday. So, I do not know whether the Minister of Defence is going to ask the State of Orissa to pay up for the petrol, oil, diesel and for the aid to civil authorities.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (*Visakhapatnam*): Sir, that is apart from the aid...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, it is not that a bill has been sent for everything. Certain things must have been supplied on cost.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, everybody is saying that Shri Chandrababu Naidu is God ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, he must accept that Shri Chandrababu Naidu is now being worshipped in Andhra Pradesh more than anywhere else...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. Shri Singh Deo, please conclude now. There are many Members and the debate has to be concluded by 6 o'clock.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, this is a very serious subject. We have been suffering for the last 35 years. This is not the first cyclone that we are facing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know that. That is why, you have been allowed for half-an-hour.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent certain things on their request. They have procured them and supplied. It is not that they have sent those things on their own...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

PROF. UMMAREDDY YENKATESWARLU: Sir, he is telling that there is a bill for Rs. 8 crore. I and the people of Andhra Pradesh will be happy if he could provide the details of this bill. He should tell what are the things for which this bill has been sent...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. He is not yielding.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: It further says:

"In actual effect many States did extend support to the affected State both in terms of financial grants and by sending material help and teams of doctors etc. We would like to place this urge for national solidarity in a moment of distress on a more formal basis in our scheme. We, therefore, propose that in addition to CRF in States, a National Fund for Calamity Relief should be created to which the Centre and the State will subscribe and which will be managed by National Relief Committee on which both the Centre and the States should be represented."

Again it says that the Minister of Agriculture would head this National Fund for Calamity Relief. But I am grateful to the hon. Prime Minister for having appointed hon. Minister of Defence as head of the Task Force. This does not find a mention in the Tenth Finance Commission report. What prevents them from calling it a national calamity when it has already reached international proportions. We have amended the Constitution 85 times in the last 49 years. Can we not change an English word and instead of treating it like calamity, declare it a national calamity. I appeal to the Government to do this.

So, while we are discussing about the cost which will be required to be paid, we have to ascertain the value of human life. It is different at different stages. Rupees fifty thousand ex-gratia was given for those who died in the Orissa cyclone and Rs. 5 lakh for those who died in Jammu and Kashmir. Recently, we have extended it to Kargil and to other places. The Indian Airlines and the Indian Railways give differently. The State Governments give differently. Is the value of life of a

person who died in the cyclone in the Eastern region of India is less? Or is he a second class citizen? Does he not pay taxes?

Does he not vote for us? Does he not participate in nation building? Why should we not care for the value of the lives which we have lost? It is human resource that we have lost. While the State Government has given what would be required to restore social, economic and administrative infrastructure, I do not know whether they have given anything or whether we are concerned with the human value, their dignity and the honour which we can get through development.

Holland also, in between two wars, was devastated by natural calamities. It is by sheer hard work that they have rebuilt the Zwoeder Zee. Today Holland is exporting electricity, it is exporting timber. So are the Scandinavian countries. They are exporting cheese, milk, butter and flowers of course. Therefore, we should think in a big way and get international aid. I do not know why we are suffering from a complex in appealing to the United Nations of which we are a member. We are not trying to get something with strings attached. I reiterate that the Central Government, State Governments, Armed Forces, Central Paramilitary Forces, Territorial Army, Nehru Yuvak Kendra, Anand Marg, Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh, schools, colleges, women, doctors, social workers and Indians who are living abroad in America and Germany have been sending aid, but there is an impediment. I see correspondence where they have said that they have to go through a lot of red-tapism.

Here is a newspaper cutting that I have. I would not like to say about anyone who is not here. "MEA Babus sat on US Orissa relief offer". This is the newspaper cutting from *The Indian Express*. This is from San Francisco, November 16. There are many such things on Italy, on Germany, on France and Japan. I do not know how reliable is the person who met us and told us this. I believe somebody tried to play down the tone of the UN in making an international appeal for India. We must rise above this pettiness and we must get international aid for this from the UN like Soviet Union, China and Turkey did. I am talking of the Tashkent earthquake in 1960.

I would like to make a few suggestions. We have to recall the lessons learnt from the history for the last 35 years. We have been negligent in that whenever there is a cyclone, we have debated and forgotten about it. Therefore, we are suffering today. You were my Chairman in the Standing Committee on Railway, when we said that for areas which were deficient in railways, there should be a separate Sub-Plan for Railways. It was

unanimously passed. I demand that that part of India which is impoverished, which is being impoverished every year, eroded, there should be a special Plan for those four or five States or that part of Eastern India which is beset with this sort of weather related or natural calamities, whether you call it national or not.

The second is about communication. Today we are living in an age of technology and information technology. There are sat-radios, sat-phones, uninterrupted power supply, computerisation and video conferences with every Collector like Shri Chandrababu Naidu has done. This should be introduced. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had introduced computerisation - I was his Minister for Personnel - to every District Collector through NICNET. Why can we not do this?

The third is, investment is directly proportional to employment and human resource development. Orissa requires a huge investment. This is how other States have developed because that will give employment and HRD. Some of the permanent measures are shelters and warnings which we have not followed even after cyclones, saline embankments, flood embankments, husbanding of water resources, husbanding, drinking water, extensive communications, network of roads, rail and air.

I have a suggestion to make to the hon. Defence Minister. There should be Armed Forces, particularly an Engineering Regiment, presence somewhere in that area. It was under consideration during Gen. Vaidya's time and Gen. Krishna Rao's time. But unfortunately, it never materialised. It will help you to get over the logistic difficulties and time and cost run-off, if you locate an engineering bridge or an engineering regiment.

Finally, coming to the training of personnel to handle such a crisis, everything is there in the relief code, whether it is in the Central relief code or State relief code. But no training is given. Therefore, there is time lag between the event and evacuation or relief. Every time we will be debating that there was inadequacy either by the State Government or the Central Government and while the debate will go on, the people will go on suffering.

I thank you very much for giving me the time to speak in this discussion.

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (Kendrapara): Sir, I am grateful that on the last 29th, when I raised this issue in this House, all my colleagues and the Government had expressed their concern about the seriousness of the cyclone. I belong to that unfortunate place. Kendrapara where nothing is left to call it a house

or a school or a college. I am personally and unitedly thankful to Shri Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and the people of Andhra Pradesh for their contributions, even though attempts have been made to erode their contributions. We will remember him always and we will also not forget the Defence personnel who saved our life. We have been hearing their contributions in the front but we have seen them when they rescued our people.

I have been hearing praise for the efficiency of the State Government and the Central Government. I wish they are efficient but the fact remains that even after a month of the cyclone, the promise of emergent relief within 15 days could not materialise and relief could not reach the people. In most of the places, relief did not reach people even till day before yesterday. It is 10 or 12 days since they got relief. That is the efficiency of the Government. Let us judge it from that angle. I admire that the Central Government is pumping food stuff and finance. With our own eyes, we have seen the piling up of food stocks coming from voluntary organisations. If there is a cricket match today, probably, the food stocks will outnumber the spectators present there. Even if each panchayat, right from Puri to Balasore, could have been provided one truck of food stocks today, then also the Government probably would have sufficient stocks at their disposal. That is their efficiency. But people do not have food to eat. Everyone, from rich to the poor, is in the streets and we call that we are efficient. Even after a month of cyclone, a piece of polyethylene could not be provided to the people and we call ourselves to be sympathetic and that we are doing everything for them. In what way we are helping them? Families have been washed away. In a family of 35 members, only a child of nine years is left. Who is looking after that child? How will he survive? With a heavy heart, I am telling that we are close to a famine-like situation in this coastal district. Kindly save us. I appeal to the Central Government and my friends to save us from this famine-like situation, inefficiency and deficiencies of this system.

it has been told that relief materials have been supplied in the shape of rice, *dal*, gur and *chura*. But in most of the blocks, where I moved from village to village, I do not know what has gone there - either rice or *chura*.

Sir, our ladies have been honoured with this kind of a relief saree. It is nothing less than a band-aid cloth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabhat Samantray, you should not display it.

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: We have become poor. I admit that we have nothing to claim today. But

[Shri Prabhat Samantray]

we have not lost our dignity. Is it the piece of saree to be supplied? We have been the victims of nature. But we have not committed any crime to get our food to survive. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: How have you got this? This saree was supposed to be given to the affected people. How did you bring the saree inside the House without giving it to the affected people?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: I have not committed any crime. We have got the poor quality saree...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I have given a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister on the fifth day when he visited Orissa. I have also submitted a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister on the 19th. After this, the situation is very bad. We have motivated our cultivators to go in for cultivation because we know that relief will not be the mode of our survival. But the water which is needed most for the cultivation cannot be made available because power supply could not be met till today to any part of the remotest place or villages. The lift irrigation points are such that nothing can be done. Diesel pumps are not available. This is the fourth cyclone. In 1971, when there was a cyclone, I remember that when the State Government approached the Punjab Government, the Punjab Government could provide us a large number of tractors because bullocks were not there to cultivate the field. The water sources are almost impossible to be used. The way electrification and power supply is going on, it is not possible to have power supply and lift irrigation points. And by December 15, if seedling is not done, the second crop is impossible to be raised. We want to survive. So, please help us to survive.

We have been told that some of the Public Sector Undertakings of the Government of India are coming to reconstruct and rehabilitate the people in different blocks of the devastated area. Some names of the Public Sector Undertakings have been mentioned. But those Public Sector Undertakings need relief for themselves. They have been asked to help us! I do not know what is going to happen. I am not going to name the Public Sector Undertakings nor the blocks they have been allotted. I wish the allottee and the Government of India will consider their priority in helping us.

The hon. Prime Minister, in his wisdom, has formed a Task Force and the Chairman of the Task Force is the Defence Minister. He has visited three times after taking over the responsibility. But I am sorry to say that we have never had a chance to talk to him about our plight...*(Interruptions)* But the fact remains that the

information that has been provided to him is not correct. Some area which is non-existent as a block or a portion of some area has been included as the portion of some other area so that the decision can be taken at the Government of India level. I do not know what are the parameters for all these things. What is wrong in consulting the Members of Parliament representing the people or the MLAs representing the people?

I have been listening to my esteemed colleague Shri Madhavrao Scindia. The day he, alongwith the Leader of the Opposition, visited my constituency and was talking to the people about the relief work, what made the Chief Minister to run to the helicopter and hide himself? Is it not a fact that right from day one, the people who are monitoring the relief operations in Orissa from the State Secretariat have never visited the cyclone affected areas? Is it not a fact that almost all the Ministers of the State Government have not visited the cyclone affected areas? They do not have the first-hand knowledge of what is happening there. They have been relying more on the reports of the BDOs, Tehsildars and Collectors. Based on these reports they have been providing information to the Central Government. First we have been made to die by the nature and if rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes are taken up on the basis of such reports, I am afraid, probably we will be forced to die in an unnatural way.

Sir, I have some suggestions to make which I have gathered after talking to the people as to how they want to survive, not on relief alone. I have already stated that water and seeds are the most important things that are required to start cultivation. Apart from that, the cost of diesel has gone up and with that cost it would be difficult for a farmer to continue the cultivation and gain something out of it. So, subsidisation of diesel is needed in those affected areas for those who will be going in for cultivation. Then, fertiliser should also be supplied at a subsidised rate to the farmers in the affected areas who will be going in for the second crop. Now, about a lakh acres of land have been salinised. The people are telling that it cannot be cultivated for years together and without that it is impossible to help these people. Unfortunately or fortunately, that is the coastal belt of my constituency and the constituency of Shri Kanungo. The people there have been doing fishing for generations now and the Marine Law has prevented them from going to fishing. I do not know how they will survive now. So, I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to, at least, relax it for six months so that they can go in for fishing, catch fish and survive because they cannot go in for cultivation in these areas.

Sir, there was a 'Food for Work' programme earlier. After this destruction I would suggest that a 'Food for Massive Plantation' should be taken up in all seriousness

to that people can go in for plantation as well as earn something and provide food to their families. Then, provision of low cost houses for the people in this area is urgently needed because in every four or five years there is a cyclone. I hope the Government of India will be considering to provide houses to the people below the poverty line a house like the ones under the Indira Awas Yojana. Then, the people who intend to have *pucca* houses can be provided a loan of Rs. 40,000/- with five per cent interest for 15 years so that they can have *pucca* houses and avoid this type of destruction in future.

Apart from that, a suggestion can be made to have a two-storeyed school in each and every village which can be converted into a cyclone centre during a cyclones and floods. It can be helpful to the people. They can take shelter in it and survive.

Apart from that, there are lakhs and lakhs of people who have survived because of their self-employment or engagement. They are doing pisciculture. They are having banana or coconut or betel leaf plantation, grocery shops, poultry, Jersey cows and tractors. There are so many people who have been living on their own. Now, they have lost everything. It is for the consideration of the Government of India to provide them soft loans ranging from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 1 lakh with less margin money and less rate of interest and the repayment could be within 15 to 20 years so that they are able to start their own business. Thus, they would not be a burden for the society as well as the Government.

Finally, there was a proposal from the Government of Orissa five years back for construction of a highway-cum-sea wall from Kakinada to Digha in West Bengal through Orissa which would be a protection from sea waves as well as used as a highway linking Calcutta and Andhra Pradesh. That proposal has been sent to the World Bank. If Government of India takes interest and that work is started and along side that road if in a width of one kilometre the mangroves are planted, probably the future will have scope for forests to fight the cyclone onslaught which is coming very often.

With these words, I appeal to all of you and the Government of India to help our people to survive and live and see the next millennium.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I understand that many speakers are to speak on this subject. I understand that the Prime Minister will intervene and the Minister of Agriculture will reply. There will be other Members of the Cabinet to intervene. So, I think, it will not be possible to complete the whole debate by six o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us see.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Would you please take the consensus before six o'clock or will it be after that so that one can plan the programme?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will decide it after six o'clock. Now, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee will speak.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Pansukura): Hon. Chairman, I have had the fortune of going to Orissa through Bhubaneswar. In the last village that we could reach, some of the women told me, "Mother, we do not want anything. Give us poison so that we can die." So, from this one incident, you can imagine what the misfortune of the Orissa people could be due to this super cyclone. Many of my colleagues have given figures. I do not want to go into that. One thing is clear that due to the rule that unless a person can be identified, he cannot be taken officially in the list of those dead persons. I understand that there are some problems. But if such a calamity takes place, then, the very existence of the dead bodies should be enough. When I was visiting the affected areas, I saw mass graves where human beings as well as cattle were being put together. And the military people were putting some material like sand or some other thing and getting them filled up.

You cannot imagine the tremendous foul smell that was there in the area. What has happened is very clear because most of the houses collapsed. These houses collapsed with the human beings trapped inside, with the result that so much of foul smell was coming. That required the services of the military personnel to clear the ways. They had to use not the ordinary saws but electrically operated saws. I have never seen such a thing in my life before. All the banyan trees were totally uprooted. Such was the tremendous impact of the cyclone. We have never seen such a calamity.

Many of my friends have already pointed out the areas of calamity. I do not want to repeat those points because of paucity of time, but I want to say some things which the Government of Orissa and people of Orissa told us and what help they require. Naturally, they do not want to die. They want to live and they want us to let them live. They want blankets immediately so that they can cover their heads and bodies; they want food to survive and food for work so that they can go in for the next crop. It is not only the question of food for work but in every field they require some help and we have to do that.

Apart from that, as you know, saline water has vitiated many areas of cultivation. Now, desalination has

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

to be done but at the same time, it is true that there are certain varieties of seeds and plants which can be used in that saline water and we have a special institute for all these. I would request the Government to ask those special institutes immediately to give such seeds or plants which can be put in the saline water. Of course, after that the desalination has to come.

I went to one of the villages where out of 180 children, school boys and girls, only three are alive. What do you expect? How could that school run in the future? It is not a question of only a building. Building, of course, is very much necessary. If there is no building, what will happen to those teachers because of this devastating situation?

There are many aspects which have to be gone into as I understood from seeing the place there. This question of planting trees is very important. One of my friends said which is very much true that for the last two years in the Jagatsinghpur area, there have been tremendous heat waves and this year with all the trees being out of the soil that heat wave will be very much more. So whatever plantation can be done should be done quickly.

Along with me was the Secretary of the *Uttakkal Mahila Federation*.

She was telling me that they were trying to buy some banana saplings and some papaya saplings because within three months they can grow and will give some relief. Can we not do that? Can we not find them all over the country from where we can get these kind of things? So, immediately some such things are necessary; then, immediately some more things are necessary; and ultimately these things are necessary. All these things have to be gone into with very serious attention.

Some of the things have already been mentioned by my friends. I am not repeating those, as I said. They are about saplings, tractors and buildings which will not collapse in future. In fact, I saw in one of the villages where some people are alive only because they could get on to the top of the two-storeyed building and all the others have died. Therefore, taking the area into consideration, these things have to be particularly given attention to.

As far as the Government are concerned, this is not the time for quarrelling. I am not going in for quarrelling either. All that I can say is that very many States have sent relief in their own way. We need not go on having a competition, as to who has gone first and who has gone second. The person could go first because they

have the experience of cyclone and they have a trained unit for dealing with such cyclone. It is no wonder that they could go first. I salute them. This is an important thing. One should understand it. These are the things which one has to learn in those areas. All over the country also we should have such cadres who can deal with cyclone in future because the cyclone in Orissa is not the last cyclone that we are going to have.

Therefore, I suggest that this cyclone should be declared as a national calamity. Why we are saying this is that once we declare it as a national calamity, then international aid can come in a big way. International Red Cross can come if it is declared as a national calamity. As you know, International Red Cross has a very big periphery of mobilising help from all the countries. Therefore, this is one of the most important points for declaring it as a national calamity.

I will not go into many other things. Providing drinking water, medicines, etc. are immediately necessary and these have already been mentioned. I need not repeat those things. But, as I said, that has to be done taking the priority into consideration as to which one has to be taken first; which one has to be taken next so that the greatest comfort can be given to the people, our own brothers and sisters, who are suffering so much.

I once again appeal to the Central Government to declare this as a national calamity because that will give us more help from all over the world. Therefore, let us not stand on formality or see what is written where because codes are not such that they are more important than human lives. To save the human lives, every code can be changed. If any code has to be changed, let it be changed. For that we are all with you and we all will be supporting it. Therefore, I hope that the Government will take into consideration and declare it as an event of a national calamity.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing cyclone again. At this time, the cyclone was of rare severity and it hit the coast of Orissa at a speed of 300 kilometres. It was like a bolt out of the blue for the people residing in the 14 districts, especially, the area between Paradip, Eresma and Jagatsinghpur. The constituencies Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara were severely hit and the life of the people has been completely disturbed there. It will remain like that for a couple of months if the Government both at the State and Central levels does not come to its rescue.

But, Sir, it has been seen that the hon. Prime Minister has reacted to this cyclone with utmost interest and with utmost attention. This Government has reacted and all

the Cabinet Ministers, with the Defence Minister at the head of the Task Force, have visited the area and have assessed the severity of the situation there. Accordingly, to get life on the track, they have taken immediate and severe steps on war-footing, and also money has been granted.

Sir, as you know, Orissa has been a land of natural calamities. The people are used to cyclone but they are not used to a cyclone of this severity. They were unprepared for it. The cyclone centred in around Paradip for six hours. When it came up at six o'clock in the morning, during that time, it was not that serious. But eventually, it developed into a severe cyclone at night at about 10 o'clock when the whole of Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara were sleeping. So, the people were taken unaware by it. Therefore, the Central Government has taken very severe steps to improve this.

We also thank the Army who could reach Kendrapara area on the 3rd and they did their due. When they reached there, without the Army, the State machinery was completely lost. They were stunned. The entire State machinery was stunned because I visited Paradip on the 3rd with the PTI reporter. There, the sight was horrifying. There were funeral pyres of 300-400 bodies. They were being burnt. Then, there was sea water everywhere. The only dry place was the express highway built in 1962 by the late lamented Biju Patnaik who was the then Chief Minister. That was the only place of shelter on the highway. Lakhs of people were on that highway. We had to negotiate that difficulty and reach Paradip. On reaching Paradip, it was noticed that there was no potable drinking water. There was not a morsel of grain. The doctors from Andhra Pradesh had just reached. The Army had just landed. It was only by the help of the Navy that the supplies were able to reach Paradip and Jagatsinghpur ports and other affected areas. Therefore, Sir, a long-term plan has to be drawn out. Already, the hon. Prime Minister and the Government have treated this calamity as a national calamity. There is no doubt about it. It is quite strange that from the Opposition Benches, views are coming to declare it as a national calamity. Statutes do not say that. The Statutes say that a calamity of this nature has to be dealt like a national calamity and it is being dealt like a national calamity. The international community has heard about this national calamity which is being dealt by the Central Government. The United Nations has reacted; the American Government has reacted to it; and the whole world has reacted to this calamity and accepted the fact that this type of human tragedy has to be curtailed because it is like the aftermath of a war. The aftermath of the war is evident in these coastal districts.

You will be surprised to see that there is no drinking water even today. Today, we salute the RSS and the Utkal Vipan Sahayata Samiti who are doing commendable work there. They are the people who are doing *Shavasanskar*. They are taking the bodies and consigning them to the flames. They are the people who are taking the cattle, the dead carcasses and consigning them to the flames. It is because of that, there is shortage of kerosene now. Shortage is being felt there. Therefore, day before yesterday, my Party had advised me to go to the district of Puri which has not been so severely affected but parts of Aslam and Kakatpur have been severely affected.

I was surprised to see that the State machinery there has completely failed till date. One month has elapsed after the cyclone, but today, if you go and ask the people there, they have only received five kilograms of rice in one month. So, this is how the State Government is functioning. It has completely failed. There is a scandal of purchase of polythene. So, all these things have to be thought with severity and a long-term action plan has to be drawn out to get back to normalcy in these areas. As pointed out by the hon. Members of the House, it has been seen that most of the land is inundated and devastated; no paddy can grow at places where three feet of saline mud is to be removed. That is a marathon task. Crores of paddy fields have been destroyed which is a mainstay of the agriculture of that area. If you go deeper, you will see that lakhs and lakhs of cattle have perished which is the mainstay of the agriculturists who depend on the plough. And if you go deeper into it, you will see that the farming community has completely collapsed.

Again today I thank my Government that every Minister who has visited Orissa has given a package—be it the Ministry of Surface Department; be it the Tribal Welfare; be it the Ministry of Defence; be it the Department of Small Scale Industries; be it the Ministry of Civil Supplies or the Ministry of Food. They have given a comprehensive package, but how do we go about the package? How is it that the package reaches the poor people who have been affected? That machinery is lacking in the State of Orissa.

I am sorry to say with a heavy heart that during this type of calamity, their internal party squabbles are going on. The people who should be working in the fields in Kendrapara and in Jagatsinghpur—what we gather from the people today—are at Delhi lobbying as to who the next Chief Minister would be. What a tragedy is this? The human misery is being felt not at Orissa but the human misery is being played with at Delhi as to who will be our next Chief Minister.

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

Sir, definitely our Government will come out with a very big package and this has to be dealt with meticulously, otherwise the misery can never be mitigated.

Sir, with these few words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, please allow some of the Members from the affected areas.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I join and associate myself with all the Members of this House to express, first of all, solidarity to the people of Orissa and to appreciate the role played by almost all the State Governments and social organisations in the recent crisis in Orissa.

Sir, on this matter, I think, all parties should join together in this House without any political acrimony from this or that side to evaluate the gravity of the situation and to respond as a nation to the cause of Orissa with total commitment and dedication for the revival and construction for future. This is a State which gave us a -- number of leaders in our national movement; this is a State which is producing talents, academicians and scholars; and this is a State which faced poverty year after year and yet things did not improve.

This is not the time to discuss politics. I shall confine myself only to a few of my suggestions at this hour.

Sir, the crisis is not done by the political parties, either at the Centre or in the States. Some say, it is an act of God. We also say, it is an act of God, but it is a natural disaster of a magnitude we have never seen before. As Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee was telling, some of the people of Orissa at the grassroot level are really crying and crying. They are saying: Let us get poison and die. So, we should understand their plight from that point. The Prime Minister who is here, has visited Orissa a number of times with his Cabinet colleagues. The leader of our party and the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has also paid visits and had several interactions. Today, if we all join together to respond to the situation and to offer constructive suggestions, that could perhaps liberate Orissa from the present crisis. We hope we shall commit and dedicate ourselves to that without taking any political mileage out of this issue.

Natural calamity, and national calamity are two different things. My dear colleague and friend Shri George Fernandes many a time was very vociferous on this issue - for which we appreciate him-that nobody in this country is supreme than the Parliament. The supremacy of the Parliament has always been adhered to. If there are some

shortcomings in any of the statutes, and if there is any lacuna anywhere for which we cannot declare this calamity as a national calamity to mop up resources, then what for are we sitting here in the Parliament? We can decide the course of action ourselves. We can give our observations and the Government can bring out an enactment as and when it feels necessary, if not tomorrow. Why can we not do it? The presence of the Finance Minister was very much essential today. I know the Prime Minister is the Head of the Government, but I also know that ultimately Shri Nitish Kumar, who is a very dynamic person and whom the Prime Minister perhaps thought it fit to bring from the Ministry of Surface Transport to the Ministry of Agriculture - and I thank him for his judgement has to respond so far as relief is concerned. But Shri Nitish Kumar cannot do anything unless the Finance Minister spells out his capacity in the Government at the moment, keeping in view the forthcoming Budget and then find out what additional resources the entire nation can mobilise, both from within and outside. I was told that after the earthquake in Latur, it was Shri Manmohan Singh who gave his wise advice at that time that granting aid and assistance through the World Bank at one per cent interest only for a forty-year slab was necessary for the rehabilitation of the victims. Such kind of talents and experts can be utilised in this hour of peril to see how resources can be mopped up to save Orissa from total disaster. Through you, Sir, I would like to address to the hon. Prime Minister to first find out the ways and means. If any semicolon, comma, full stop or a jugglery of words is preventing him to declare it as a national calamity, he can use his own wisdom and come forward with a proposal. The entire Parliament, without any deviation here or there, will stand by him on this matter. He should come forward with the proposal as to how and in what manner the Government can mobilise the resources. After all, we have paid extra levy after the war with Pakistan in 1971 for the refugees from Bangladesh. If the Government feels that they should come out with an additional levy, we will consider it with the patriotic responsibility. To defend the cause of Orissa and to mop up additional resources, I think the Government should come forward with that proposal and the Parliament will not get into any controversy in this matter because this, as I said, is a cause concerning the entire nation and is not limited to Orissa alone. Orissa is a part of India and it is suffering now. India cannot keep quiet at this hour.

17.54 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I further request through you that let the package not be a package in an isolated manner-

one from the Ministry of Surface Transport, one from the Railways, and like that. Let there be a comprehensive package for the economic revival of Orissa. The construction plan should come out of this package. Forget the plan estimate. Annual Plan estimate is a routine thing for Orissa. This crisis that has created this situation in Orissa is not requiring a plan assistance of routine nature.

It is a total reconstruction and revival plan for which our Parliament has to put the stamp of approval. If you come out here for that reason with a comprehensive plan of action and package and seek the mandate of the House, I think everyone of us, who is present here, will only *ditto* of what you require for the revival of Orissa. This is the second thing.

The first priority should be given to another aspect. I fully share the concern of other Members to desalinate the land for the salinated water is there. The agricultural crops, not for today but for many many years, are going to be lost.

I thank the Members from Orissa and through them the respective parties and especially the people of Puri for one reason. A lot of tourists from our State were locked up in Puri during the cyclone. I salute the people of Orissa that right from the poorest to the hotel owners they took care of all the tourists including dignity of women risking everything that they have without asking for any extra charges from them. They said: 'You have come to visit our State; we may be in a crisis but we will not put you in a crisis'. I heard it from many people. I can understand the greatness of the people of Orissa, especially the town of Puri as to how they stood by the outsiders when they lost everything at their own home.

Therefore, I strongly feel that we should not discuss politics at all in this subject. We should stand by the people of Orissa. Yes, when the elections come, let us score politics. But now we shall concentrate on the revival and restoration programme.

Sir, subjects like educational institutions, electricity, drinking water, health and industry have been dealt quite at length by many respected Members and various other groups. But the ideal plan could be, apart from your revival plan, to find out the experts. During the discussion on the subject in the previous Session, hon. Member Shri N. Janardana Reddy was dealing with the subject and he made a very noble suggestion. We may have everything. We may have the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. The armed forces and the 'Operation Sahayata' might be doing excellent job. We support them and salute them. But we still lack - at the end of this 20th century - the actual technical expertise for the crisis management

in such devastation like cyclone. We lack what is there in Hawaii, in the U.S. and in the Florida. Even in the recent disaster in Turkey, we are told the technical experts have evaluated a crisis management plan within 48 hours. We are lacking that expertise.

Therefore, this suggestion was mooted by Shri Janardana Reddy the other day. Can you think of or can the Government conceive of an idea of a kind of an institute of national disaster management, not for today but whenever we have such a situation on a regular basis?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: It is there in the Indian Institute of Public Administration. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, I am not saying that. There should be a permanent core group in the institute who will be expertising themselves for such a disaster to offer all kinds of support in a regular manner.

Hon. Prime Minister, by this time, we have already identified which are the cyclone-prone areas, drought-prone areas and flood-prone areas of this country. We can foresee the future of the 21st Century as to how we can cope up with this problem year after year with a more technical expertise and having regard to the fact that if this happens in Orissa today it might happen tomorrow in Andhra Pradesh. We will again start the same debate here.

I feel that at the cost of the life of the people of Orissa, whom I treat not as victims but as martyrs, we should think of the future. They are poor people. They died because we lacked the opportunities in scientific and economic fields for providing them help at the hour of a crisis. We all are responsible for that. But the magnitude is such that no Government on the earth can cope up with the problem instantly, whatever we may say politically and otherwise.

Therefore, Sir, I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to please have the views from the experts, to please have an understanding of the situation with much more sincerity and to please take up this matter seriously, not as a matter of challenge of N.D.A. *versus* Orissa Congress or a challenge of Orissa Congress for the B.J.P. Government or as a limited issue of Orissa but to take this as an issue of the nation and to stand by the people of Orissa as a whole. The Parliament will respond to it free from all political barriers to stand by the issue.

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees we can extend the time of the House by one hour to complete this subject.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI JAGANNATH MALLIK (Jajpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I have been hearing my hon. colleagues for the last four hours and I am not going to repeat all those things.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, will the Prime Minister reply today or tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKER: Today, you have to complete this subject.

SHRI JAGANNATH MALLIK: Sir, I am not going to repeat those things. Before I speak a few words on the subject that we are discussing, I extend my gratification to the hon. Prime Minister of India who has come in time, to help the people in distress and the sister Governments of different States, particularly Shri Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh who came forward with a helping hand in the hour of distress.

We have discussed many things. I want to bring it to the notice of the House, through you Sir, that the unprecedented cyclone and flood which took place in Orissa on 29th and 30th of October has devastated a large part of the State covering 10 districts. The velocity of the cyclone was about 260 to 320 kilometres per hour which uprooted almost all the trees in 10 districts and devastated about 25 lakhs thatched houses. That is the magnitude of the damage caused by the cyclone which was followed by flood. The flood, which came with tides of 25 feet height, swept over the entire coastline of five districts and devastated entire standing crop over 30 lakh hectares of land. Apart from these things, it has killed about one lakh people and over a lakh of cattle. The total loss caused by this cyclone and flood is worth about Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 70,000 crore. So, this is the magnitude of the devastation.

Therefore, the Government of India — as the Prime Minister has already extend his help - should continue its help till people are given a chance to restore their positions. We have been talking about many things. But who were the persons killed? Just before they died, they were engaged in providing us with food, with clothing, and with shelter to put our heads in. They were the persons who had met the unfortunate fate. Therefore, it is the moral responsibility of the Government to explore all possibilities. ...*(Interruptions)* It is the responsibility of the Central Government because the State Government has already failed.

Our hon. friend, Shri Scindia was telling 'let us not do politics'. I am one with him. But it remains a fact that for three days after the flood and cyclone, the State Government could not move. It is a fact that the police force of Andhra Pradesh could penetrate and go to the extreme end of affected areas before the State Police could reach there. Therefore, they had also started clearing the roads. Thereafter, the Army reached. Apart from the work done by the Army and the Police, as I know, the State Government did nothing for four days after the cyclone and flood. This is the real position.

Now, we have been talking many things about how to rehabilitate them, how to take up the restoration, next crop and all that. I have got definite suggestions to make regarding next crop. The next crop is very difficult to take up—I am sorry to say that no hon. Member could raise this point because seed is the basic element for the next crop.

Since ten districts, which are rice-growing areas, have been totally devastated, it is not possible to arrange for seeds which are suitable to our conditions. The National Seeds Corporation is the only Agency which can supply not only paddy seeds, but also the seeds of pulses and vegetables. Whatever seeds that the National Seeds Corporation could arrange, most of them, may not be suitable to our conditions because the agro-climatic conditions differ from place to place. That is why, whatever seeds could be arranged by the National Seeds Corporation must be put to test to find out whether they will germinate or not. That is the number one thing. Along with seeds, we have also to arrange water, electricity, pesticides, fertilisers etc. There are many things. The way the Government of India have started working, I know that it will definitely take all possible measures to see that bridges, roads, school buildings, canal embankments and all those other things that have been destroyed are restored within a possible time.

But the point is, where from the money will come? The State Government is so poor that the *per capita* income of people is Rs. 6.40 per day. The total income of the State Government, both from direct and indirect taxes, is only about Rs. 2,500 crore, whereas the salary component of the employees is about Rs. 3,500 crore. So, you can well imagine about the financial position of the State Government. In order to mitigate the miseries of the people and to meet the situation, it is only the Central Government and the sister Governments of other States which can come to their rescue. While discussing, I can visualise a scene where a crippled daughter is

crying before her mother asking for help. The Central Government is in the position of a mother, and the State of Orissa is in the position of a crippled daughter. Now, let the Government take a decision on how best they can help the State.

I appeal to the generous Prime Minister and all our esteemed friends in the House to make a consolidated effort by putting their heads together to see that the problem which we have been confronted with is eased out.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the discussion on this cyclone and floods of rare severity that affected almost 60 per cent of the people of the State of Orissa, all the hon. Members have depicted the picture or vividly described the damages, devastations as well as human loss caused during this period of crisis. I would like to be very precisely point out the problems being confronted by the people in my constituency. It is no doubt that the severity of the cyclone has been very much felt in Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, and in my part, that is, Bhadrak and Balasore Districts, the severity of the cyclone is not so much.

But the effect of flood was unprecedented in my area. This flood has caused widespread damages. This has been caused due to the mismanagement in the discharge of water from the reservoirs of the medium irrigation projects which are situated in my constituency. When there was incessant rainfall, the authorities of the medium irrigation projects could have foreseen the impact of this rainfall but at that point of time, they did not discharge the water from the reservoirs. Suddenly when the water level of the reservoirs increased alarmingly, the authorities discharged all the water and as a result of that all the low lying areas of Bhadrak district and some parts of Balasore were affected. The people of this area had never experienced flood of this type and so they were not prepared for this onslaught. As a result of this, the dwelling units, the thatched houses, the educational institutions, the canals, the L.I. points and the canals, that had been built over the years, have been destroyed. There is not a semblance of infrastructure left in my constituency and in the district of Balasore and Bhadrak.

Sir, my hon. friends here have expressed gratitude towards other sister States who have helped in the hour of crisis. The hon. Prime Minister also had visited the State and extended help for the reconstruction and rebuilding of the infrastructure. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member of this House as well as of the Central Government and the friends of the Opposition to the fact that funds are available, funds

would be coming and funds have already come but the question is, whether the machinery at the State level is prepared to execute the projects or not. Are they prepared to utilize those funds on time? That is the question.

Sir, the machinery of the State Government is hopelessly divided. I am sorry to say that the whole bureaucracy of the State is divided. Corruption has entered into the very polity of this system. Unless this is dealt with, unless there is a coordination between the different Departments, between the bureaucracy, whatever money is given, whatever funds are released by the Central Government, nothing can be done on time.

Sir, the very basis of our economy has been destroyed. Our economy is an agricultural economy. We depend on agriculture for our sustenance and our development. As I said earlier, our canals and the L.I. points and whole canal system have been destroyed. The total network of roads in the villages have been destroyed. One has to see the conditions of the educational institutions. One cannot believe the extent of damage that has been caused to the educational institutions. The Chairman of the Task Force, our hon. Defence Minister, had visited the spot thrice. But I do not know whether he has first-hand knowledge of damages at the grass-root or not. The State Government might have depicted a different picture but unless one sees those damages on the spot, one cannot realise the gravity of the situation.

Sir, so I would like to request the hon. Minister as well as the hon. Prime Minister, who is present here, to treat this problem on an emergent basis and very seriously and unless this is done whatever money is given to the State Government that cannot be utilised on time and rural infrastructure cannot be strengthened and rebuilt.

Sir, how can the people who do not have a house of their own manage to survive in this winter. It is a big problem. It is good that they are being provided with community kitchens. But they can live on these kitchens only for a short time. Unless they have a better alternative for their livelihood, they cannot survive in the long run. They can sustain themselves temporarily with the help of aid but they cannot live on their own for all time to come. Hence, raising the rabi crop is the only alternative.

I, therefore, request the Government immediately declare this natural calamity as a national calamity so that the Ministry at the Centre can monitor the whole thing, utilise the money properly, build the infrastructure there and save the lives of the affected people.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister to reply now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand. Reply by the Minister is more important than the discussion.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my views regarding two issues raised in the course of debate before a full fledged reply is given by my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture.

An issue has been raised regarding treating it as a national calamity. On 30th, when we were still trying to recover from the initial shock of severity of cyclone, I had made a public announcement, which I would like to quote-

[English]

"The Central Government had already released its full share of Orissa's Calamity Relief Fund for the cyclone of October 17-18. In response to the Government of Orissa's request for additional funds and treating as a national calamity..."

[Translation]

Attention must be paid to it. In the course of that very statement, I had said that we are treating it as a national calamity. I do not know if this is a national calamity, still it would have to be treated in the same way. I am not aware as to who should make an announcement in this regard. If I can make such an announcement, I have been saying since 30th that it is a national calamity and we are treating it as such. Money has been given from National Calamity Relief Fund. The Finance Commission Report referred to again and again also does not mention that a formal declaration is required to be made. It is mentioned therein that in the circumstances treated as such, monetary assistance should be given from the fund. The problem is that the fund does not have enough money. An immediate relief of 100 crore rupees was announced. Later on, money drawn from various other heads was also provided. A delegation of Congress Party led by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi approached us and we made it quite clear to them that Orissa will not be made to suffer on account of lack of monetary assistance in this regard. There is no need to discuss at length the nature or the form of the financial assistance. It has been made clear to the Chief Minister of Orissa as well and I would like to reiterate that paucity of money will not be allowed to come in the way of carrying out relief operations there. I do not wish to go into details of the monetary assistance provided thereafter, because money drawn from various

heads has been provided, is being provided and will be provided in the future as well. Orissa is our national responsibility and we will discharge our responsibilities. We are seeking co-operation from all quarters and will continue to make efforts in this direction. It should not be politicised. However we did not start politicising it. The issue of declaring it as a national calamity has turned into a political issue.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): We thank you for having accepted our request.

[English]

We are grateful that the Prime Minister had already declared it a national calamity.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: In all the declarations made thereafter, it was reiterated that this is a national calamity and we are treating it as such. The Congress Party was also asked to suggest some measures that could be taken up. We are also prepared to address any shortcomings or lapses noticed in this respect. This is a national calamity. Hence it is essential that the entire nation joins hand to face it. There is no need to make any declaration in this respect. Did we make any formal declaration of war when the war broke out in Kargil... (Interruptions) The country was at war and people were witness to it. The fury of nature in Orissa was also witnessed by people on their television sets as the news of all the calamities reach virtually every household through this media now-a-days. Hence I need not mention the names of all the State Governments which have extended help. It is true that Andhra Pradesh was the first such State which extended help and Punjab has also done a lot. Other States have also helped. The entire nation is trying to extend all possible help to the people of Orissa. International organisations have also been contacted for help. We are receiving financial assistance from these organisations. There is no lack of funds in Orissa. However, the mechanism needs to be strengthened in order to ensure the proper utilisation of the funds and the relief material provided so far. The army, the airforce and the navy were pressed into service by the Central Government wherever their assistance was required and any such requirement will be met in the future as well. We sympathise with the people of Orissa.

I have lost my sister. I can understand the pain underwent by a mother and in fact, such a tragedy has occurred in Orissa which is unprecedented. Dead bodies are being recovered and are lying unclaimed. Force has been deployed to perform the last rites of the dead. The

force personnel feel weary carrying the burden of so many dead bodies and wish to leave the area. This is the position. Still they are carrying on, hence this House should also fulfil its duty. I welcome the speeches of the members. This is not a political issue and it would not be converted into a political issue either. The only positive side of this calamity could be that this can be seen as an opportunity to rebuild Orissa and we should resolve to seize this opportunity and take up the challenge to rebuild Orissa. I feel that a collective effort is required to be made to achieve this end.

Someone had suggested the word—'rebuilding of Orissa'. We should make efforts for rebuilding Orissa so as to make it self-reliant once again. The elections are a regular feature. One should be concerned about the elections only after they are announced. There is no need to worry about it right now and all the parties should bear this in mind. Caution is required to be exercised. The entire nation is prepared to extend help to the people facing this calamity. The need of the hour is to utilise that assistance and resolve the crisis of Orissa.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Narasaraopet): Sir, I want to make one small request to the hon. Prime Minister. It is always being requested by the State which suffers the natural calamity to declare that calamity as a national calamity of rare severity. But there is no laid down action plan to follow the national calamity. If the hon. Prime Minister or the Government of India declares at least, now, after seeing the Orissa's plight, let us have a plan of action to follow as to what type of assistance, relief and rehabilitation should be given and what would be the participation from the Government of India and the State Government.

A study should be made into this aspect. You have appointed a Task Force. Perhaps, you have entrusted this to the Task Force.

Then, there is no early cyclone warning system. Normally, it is not there. I mentioned this to the hon. Prime Minister also. There is a National Institute of Disaster Management but it is not working as a machinery. It is only a kind of an academic institute, which is conducting seminars etc. An early warning system should be set up. The Ministry of Agriculture is the authority to do it but it is not coordinating this for the last four years. If it had been there, a warning could

have been given at least one week earlier. This is about rescue, relief, rehabilitation and disaster management. When you declare it as a national calamity...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I have declared it. What more declaration do you want?

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: You have declared it as a national calamity of rare severity but nobody knows what action is being taken. Shri George Fernandes is involved. He is there as the hon. Minister of Defence and the Chairman of the Task Force. But there is no permanent system. The hon. Prime Minister has to establish a permanent system.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: That is right.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: (Dausa): Sir, all of us appreciate the feelings and the whole House was on one voice today on declaring it a national calamity and the hon. Prime Minister has very rightly said it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, to show our concern as the Parliament of the nation, I have a suggestion to you. All of us have some quota. I think, all of us can donate Rs. 10 lakh from our quota to the Orissa Relief Fund. Thus, we will have nearly Rs. 100 crore and it will help them further. I think, the House will agree that to show our sympathies to the Orissa people, we can have Rs. 10 lakh from each Member of Parliament, from our quota on a discretionary basis. I think, if each of us can donate Rs. 10 lakh to the Orissa Relief Fund, that will be a very kind gesture of this Parliament. This will be very good for the State of Orissa. It will help the State.

[*Translation*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): The Hon'ble Speaker has already made an announcement regarding donation of one month's salary. You have given a suggestion to give rupees ten lakh by each Member of Parliament from the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). There should be no objection in accepting it and I am sure that rules will not become hinderance in it.

[*English*]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The hon. Speaker can give a ruling. He has the power. As a special case, he can do this and this will be the right gesture for Orissa. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Prime Minister, Sir, before the end of the Session, will you come out with a total action plan for the revival or rebirth of Orissa or the Orissa package so that the entire nation will be taken into confidence. Will you kindly come forward with your package for Orissa?

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything more from the Minister concerned? Is it sufficient? Or, do you want to add something more?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to add anything?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the course of discussion Members have generally narrated the pathetic situation prevailing over there and thereafter some points were made. During the course of discussion the opposition has laid more emphasis on declaring it a national calamity. The Prime Minister has made his submission categorical about it. The report of the Tenth Finance Commission was being referred to here and if the said report is gone through thoroughly, it will be clear that there is nothing like declaring a national calamity.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Shri Nitishji, please do not complicate that now. The hon'ble Prime Minister has made it clear.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Minister, the Prime Minister has made it clear.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: He has made it very clear. This is the main issue of discussion. After going through para 9.17 and 9.18 of the report of Tenth Finance Commission, the Union Government have done more than what was the possible. The hon'ble Prime Minister had said on the first day itself that we were taking the cyclone which hit Orissa badly as national calamity and the Government of India have taken several steps to provide relief to the Orissa Government. Every possible steps were taken to provide immediate relief and the Prime Minister has constituted a task force under the chairmanship of the Defence Minister Shri George Fernandes to suggest permanent solution to the problem of cyclones and for reconstruction of Orissa. That task force has decided to create Orissa cyclone reconstruction authority.

Reconstruction of Orissa should be done through that authority. The said task force has also decided to reconstruct Orissa with the resources received from all over the country. The task force will submit its full report. The task force will give suggestions as to what can be done on permanent basis. If you permit me, I would like to quote the terms of reference of the task force.

[English]

The Task Force will have the following specific Terms of Reference:

- To prepare a comprehensive action plan for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the cyclone affected areas of Orissa which would include both short-term and long-term measures.
- To make recommendations regarding the mode of implementation of the plan including its funding, participation of Government as well as non-Governmental organisation, etc.
- To make recommendations regarding the steps that need to be taken in other areas of the country which are prone to such calamities.

The relief operations being undertaken by various Ministries will also be coordinated through the task force.

[Translation]

These are the five specific terms of reference of the task force. The discussions that took place here comes under it, be it regarding permanent, short term and medium term solution or relief operations, all are being coordinated through this Task Force. All steps are being taken. If the House desires, we can also mention steps that have already been taken so far and the immediate response on them. Four meetings have been held of the Task Force after it was set up. According to the decision taken in these meetings accountability has been assigned to different departments. Planning Commission is to look after some work, Ministry of Agriculture is to take care of some other work and something else is to be taken care of by other Ministries. All this work is being done expeditiously. There is no scope for complaint in it. The Government have done everything possible and the State Government have not been criticised in any way. Given the magnitude of cyclone and the situation that exists now, it is but natural that situation of trauma and shock prevails there. Since the situation is changing gradually, relief works are picking up and every possible assistance is being provided to the State. None of the Hon'ble Members has mentioned about anything which has not

already been done there. The control Room set up in the Ministry of Agriculture monitors every situation created due to cyclone or otherwise and the State Government was warned in advance. It is needless to tell that all this started from 25th and the entire House is aware of it as to how the depression was forming in Andaman and Nicobar Island and the direction in which it was moving. Warnings were issued as per the information received particularly via the satellite images which were being received through internet. Warnings were being issued as per the informations being given by the meteorological department. As such problem was being experienced in evacuation. Evacuation was ordered but a number of people were not ready to leave their respective places easily. Nobody can be forced to leave his or her place. Therefore are some lapses and shortcomings which need to be looked into. What method should be adopted to persuade people for evacuation? It is the responsibility of the State Government to warn the people in advance and warning is being given there. All means should be deployed to evacuate these people. These are some of the points which show that there are some shortcomings in our entire system and the task Force set up for this purpose will consider this mechanism with all other things. As such we will see as to what can be done on a permanent basis and whether any structure can be erected as is being demanded. In this regard action has already been taken. The Task Force has decided that every family should have at least one room made of concrete structure which should remain unaffected to take shelter in such a situation. Steps are being taken accordingly. All these steps are being taken by the Government agencies as well as outside agencies. Relief material is being received from all quarters. At that time, I was the Minister of Surface Transport and I went to Paradeep Port. I saw there several trucks loaded with relief material.

Some trucks belong to the Punjab Government and some to the Haryana Government. All of those were laden with foodgrains. There was no space to store the foodgrains. There is no dearth of relief material. The question was as to how the foodgrains were to be properly supplied to the people. Ultimately, this work is to be done by the State Government or the other agencies which can help in the relief operations. All the people were engaged in it from all sides.

Now comes the question of adoption. I would surely like to say something about it. You mentioned about many State Governments from whom help was received. It was published in the newspapers as to which state Government will adopt which district and help it recover. When this thing was brought to our notice then a project from the Ministry of Surface Transport was launched. It

was decided that the approach roads of all the villages in the blocks adjacent to the Paradip port should be repaired and strengthened. An institutional building in each village should be constructed in which there should be a source of water and for that a tubewell should be sunk in each of these buildings. These buildings should be so constructed as also to work as cyclone shelters. This has happened for the first time that some foreign agency was working in concrete terms. The assistance is being given by the Centre and the State Governments is also formulating its policies and programmes. The outside agencies too should think in concrete terms that whatever they want to do should be specifically done. Thereafter the Task Forces directed all the P.S.U.s that they should go to a block each and take up a specific task. The immediate requirement is as to how food should be sent to the people to feed them, how blankets should be provided to guard against cold and how polythene sheets should be made available for their roofs. But after this, there is a need for their restoration. The roads should be restored. Responsibility should be taken by someone for the restoration of a specific number of village roads. Merely saying that we have adopted will not do. How was it adopted what is the meaning of adoption, what will be done after adoption- whether they will repair the roads or the houses of the people or the school buildings or a community building or construct a cyclone shelter, there should be a specific proposal. The need of the hour is to come forward with specific proposal. This kind of specific proposal came from the contribution of Major trust and they took over the Project. I am mentioning it because the Task Force is looking after all these things. It will also advise the State Government after collecting the resources from all sides. The consideration over the setting up of Orissa Cyclone Reconstruction Authority is going on. All these works can be done through this agency with the help of the State Government. In such circumstances the co-operation of all is needed.

Some hon'ble Members were also complaining that a medical team which went to Orissa did not get adequate co-operation there. They were referring to a particular corporation. I do not want to go into these things. There can be lack of co-ordination and every person responds differently. People tend to think differently. This must come to an end and a co-ordinated effort should be made with a concerted thought. Such steps should be taken.

Some points which are directly related to the Government have been discussed in the House. One of them is that the salinity of the soil has increased due to cyclone. The tests at the macro-level reveals that the level of salinity is not so high as to threaten the sowing of the next crop. But even then ICAR has been asked to conduct the analysis at micro-level. They will also

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

analyse that. Under the present circumstances this problem may be localised in a few pockets but by and large this problem is not so serious. Salinity level which should be in the soil and which the soil can tolerate is within these limits and rabi crop can be sown. As far as the question of seeds is concerned, the seeds of whatever crop are required, Central Government will take full initiative in making available these seeds. This work is already in progress. As far as the issue of cattle-feed is concerned, sources are being identified and conveyed to the State Government after receiving the requests. They did not demand any cattle-feed but have simply asked for the help in identifying the source. That is being told after identifying it. State Government has been trying to procure it on its own. They will utilise all the assistance which is being provided to them. All the relief material was carried free of cost by the Railways and the Airlines. This way, help was provided not in one but in many ways. If you look at the assistance altogether, whatever has been done by the Central Government, was discussed here. If this is not a national calamity then what it is, about which so such efforts were made. The Calamity Relief Fund is already in existence on the basis of the recommendation of the Ninth Finance Commission. On the basis of the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, the Corpus of the National Fund was created.

Initially it was to start functioning with a capital of Rs. 200 crores and every year Rs. 100 crores were to be added to it. 25 percent of its share is contributed by the State Government while remaining 75 percent is shared by the Centre. This way, a corpus worth Rs. 700 crores was thought to be created but within two and a half years, the whole amount was utilised. Already much higher amount has been spent for this purpose.

There is National Fund for Calamity Relief. A committee of N.D.C. was constituted under the chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture, comprising the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Finance Minister, and the five Chief Ministers nominated by the Prime Minister every year to decide about the expenditure of the National Fund for Calamity Relief. The Committee decides as to which State/States will be the beneficiary, of the National Fund for Calamity Relief. There is a set procedure for disbursement of the Fund. A state seeking to avail of fund should submit a memorandum to this effect. After receiving the memorandum, the assessment team of the Centre visits the State and gives its report to the inter-ministerial group which in turn gives its suggestions to the National Calamity Relief Committee and its suggestions are put up before the Committee. The Committee decides at last as to how much amount is to be given to whom. This is the procedure.

Before this, the money was being given according to this procedure. But Orissa issue came up which can be termed as the rarest of rare severity. It was a super cyclone. Therefore, in view of the severity of this cyclone, hon'ble Prime Minister decided to donate Rs. 100 crores without going into the procedural formalities. Again, when Mr. Prime Minister went there, he announced to give a further aid of Rs. 100 crores and, after that another amount of Rs. 300 crores has been announced. The Chief Minister of Orissa met the Minister of Finance and thus Rs. 500 crores have been given.

Apart from this, when hon'ble Prime Minister had gone there on 17-18th, he announced an assistance of Rs. 250 crores as a part of Advance Plan Assistance. Then again he announced a further assistance of Rs. 200 crores. This way Rs. 450 crores have already been announced. Other than this the Department of Rural Development has already released an amount of Rs. 273.65 crores.

HUDCO has started its work of reconstructing and renovating the Houses which have been destroyed or affected due to cyclone. HUDCO has sanctioned Rs. 487.50 crores as loan assistance. Besides, P.S.U.'s are also working there.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): What is the rate of interest?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The rule of the HUDCO which is in existence, is still applicable. It is not a new thing but they have been giving such big amount of money there. With that much money, more than one lakh, approximately one lakh and thirty to thirty five thousand houses would be constructed. I will also tell you the exact figure.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Hon'ble Minister, Sir, you please tell us about the steps taken or to be taken by you in combating this calamity, I appreciate the steps and the work done in this regard by the Government. But leave apart the issue of plan-assistance, that kind of routine support is given to each State Government. The way, Mr. Prime Minister talked about the Calamity and the amount of funds available with you reflects that the resources to manage the crisis are not enough but are far less than required. Therefore, your job as nodal Ministry is to assess the damage and to recommend to the Government about the assistance amount. I want to know how much amount and resources are required.

[English]

For the revival scheme with the task force,

[Translation]

Have you taken any decision in that regard or not? If you have taken such a decision then how much money will it required and do you have a separate plan in this regard or not, tell all this to this House so that the House may co-operate with you in this regard.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: What you are saying is correct but the procedure about which you are talking about, will be followed later on. The State Government will submit its memorandum and the ultimate assessment of the damage will be told thereafter. On the basis of that only, final decision would be taken. The hon'ble Prime Minister has taken this decision by relaxing the present procedure and the Central Government have taken all these steps.

Nobody can claim that the damage through cyclone which has occurred in Orissa can be completely controlled and complete reconstruction can take place. But all the available resources are being utilised and the steps which have not been taken till date, are being taken in the case of Orissa.

About HUDCO I was saying that assistance would be provided for the construction of one lakh thirty five thousand houses. Thus there is hardly any step which should have been taken but we have not taken. Whether it be the issue of granting soft loans to farmers or deferring the repayment of loans or similarly be it the issue of waiving the recovery, many steps are being taken to provide relief to the people.

Apart from it, the entire population of an area affected due to cyclone, has been considered below the poverty line and 20 kg. of foodgrains is being provided to every family every month. It has been said here that the assistance which is being provided to the people by considering them below poverty line should be provided apart from the assistance which is provided to them as the assistance in terms of half rate of the commodities. All the people should also be given this assistance...(Interruptions) I do not want to be dragged into this debate. I would only like to tell that whatever assistance is being provided to the people should reach the needy people...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Your approach is correct. Whatever is being given is less than required. In such a situation, the 20 kg. foodgrains provided to feed a family is not adequate. It is adequate in your estimate but 20 kg foodgrains are not adequate for a family.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is not an issue of giving less. Under the scheme it has been done taking in view everything. Other than this, the efforts which are necessary are being made. Thus, all possible help is being provided by the Central Government.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, so far as affected areas are concerned, nobody is getting rice at Rs. 4 a kilogram and no family is getting 20 kilograms of ration per month. I am telling you a fact. This thing needs to be corrected. Will you do something in this regard? Will you take up the matter with the State Government?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Hon'ble Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs had gone there too and whatever was sought by the State Government has been given to them. The question which you are raising here, you can also take it up at your level.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Why do you not do this?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Since you are raising this issue then I would say from the Government side that you take up the responsibility of sending to the people whatever is being given by the Government.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Do you want to cover up the deficiency of the State Government?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The State Government have not asked for more than this. Whatever has been asked

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

for, is being provided. You do not say these things while you are sitting here...*(Interruptions)* The Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs had gone there and the things which were discussed and demanded have been provided. Apart from this, whatever proposal is brought before the Government, help will be given by it in that regard by not assuming it to be the final help. Task Force has been looking after this thing. The Government will decide as to who should be provided the short term, medium term and long term assistance and what course should be adopted for it.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is discussing a very serious subject. Language from the core of the heart is being used from both the sides but the hon'ble Minister has used the word 'Safai' with reference to the Prime

Minister's speech. The word 'Safai' does not sound good so it should be expunged. As all of us have been speaking from the core of our heart, so the word 'Safai' does not sound good. Further, the discussion has assumed seriousness owing to the fact that all of us have been speaking our heart out.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not 'Safai' but what it means is that he has not concealed anything.

[English]

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 30th November, 1999 at 11.00 hours.

18.50 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, November 30, 1999/ Agraphayana 9, 1921 (Saka)

**Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)**

...

Monday, November 29, 1999/Agrahayana 8, 1921 (Saka)

...

Col./line	For	Read
(v)/4 (from below)	Arya, Dr.(Shrimati) Anital (Karol Bagh)	Arya, Dr.(Shrimati) Anita (Karol Bagh)
(vi)/last	Chatterjee, Shri Somanth (Bolpur)	Chatterjee, Shri Somnath (Bolpur)
(vii)/14	Gawali, Kumari Bhavana Pundikrao (Washim)	Gawali, Kumari Bhavana Pundlikrao (Washim)
(ix)/3	Khanna, Shri Vindo (Gurdaspur)	Khanna, Shri Vinod (Gurdaspur)
(ix)/20	Manjhi, Shri Parsuram (Nowrangpur)	Majhi, Shri Parsuram (Nowrangpur)
(ix)/21	Manjhi, Shri Ramjee (Gaya)	Majhi, Shri Ramjee (Gaya)
(x)/3 (from below)	Pawan, Dr. Sanjay (Nawada)	Paswan, Dr. Sanjay (Nawada)
(xi)/6	Patel, Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhabhai (Daman and Diu)	Patel, Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhbhai (Daman and Diu)
(xiv)/6	Singh, Shri Tailakdhar Prasad (Kodarma)	Singh, Shri Tiliakdhari Prasad (Kodarma)
(xv)/12	Vukkala, Dr. Rajeshwaramma (Nellore)	Vukkala, Dr. Rajeswaramma (Nellore)
19 & 20/11	6418	64.18
62/2	(a) to (c)	(a) and (c)
62/29	(c)	(b)
76/7	64.6	64.4
79/last	(c)	(d)
103 & 104/5	35000	350000
133/8	(c) to (d)	(c) to (e)
247& 248/9	1,00,00,000/-	1,00,00,00/-
320/28	AFTER " SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT" ADD will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state :	

© 1999 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Ninth Edition) and Printed by M/s. Jainco Art India, New Delhi.
