

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Second Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. II contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 2, 1999/Agrahayana 11, 1921 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. 61.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir, I brought to your notice a very important matter pertaining to late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, former Leader of the House, and also Mahatma Gandhi. I think, you will react on that.

MR. SPEAKER : We will take it up after the Question Hour.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Anti-Mine Vehicles

+  
\* 61. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:  
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the army has bought a number of anti-mine vehicles at double the cost from South Africa which are twenty years old, refurbished and repainted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the terms and conditions prescribed for making the deal?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

Army Headquarters had projected that emergent acquisition of a suitable vehicle to protect troops, against the Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) was considered imperative in view of the escalated use of such devices by the insurgents, leading to ever-increasing casualties and effect on troops' morale due to lack of a suitable response thereto.

Technical analysis of the characteristics of the different

vehicles, explored through our Military Attaches (MAs) abroad established that Mine Protected Vehicle (MPV) CASSPIR of M/s Reumech suited best the requirement of Army for a Mine Protected Vehicle and that the other vehicles were not viewed suitable on considerations of cost, mobility, protection level, carrying capacity and delivery schedule. After extensive trials in India, AHQ recommended acquisition of refurbished MPVs CASSPIR from M/s Reumech.

Techno-commercial offers were, accordingly, invited from the identified vendor and after their scrutiny and appraisal, negotiations, spanning over six meetings, were held with the vendor by a duly constituted Price Negotiation Committee in the Ministry of Defence wherein a unit price of US\$ 1,25,000 was reached, in case 90 vehicles were to be purchased, against the original, budgetary quote of US \$ 1,53,000 offered in case 100 vehicles were to be purchased.

The negotiated price was considered reasonable when compared to the indicative price for two types of other new Mine Protected Vehicles, reported as US \$ 700,000 and US \$ 280,000.

Two contracts have been entered into with South African firm, M/s Reumech, for procurement of 90 and 75, refurbished Mine Protected Vehicles (MPVs), alongwith Engineering Support Package (ESP) thereof. Vintage of the selected vehicles ranges from year 1981 to 1988. Standard, Performance & Warranty Bonds, in the form of Bank Guarantees, from first class banks, duly confirmed by the State Bank of India, have been obtained from the vendor, which are liable to be encashed, in case the contract is not fulfilled or the vehicle does not perform as per the laid down specifications during the warranty period of 10,000 km or 12 months, whichever is earlier.

[Translation]

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Officers of the V.R.D. at Ahmednagar Maharashtra had produced missiles launching vehicles of good quality and the V.R.D. had also produced vehicle for carrying the Prithavi missile, then whether this institute could not produce anti-mine vehicles ?

The Abdul Kalam Committee has given indication that India is self-reliant in producing tanks. Then what was the need to purchase armoured vehicles from other countries ?

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, the kind of vehicles that are needed for protection from mines have not been produced in India so far. But it is true that the Ordnance Factories have been making an attempt, and the first vehicle will be available for trials this month. The vehicles that we have now secured from South Africa, were negotiated in 1995

and over a period of time their trials etc. were taken and they were purchased because they were desperately needed by the Army in counter insurgency operations.

[Translation]

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Had the senior officers suggested not to purchase these vehicles ?

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : No, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been properly replied to. My question is whether these anti-mines vehicles were purchased at double the prices and whether the Government did not know that these were old ones at the time of purchasing them ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these vehicles have not been purchased at double the prices. These have been purchased at the minimum prices. These were purchased at a nominal price since these were the vehicles used earlier for security purposes in South Africa.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these are twenty-year old vehicles. The cost is not very important, but their performance is more important. When compared to our Defence Budget, the cost of the new vehicles, that is US 700,000 dollars per vehicle is not very much. So, they should have gone in for new vehicles, if they really wanted to perform the mine operations. The new vehicles would have also helped defence production. With the latest technology, at least, they can see, understand and produce good vehicles.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Defence Minister whether it is possible to buy, even now, new vehicles by scrapping the old ones.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, the vehicles that have been secured or procured are eleven to eighteen years old. They have been refurbished and their engines have been overhauled as they keep coming. We have so far procured 90 of them. At the moment, 60 of them are operational in Jammu & Kashmir and in the North-East -45 of them in Jammu & Kashmir and 15 of them in the North-East. They are effective vehicles and are in use.

Insofar as the question of price is concerned, two other vehicles that were available, the cost of one of them was US 280 thousand dollars and the cost of the other one was US 700 thousand dollars. We got these vehicles for US 125 thousand dollars.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Cost is not important.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, if we had gone in for new identical vehicles, then the problem was that the availability would have taken a lot of time and the Army was in desperate need of these vehicles and the need was articulated again and again by the Army Chief and also by our men who are everyday having to fight in the North-East and in Jammu & Kashmir where IEDs are one of the main weapons which are used by the enemy against us.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Defence Minister that not only South Africa but many countries of the World produce such a system and this has been the practice that whenever we purchase any equipment, first we make evaluation about such equipments in various countries and after making comparative evaluation we take a decision under a laid down procedure as to which equipments would suit most as per our requirements. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the laid down procedure for this purpose has been fully followed and whether any evaluation has been made about the equipments of the countries where these are produced. If so, kindly furnish a detail of that.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Army felt need of these vehicles, they first asked their Ministry Attaches to inform them about the countries which produce these vehicles. I mean to say, wherever, our Military Attaches are there and the countries which produce such vehicles, they should inquire about them and send the information and as per the information received, it was stated that America, Britain, Finland and Switzerland along with South Africa produce these vehicles. As I told earlier that in other countries where these vehicles are produced, the prices are very high and this had become evident. And the other important point was the type of vehicles which we needed, the terrains wherein we were fighting, the condition of roads in Jammu-Kashmir, the difficult and steep hills and the situation in the North-East, in these situations we needed such vehicles which were light in weight and could move fast on roads and capable of moving even on narrow roads. Keeping all these things in view, the Army decided that the vehicles from South Africa were adjudged the best and their prices were also very low. Trial and test of this vehicle was also conducted and after conducting trial and test, a decision was taken in 1997 that the vehicles should be procured from South Africa.

[English]

#### Manufacturing of Coaches

\* 63. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai has built stainless steel rail coaches:

(b) if so, the cost thereof;

(c) whether the railway have worked out its market strategy evaluating its export potential; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cost of each stainless steel A.C 2 tier coach is approximately Rs. 1.12 Crores.

(c) Yes Sir. Sufficient potential exists for manufacture of stainless steel coaches for both domestic as well as export market.

(d) There have been tender enquiries for Stainless Steel Coaches from Bangladesh Railways and Sri Lanka Railways in the past. A number of Railway systems abroad use Stainless Steel coaches. It is proposed to explore the potential for export of these coaches through RITES & IRCON, PSUs under the Ministry of Railways.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether the primary Integral Coach Factory, Perambur, Chennai, would be allotted more funds at least now, after their new innovative and viable venture; whether ICF, Chennai would regain its preeminent position which it lost by being neglected and sidelined after the establishment of Kapurthala Coach Factory, if so when; and whether it is a fact that the profit-making pioneering ICF, Chennai is not getting more orders from its parent organisation, the Indian Railways.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, we appreciate the concern of the hon. Member over ICF, Chennai. We have four coach manufacturing factories in the country. While ICF, Chennai, and Kapurthala coach factory are under Indian Railways, the coach factories run by BEML and Jessop are in the public sector. We started manufacturing coaches at ICF in 1955. They have produced at least 29,545 coaches till October '99. ICF, Chennai is not neglected at all.

The questions asked related to the market potential of stainless steel coaches. These coaches are very expensive. One stainless steel coach costs about Rs. 1.12 crore while the corten steel coaches which we use now costs only Rs. 90 lakh. That means a savings of Rs. 22 lakh per coach. However, if we get the demand for stainless steel coaches for export, we would utilise it.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : I thank the Minister of Railways for her reassurance that ICF, Chennai, is not being neglected. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government would make use of the potential for production and export available at ICF, Chennai, to diversity further by allocating more funds during the maiden Rail Budget of the Minister; whether ICF itself can set up coach maintenance units in various important nodal railway junctions like my constituency Dindigul.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I appreciate the

concern of the Member. Every Member wants something to be done to his constituency from the Railways. I appeal to all the Members that let us maintain the existing facilities first. I say this because today the Railways are facing acute crisis on safety, security and punctuality fronts. Less than the desired level of money is invested in safety, security and punctuality aspects of the Railways. I think these should be restored first. Let us maintain the existing facilities first. Whenever possibility is there to do more, we will do it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that there is a long-standing demand from the people of Kerala and also an offer from the Railways to start a coach factory in Kerala ? If so, what is the stand of the Government now on this ?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, the question relates to stainless steel coaches. I need a separate notice for the question asked by the hon. Member. However, Kerala is a very educated State and I met the Chief Minister of Kerala also. We discussed things in detail but I cannot disclose them here. If the Member wants, I can send them in writing to him.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Sir, in Amritsar, there is a very big and modern railway workshop which has been manufacturing wagons and coaches. In the 1965 War, they even repaired our tanks. But now, this workshop has been turned into a repair workshop.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether they are going to utilise the facility available in that very big workshop located at Amritsar because they can help the Railways in building wagons and coaches ? So, will the hon. Minister consider placing orders with the Railway workshop of Amritsar.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, it is really our intention to strengthen the public sector units, and production units in our own country. Of course, we want to give more importance to our indigenous production. Though whatever the hon. Member has said about the wagon industry is not related to this question, yet I may reply to him that if there is a possibility, we will look into it.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very heartening to know that we are making such wonderful coaches both for domestic use and for export market. The Railway Ministry deserve our praise for that. While we are on the topic of manufacturing coaches, may I ask the hon. Railway Minister whether the Railway Ministry has received proposals from Germany and Austria for manufacturing coaches for us. If so, whether the Railway Board Members have visited the two countries and have taken any decision in this regard.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Yes, Sir, it is a fact that there are so many countries including Germany, Japan, Taiwan and South Africa which are using the stainless steel coaches. The main thing is the 'transfer of technology' and of course, the Railway Board Members are in touch with Japan



and Germany. We are also bringing 24 modernised coaches from LHB company, an organisation of Germany dealing with Railways.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Integral Coach Factory is manufacturing the stainless steel passenger coaches. May I know from the hon. Minister whether coaches which have already been manufactured are meant for the use of Indian Railways; or whether they are meant for export purposes ?

Secondly, we have imported a certain number of high speed coaches from foreign countries. The main purpose of import of such coaches from foreign countries is to manufacture coaches here in our country after 'transfer of technology'. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that whether we have started manufacturing high speed coaches after 'transfer of technology'; If so, what is the cost of a high speed coach here when the same is being manufactured by ICF or RCF ?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, after having 'transfer of technology', we want to give more importance to our indigenous production, viz., the factory is at Kapurthala, ICF, RCF, BML and Jessop. We are working on it.

Especially about the Chittaranjan Locomotives, you will appreciate that they have already produced five very important and modernised locomotives.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am asking about ABB engine with 6,000, 3-phase horse power.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : About the ABB also, Chittaranjan Locomotives is doing.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am asking about the high speed passenger coaches which were imported three years back.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : As I have already said, we are importing 24 high speed coaches from the LHB company of Germany. Their speed rate is 160 kilometre per hour. But you have to appreciate that our Indian Railways have very old coaches and rakes. All our systems are old. This has to be modernised first. Without modernisation of all this, how can one go up from the speed of 110 kilometres to 160 kilometres per hour ? Then there will, certainly, be accidents and incidents.

So, I appeal to all the hon. Members of the House to please reconsider and see that all the facilities are modernised. Yes, we are bringing that system. We will explore all possibilities.

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, is it not a fact that before introducing the high speed coaches, the speed track system be introduced ?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Yes, Sir, we are looking into all this and exploring all possibilities. We are bringing that technology. We are already in the process of obtaining 'transfer of technology'. After obtaining this technology, we will explore all possibilities in our indigenous industry.

Sir, there is no doubt about that. We are, certainly, looking into it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, she has not replied part (i) of my question as to how many stainless steel coaches are being used by the Indian Railways.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, stainless steel coaches are meant only for the experimental purposes. The first coach was rolled out from ICF on 10.11.1999 and, the second one is under manufacture. But we are not going to do it right now because it is very costly. We want to explore all possibilities for more indigenous industry.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Railway Minister whether it is a fact that the Integral Coach Factory at Chennai is being disintegrated by way of allotting so many contracts in permanent works.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the same question has already been covered by the hon. Minister.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : No, Sir. It is a different question.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, Shri C. Sreenivasan has also asked the same question.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : No, Sir, it is altogether a different question. It is about allotment of contracts. I would like to know from the hon. Railway Minister whether it is a fact that the Integral Coach Factory at Perambur, Chennai is being disintegrated by way of giving so many contracts to the contractors.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, the target of ICF during 1999-2000 was fixed at 1,042 but so far (till oct'99) we have got 568. So, we have mentioned that upto March, we should get this figure first. So, I do not think that it is disintegrated. It is integrated.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, earlier a proposal was there in the Ministry of Railways to set up a coach factory at Gorakhpur which later was changed and it has been set up at Kapurthala in Punjab. I want to know whether there is any proposal under consideration of her Ministry for setting up a coach factory in Gorakhpur ?

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, this is a separate question, and I need a separate notice for that.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, there is no doubt that the Integral Coach Factory at Chennai has built very good stainless steel coaches, and it is well appreciated by everybody. Definitely, it is a costly one.

Sir, there are certain reports that certain countries wanted to import the stainless steel coaches to their countries. So, I would like to know from the hon. Railway Minister whether the Indian Railways have reached any agreement with any other countries for exporting stainless steel coaches to their countries ?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, in this regard, I would like to mention that there were two countries, namely, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka with which talks were held. Bangladesh had floated a tender for 66 coaches. We were also ready to give them all those 66 coaches. But later their demand came down to only 26, and thereafter, they said that they were not interested. So, now the chapter is closed with Bangladesh regarding the supply of stainless steel coaches.

Similarly, Sri Lanka also asked for 15 BG coaches, but we asked for some time. And now, the chapter with Sri Lanka also is closed as far as stainless steel coaches are concerned. So, we do not have any order right now. But if we get demand from any foreign country, of course, our factory is ready to handle that.

#### **Admissibility of Road Transportation Charges**

\* 64. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have withdrawn orders in respect of admissibility of actual road transportation charges on lifting of levy sugar and palmolien;

(b) whether any representation has been received from the Government of Gujarat to review the decision taken; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

#### **Distribution of levy sugar in Public Distribution System (PDS)**

(a) to (c) Till 31.3.1996 the transportation charges for lifting of levy sugar under PDS were reimbursable either on the basis of (a) actual railway freight, or (b) actual transportation charges by road at the rate approved by the State Government limited to the rate of transportation charges approved by the FCI for transporting foodgrains in that State. Where FCI's rates were not available, the State Governments rates

were allowed limited to the actual railway freight. Where FCI's rates and rail head were not available, State Governments rates were allowed.

Government received a series of representations from different State Governments including from Government of Gujarat to allow reimbursement of the actual minimum cost of transport. Considering their problems, it was decided to revise the guidelines for transportation charges w.e.f. 1.4.1996.

With effect from 1.4.1996 the transportation charges are payable, on a flat rate for each State to be fixed on the basis of audited figures of expenditure incurred for previous years duly approved by the State Government concerned.

#### **Distribution of Imported Palmolin Oil in the Public Distribution System**

(a) to (c) According to the present arrangement of supply of imported edible oils to States/UTs under Public Distribution System, the road freight incurred in respect of the oils supplied in bulk (i.e. loose) and 15 kg tin in reimbursed to the concerned State/UT taking into account the distance of the nominated Public Distribution Centre (PDC) in the concerned State/UT from State Trading Corporation (STC) Depot from where such supply is made. Gujarat is presently being supplied imported edible oils from STCs port depot at Kandla. Vadodara has been nominated as the Public Distribution Centre for the State of Gujarat. STC reimburse to the nominees of the Government of Gujarat road freight charges for a distance of 435 kms from Kandla to Vadodara at the rate of Rs. 145 per tonne in respect of lifting oil in bulk. Government has received no representation from Government of Gujarat in this regard.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has stated :

"With effect from 1.4.1996, the transportation charges are payable, on a flat rate for each State to be fixed on the basis of audited figures of expenditure incurred for previous years duly approved by the State Government concerned."

So, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that on the basis of audited figures of expenditure how many States have been paid the actual transportation charges. When were those charges paid and how many States are there for which the charges have not been paid yet ? What is the position Statewise ?

Secondly, I would like to know...

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.S. Gadhavi, you can ask your second supplementary later. Now, let the Minister reply.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Sir, there is a set principle, based on which the payment is made, and the payment has been made to all the States accordingly. There are some States for which the payment is yet to be made.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Sir, I want to know the Statewise figures as to how many States are there which have been paid and which have not been paid. If he gives the Statewise figures, that will be of great use to us.

I am asking this question because the hon. Minister says that they are going to pay on the basis of audited figures.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shanta Kumar, do you have the State-wise figures with you? If you, you can send them later.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : I will send him the figures later. But it is done on the approval of the State Government. The moment the State Government approves, we pay that.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Actual audited reports are there. I would like to know when these audited reports were received by the Central Government, whether the State Government's approval has come or not, which State Government has not sent the approval, from how many State Governments the approval is awaited and what are the figures. We have been told by the State Government that they are sending representation that the Central Government is not paying when it was promised to pay. I have seen many of the representations in my district. There are no railway facilities. Only road transport is there.

My second supplementary is this. In the reply, it is stated that "According to the present arrangement of supply of imported edible oils to States/UTs under Public Distribution System, the road freight incurred in respect of the oils supplied in bulk (i.e. loose) and 15 kg tin is reimbursed." Reimbursement is made by the Central Government. For the reimbursement, transportation charges have been hiked due to increase in the diesel rates. So, whether the Central Government is going to consider the hike in the transportation charges due to diesel hike and when they are going to pay us.

MR. SPEAKER : You should not complicate the question.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : I would like to know whether the State Government has sent any representation or not, and whether they have to pay it or not.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : It is for the State Government to give approval to the rates of the previous year, according to the figures of the Audit. So, whenever the State Governments approve those figures and come to our Ministry, we pay them. It is for the State Government to do it.

As far as the second supplementary is concerned, at present a study was done by A.E. Ferguson & Company and, according to them, we pay from STC to PTC. As far as Gujarat is concerned, the STC is Kandla and from Kandla to Vadodara, the distance is 435 kms and we are paying at the rate of Rs. 145/-. At present, this is the arrangement and there are some representations from the State of Gujarat. At present, we are paying according to this principle. This is no such consideration to NRCs.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : The sugar industry is now in a great crisis. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is able to examine more liberally on the basis of the present increase in cost and various other aspects so that they should be able to give proper remuneration for the industry and also for the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER : It is with regard to sugar industry.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : There are some problems as far as sugar industry is concerned and Government have received the Mahajan Committee Report also which is under consideration.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I may be permitted to ask a question on sugar industry. I think the hon. Minister is an experienced Minister. This question is slightly different from the main question. The arrears of the farmers are pending from the last one year and especially in Uttar Pradesh, they are living on the cheques they get from the sugar companies. They are getting their daughters married, and they are giving education to their children on the basis of the cheques supplied by the sugar industry and they are paying interest over them. May I know from the hon. Minister how much arrears are pending, specially in the State of Uttar Pradesh, and what measures the Government is initiating to help farmers to force those industries to pay their arrears ?

MR. SPEAKER : There is a slight deviation in the procedure.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I am asking this question with your permission.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : This has raised some other question. There are arrears, no doubt, and I think the total arrears are about Rs. 2.50 crore.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : No. It is more than that. U.P. itself is 100 times more. Previously, it was Rs. 700 crore and now it has come down to Rs. 280 crore approximately.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : For 1998-99, the total arrears is Rs. 288.65 crore and for the year 1995-96, it was Rs. 707 crore.

[Translation]

Now the arrears have been reduced.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply is given here about Palm Oil. As far as I know, the Government of Maharashtra and other many State Governments have refused to take the supply of palm oil from the Union Government because the cost of palm oil being supplied by the Union Government is higher due to overhead cost, administrative and transport costs etc. Is it true ? The price of Palm Oil in the open market is Rs. 22-23/- per kg. but its price at P.D.S. is Rs. 26 to 28/- per kg. Will the Minister clarify it ?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the basis for fixing the rate in this regard. At times, market fluctuates and its takes its own course then prices keep on fluctuating.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given a satisfactory reply. I have asked that the Government of Maharashtra and other State Governments have refused to take the supply. Please clarify it.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

#### Difference in Prices of Essential Commodities

\*65. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the difference between wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities in the metropolitan cities at present;

(b) the manner in which the wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities are monitored by the Government.

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued to States in regard to maximum difference between the wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) A statement showing the wholesale and retail prices of selected essential commodities as on 17.11.99 at Delhi, Bombay, Chennai and Calcutta is given in the Annexure enclosed.

(b) The retail and wholesale prices of 12 essential commodities of mass consumption are monitored by the Central and State Governments at the highest level through various high powered committees regularly. The meetings of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the central and State Governments are held regularly to review the price situation. The daily retail prices and weekly wholesale prices of 12 selected essential commodities of mass consumption like rice, wheat, sugar, gram dal, arhar dal, groundnut oil, mustard oil, vanaspati, tea, onion, potato and salt are being monitored by the Price Monitoring Cell in the Department of Consumer Affairs. On the basis of the data on prices collected from 18 selected State Capitals and some major producing centres through State Civil Supplies Departments, necessary analysis is made and appropriate measures are taken to safeguard the interests of the consumers from time to time.

(c) and (d) Wholesale and retail prices are determined by market forces of supply and demand. There are no specific guidelines issued by Government for maximum difference permissible between wholesale and retail prices. However, for those essential commodities which are supplied through Public Distribution system (PDS), issue prices are prescribed by the Government. Any abnormal differences in the wholesale and retail prices, when noticed are dealt with at State and Central Government level by taking immediate appropriate corrective actions.

#### Annexure

*Wholesale and Retail Prices of Selected Essential Commodities in the Metropolitan Cities as on 17.11.99*

(Rs. Per kg.)

Item	Delhi		Mumbai		Chennai		Calcutta	
	Whole sale	Retail	Whole sale	Retail	Whole sale	Retail	Whole sale	Retail
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rice	10.50	13.00	11.30	12.50	9.50	11.00	11.00	12.00
Wheat	7.10	8.00	8.25	10.00	9.90	11.00	N.R.	N.R.
Gram	16.25	20.00	18.50	19.00	16.60	20.00	18.00	20.00
Sugar	15.90	17.00	15.25	17.25	14.00	14.70	15.20	16.50
Tur	27.00	34.00	27.00	30.00	36.00	39.00	27.00	30.00
Groundnut oil*	60.73	73.00	38.00	40.00	34.00	38.00	51.33	75.00
Mustard oil	40.00	49.00	47.33	72.00	N.C.	N.C.	41.00	46.00
Vanaspati	35.00	38.00	31.67	36.00	28.70	34.00	38.00	39.00
Onion	7.50	12.00	5.50	9.00	2.50	3.00	11.25	14.00
Potato	4.50	9.00	5.25	7.50	5.00	6.00	4.65	6.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tea (loose)	100.00	115.00	N.R.	130.00	120.00	120.00	N.R.	100.00
Salt (packed)	4.50	6.00	N.R.	6.00	3.40	6.00	N.R.	6.00

Source State Civil Supplies Departments.

Note Wholesale prices are originally reported per quintal and have been converted to Rs. per kg.

\* Retail prices relates to premium brand of 1 kg in Delhi and Calcutta and wholesale price is in respect of 15 kg tin of general brand in Delhi and Calcutta. In Mumbai and Chennai, retail as well as wholesale prices pertain to loose variety.

N.C - Negligible consumption.

N.R - Not Reported

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a wide gap between the whole sale and retail price of many commodities in various cities. The people residing particularly in Bihar, Bengal, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Orissa mostly use mustard oil. It is also used by the North Eastern people living in Mumbai. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why there is a difference of Rs. 25 in the whole sale and retail price of mustard oil and the reasons for the difference in the price of potatoes and onions. Whether the Government are taking any special measures in this regard to reduce the gap between the wholesale and retail price ? There is Rs. 25 difference in the whole sale and retail price of mustard oil in Mumbai itself, whether the Government would take some steps to reduce the gap ?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a well-defined mechanism to check the prices. There are two committees functioning. One under the chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary and the other is headed by the hon'ble Prime Minister. The retail prices from 12 selected places and for wholesale prices from 37 selected places in the country are monitored. These are fixed after taking into consideration all the facts. As far as controlling the price and to see that there is no wide gap between the wholesale and retail price is concerned, there are two Acts under which powers are vested in the State Governments. Some State Governments have issued orders with regard to fixation of profit margins. One of them is Himachal Pradesh Government. Some of the State Government did not think it proper to issue order but as far as keeping it under control is concerned all the powers are vested in the State Governments under the concerned Act. Necessary action is taken after monitoring them on that level.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my main question has not been answered. Hon'ble Minister has not answered my question regarding the Rs. 25/- gap between the whole sale and retail price of mustard oil. My second supplementary question is that last year there was steep rise in the prices of potatoes and onions in the country due to which the Bhartiya Janata Party lost the elections in three States Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. There was 250 per cent and 409 per cent increase in the prices of potatoes and onions respectively. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there is further any increase in the prices of potatoes and onions ? Whether any concrete steps are being taken to check the likely increase in the prices of these commodities during this period. Whether the Union Government are making an arrangement for such monitoring.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the flat price index is concerned, it is fully under control and there is no increase in it. Even if there is an increase in the whole sale and retail price of any commodity in a particular State that has to be controlled by the concerned State Government and that the State Governments have been adequately equipped under the Act to keep a control on such rising prices.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister through you whether the Government have any scheme to control and fix the prices of the essential commodities like wheat, rice, sugar and oil distributed on ration cards to the poor people ?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a criterion for fixing the rates. We fix the selling price of a commodity after calculating the all expenditure incurred on procuring it. Subsidies are given on certain commodities.

Sir, wheat is procured at the rate of Rs. 5.50 per kg. from the farmer and it costs us Rs. 8.20 per kg. while we give to the people living below poverty line at the rate of Rs. 2.50 per kg. So there is a procedure laid down for the fixation of rates.

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is the reply given by the hon. Minister regarding wheat is not correct. I would like to draw his attention to the fact that lakhs of tonne wheat has been putrefying in many godowns in Punjab for the last four years and the Government are not taking any measures for its transportation so that it could be distributed to other States. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister through you that whether he would assure the House that arrangements for transportation of wheat for the godowns in Punjab to other States which has been rotting there for the last four-five years would be made so that it could be distributed.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this problem has been solved yesterday only. One of the measures taken against it is that "50 per cent import duty has been imposed" on the wheat and "Open sale" has been announced as a second measure. These two measures have been taken to utilise the wheat, lying in the godowns.

Sir, Hon'ble member has said that this problem exists in Punjab. It is true. The Chief Minister of Punjab has also been consulted in this regard. The Minister of State for food and civil supply of Punjab had, also came and the matter was

discussed with him also. I would like to inform you that transportation of wheat from the Godowns of Punjab to other States has already been started.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the answer that has been provided by the hon. Minister, it is stated that :

"Any abnormal differences in the wholesale and retail prices when noticed, are dealt with at the State and the Central Government levels by taking immediate, appropriate and corrective actions."

This is the answer that has been provided by the hon. Minister. But in his reply here, he has been telling that the State Governments have been given the powers to correct abnormal differences between the wholesale and the retail prices, if there are any, of certain essential commodities. The Statement shows that the difference is huge between one State Capital and the other State Capital as in the case of mustard oil, groundnut oil, etc. In the case of groundnut oil, in Mumbai, the difference is Rs. 12 and in Calcutta, the difference is Rs. 24. So, the difference is huge. If the Central Government says that the whole responsibility lies only with the State Government, the fixation of wholesale prices by the Central Government becomes redundant. We know that even in the recent past, certain State Governments have got these powers. May I know whether the Central Government is going to review the whole situation and develop a mechanism even to monitor the retail prices? May I also know whether they will have an inter-Ministerial relationship and then have a mechanism to control the retail prices at the Union Government level ?

• [Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said, monitoring is done at the Union Government level too. There are two committees for this purpose, one of which is under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary and the another is under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. Discussion is held in these committees and required instructions are given. Whatever decisions are taken, they are promptly implemented. As far as Hon'ble members statement is concerned that in some States, no action is taken in this regard, is not true.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state that during the year 1999 i.e. from 1.1.99 to till date, one lakh 63 thousand raids have been conducted in various States throughout the country, in which 5516 people have been arrested and 2766 persons have been prosecuted, out of which 1506 persons had been convicted. The action is taken and is being taken as per the rights delegated to the various States.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether the difference in the prices of goods being sold through Public Dis-

tribution System and in the open market is very low, as a result of which the off-take has reduced considerably ?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not true in case of food grains. It happens in a few States as the market has its own ways, therefore sometimes the rates of a commodity fluctuate. We are giving food subsidy of 10 thousand crore rupees and the price of those goods which are provided subsidy remain less than the market rate. Therefore, these goods are taken by the shopkeepers at all places.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to review or monitor the PDS ?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell that in Rajasthan on one hand we are facing famines in Rajasthan on the other hand goods being provided under PDS are not reaching to the people. These goods are not being provided at PDS shops. Nothing is being done inspite of the fact that we are constantly raising question and writing to the concerned persons. Whether hon'ble Minister would ensure the availability of goods under PDS in the famine affected areas in Rajasthan?

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Public Distribution System of India is largest system in the world. It has served the poor people in India. We should accept this fact but it is also true that some complaints have also been received regarding it. There are 4.5 lakh fair price shops under this system. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to control these shops and get the essential commodities reached to these shops. As far as Union Government is concerned, it is responsible only to allocate these commodities, but it is the responsibility of the State Government to distribute, provide and make them available at fair price shops.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do admit that there is a need to review and correct the Public Distribution System and the Government is also considering the same. We have got the information that 35 per cent is diverted from the subsidy of ten thousand crore rupees, provided by the Government. It is very unfortunate and a big question mark on the system. State Governments are responsible for it and the Government of Rajasthan is also one of them. We would take all possible steps and the system would be reviewed. After reviewing the entire system, the Government will take advise of the experts, if necessary so that the subsidy of ten thousand crore rupees may reach to the poor people.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister that occasionally newspapers report that the distribution of sugar under Public Distribution System is going to be discontinued. I request the hon'ble Minister to give clarification in this regard. It is very important as many misconceptions prevail in this regard. Therefore, it is necessary to tell the actual position.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

**SHRI RAJESH PILOT :** It is an important issue Hon'ble Minister has also been Chief Minister. A person, whose average income is one lakh is taking sugar through PDS outlets and even a person, who earns Rs. 13/- per day is also taking the same quantity of sugar through PDS. Therefore, unless you change the card system and put some income limit, the real benefit would not reach to the poor people. Those persons, who are having good relations with the shopkeepers, take away double quantum of sugar. Therefore, it is required to review this system.

[English]

Sir, I suggest let us have a discussion in Parliament on this issue so that the benefit of PDS can really go to the common man. If the Minister agrees, let us have a discussion in Parliament and review the whole system.

[Translation]

**SHRI SHANTA KUMAR :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the Hon'ble Minister's concern and as I said the entire system is needed to be reviewed and the Government would review it and we are ready to have discussion over it.

[English]

#### **Pakistani Attacks on Indian Army Installations**

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\*66. **SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :**  
**SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :**

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of border violations committed by Pak Army in J & K during Kargil conflict;
- (b) whether Pakistani troops or Pakistan supported militants attacked several times on various military installations, including Badami Bagh cantonment, after the Kargil conflict in J & K;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, date-wise and place-wise;
- (d) the number of casualties and the other losses suffered on both sides, incident-wise;
- (e) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry to find as to how these militants abruptly entered these areas; and
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof and the remedial steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future ?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-  
NANDES) :** (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

Pakistan committed armed intrusion to occupy strategic heights in Mushkoh, Drass, Kargil, Batalik and Turtuk sectors of the Line of Control along the National Highway 1A linking Leh with Srinagar. After sustained operations by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force, which started in May '99, Pakistan suffered severe reverses and began withdrawal of remainder of its forces from July 11, 1999. Last pockets of resistance were eliminated by the Indian Army by July 26, 1999. Pakistan had also made three attempts to capture our posts in the Rajouri sector along the International Border on the 27th and 28th May, 1999. These attempts were repulsed.

Two incidents of direct attacks on military posts/installations took place in J & K after the Kargil operations. In the first incident, on August 6, 1999, militants attacked a Rashtriya Rifles post in Kupwara district. The second incident occurred on November 3, 1999 when militants attacked the office of the Public Relations Officer located in an open area at the periphery of Badami Bagh cantonment.

In the first incident, referred to, the militants launched an unsuccessful attack on one of the Rashtriya Rifles posts in Kupwara district at 0030 hrs. The attack was beaten back and six militants were killed. Four AK Rifles, one pistol, two RPG rockets and 26 grenades were recovered from the killed militants. Our troops suffered five fatal casualties during this operation.

In the second incident that took place on November 3, 1999, three militants armed with assault rifles stealthily entered the open area adjacent to the Public Relations Office, which is located at the periphery of Badami Bagh Cantonment around 1800 hrs and fired at the sentries on the entrance gate. Thereafter they entered the PRO's 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 operations, two militants were killed and their AK-47 rifles were recovered. The following were the Army casualties :-

- (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 was wounded.

The security arrangements in the Cantonment area have been reviewed after the incident and necessary steps initiated to prevent recurrence of such incidents. A court of Inquiry has also been ordered to inquire into the lapses, if any.

[Translation]

**SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :** Sir according to the Statement there are 1200 terrorists which are active in Kashmir at present. I would like to thank the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Defence Minister for the victory in Kargil against Paki-

stan. Today, terrorists are exploding bombs in Punjab, Kashmir and Assam and I.S.I. of Pakistan is behind that. I want to ask the Government through you as to why we can't declare war against Pakistan and destroy Pakistan. Pakistan is indulged in a proxy war with us, Bombs are being exploded in the Mumbai city. Terrorists intrusion is recent but the proxy war has been going even prior to that what efforts are being made by our Government to declare Pakistan terrorist state?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir efforts are being made not only by us but also by other powers to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. But I feel it is a complex question an it is difficult to give a definite answer in this regard.... (*Interruptions*) I would like to thank the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Defence Minister for visiting the border to boost the morale of the Jawans. But my demand is that some concrete steps should be taken.

*[English]*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Mr. Speaker Sir, after seeing the answer given by the hon. Minister of Defence, I feel that the entire situation all along the border is under the control of our Army. But we saw in some sections of the press that there have been continuous violation of our borders from across the border by Pakistan. When the civilian Government was there in Pakistan, these violation were there.

Now there is a military regime in Pakistan. What exactly is the latest information under the leadership of Gen. Musharraf, the military head in Pakistan ? Are there more violations during his regime or the same kind of process is just kept up by the Pakistani backed intruders from across the border into our territory ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : There has not been any major or substantial change in so far as the border situation is concerned, after the Nawaz Sharif Government was ousted and the military took over in Pakistan. We have been, over a period of time, having these skirmishes, that is, firing on the Line of Control. The major violation was Kargil. But the situation thereafter has been like the pre-Kargil situation. There has not been any major change.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Mr. Speaker, I take serious objection to the question raised by the hon. Member of the Treasury Benches that there is terrorism in Punjab, Kashmir and the North-East. These are the places where Sikhs, Muslims and Christians rise. I want to ask the Government whether they have found out the causes for which there is terrorism.

I saw the Extradition Treaty also. The hon. Minister of External Affairs quoted the names of only Sikhs who have to be extradited. I want to know from the Government as to why the State of India is not at ease with Christians, Muslims and Sikhs.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : This does not arise from the main question.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : As per the assessment made one of the objectives of Pakistan behind waging the Kargil-war was to divert the attention of the army towards Kargil sector so that troops could be moved from other sectors to the Kargil sector and facilitate the entry of terrorists and militants into India. This may be one of the objectives of Pakistan. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to whether an attempt was made by Pakistan to enter Militants from other border areas taking advantage of the Kargil-war. How many militants sneaked into India at that time and what steps are being taken by the Government to control the situation now ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr Speaker, there are about 1200 to 2000 foreign militants in Jammu & Kashmir at present. As far as the question to tackle the situation is concerned, it is an on-going process, which has not began today....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Please tell us to how does it happen?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The process to tackle the situation has been going on since long. It is still going on and will go on in future as well. The army is deployed there to tackle the situation. The intention of Pakistan to intrude into Kargil was not only to divert the attention of our army and send more intruders there but also to capture and take possession of that land. It is true that when the Kargil war was started it was most urgent to divert the army from the valley to the Kargil sector. Accordingly some troops were diverted from the valley. But it is not true that the army was completely removed from the valley. The House knows fully well that some troops were there.

So far as the question of border security is concerned the army is deployed at the line of control. Other groups of Border Security Force and Para Military Forces are manning the international border. No reduction has been made in the army deployed at the line of control. Some of the troops had been diverted from the valley to the Kargil sector, and to make up the short fall Para-Military forces were deployed in the valley. Therefore Kargil issue is totally a different issue and as far as removing of the terrorists from the valley is concerned the process is going on.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been replied.

*[English]*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must seek your protection.

*[Translation]*

I had pointed out that one of the objectives of Pakistan was removal of some troops and advantage of that was taken. Any way, you have accepted that some forces were diverted from the valley. We do not hold you guilty.



[English]

This is a correct move. You had to make this move.

[Translation]

Whether advantage of that was taken or not? Intruders entered India or not? If the intruders entered, did you guess the number of such intruders? Whether intrusion is being stopped now and whether any action is being taken to check it?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir I think I have replied to both the questions. As I have told that there are about 1200 to 2000 foreign terrorist operating in the valley at present. There intrusion like this is an ongoing process. Certainly there would have been a problem if the maximum army had been removed, of course army could not be moved so fast. Therefore it is natural that there has been an increase in the number of terrorists.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the Kargil war, there has been an increase in the number of terrorists and army camps are being attacked by rockets. I would like to know whether the Government made any arrangement to check the attack on army camps.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have mentioned both the incidents in the Statement. One attack was on Rashtriya Rifles Post in Kupwada sector and second one was in cantonment of Badamibagh where a Public Relation Officer was attacked. There is a problem in Kashmir. Those who are aware of the strategic position of Kashmir knew very well that big centres of the army are located in the populated area only. Seeing the location of the Badamibagh cantonment area it will be found that there is a road in the middle of the town and this cantonment area is located in the adjacent. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It was there earlier also why was it not attacked then?... (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : But this kind of situation was not there earlier

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The situation in 1991 was even worse. You yourself had visited that place.

[English]

Mr. Minister, you would agree that the ratio of killing of the uniformed versus the militants has increased... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I have to reply. I do agree that the situation was like that in 1991 but no befitting reply was given in 1991 as during the Kargil war... (Interruptions)

[English]

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

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not able to understand. There was no Kargil war in 1991 and Pakistan was not given a befitting reply and now in 1999 the Kargil war was there so this is the difference... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

[Translation]

Let him reply.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that there is a difference between the situation of 1991 and that of today. In 1991, Pakistan attack was not repulsed while in 1999, it had to retreat and Now Pakistan is making abortive attempts to avenge that defeat.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

#### Scarcity of Equipments in IAF

\*62. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Air Force is facing acute shortage of requisite components for the maintenance of its fighter planes and non-availability of special auxiliary aeroplanes,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) effective steps proposed to be taken to set the matter right?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) No Sir. There is no acute shortage of components for the maintenance of fighter planes. There are no aircrafts known as special auxiliary aeroplanes in the Indian Air Force.

#### Expenditure incurred on procurement of Wheat and Rice

\*67. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :  
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expenditure being incurred by F.C.I. for the past few years on procurement, storage and distribution of wheat and rice has been rising constantly during the last few years;

(b) if so, the amount spent per quintal during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(c) whether this expenditure has been classified separately; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the constant increase in this expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The break up the expenditure incurred by FCI on the Procurement, Storage and Distribution of Wheat and Rice during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as follows :-

	Rs./Per Qtl.		
	1996-97 (Prov.)	1997-98 (Prov.)	1998-99 (RE)
<b>WHEAT</b>			
(i) Pooled cost of grain	390.73	484.34	520.55
(ii) Procurement incidentals and carry-over charges to State Agencies	134.37	122.67	131.20
(iii) Distribution (inclusive of Storage) Cost	115.06	179.34	145.84
<b>Total:</b>	<b>640.16</b>	<b>786.35</b>	<b>797.59</b>
<b>RICE</b>			
(i) Pooled cost of grain	627.99	695.66	749.46
(ii) Procurement incidentals	61.41	55.21	65.50
(iii) Distribution (inclusive of Storage) Cost	158.29	188.46	159.90
<b>Total:</b>	<b>847.69</b>	<b>939.33</b>	<b>974.86</b>

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) With every increase in M.S.P. there is an increase in the procurement incidental as the Statutory charges on the purchase cost are mostly ad-valorem. Rise in freight rates, interest charges and Storage rates, besides general inflation have also resulted in increase in the distribution cost.

#### Tourism Projects

\*68. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the tourism projects sent by the State Governments for approval during 1998 and 1999 till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of projects approved alongwith the financial assistance provided, project-wise;

(c) whether a small percentage of the tourism potential is being exploited at present; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the details of steps being contemplated to exploit the tourism potential in full during the coming years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) and (b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The States/Union Territories have the primary role in development of tourist infrastructure. However, for greater utilisation of tourism potential, the Ministry of Tourism strengthens their efforts by providing Financial Assistance for building/improving tourist infrastructure and by undertaking intensive publicity and use of information technology. The Ministry also provides incentives to the private sector which plays a prominent role in the tourism industry.

#### Statement

*Tourism projects sent by the State Governments for approval during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (as on 15-11-1999) State-wise*

Sr. No.	State	1998-99				1999-2000			
		No. of tourism projects Prioritised & received in consultation with State Govt.		No. of projects sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned	No. of tourism Projects prioritised and received in consultation with State Govts.		No. of projects sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned
Prioritised	Received	Prioritised	Received						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14	14	10	244.08	14	6	1	20.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Assam	16	13	9	348.10	14	3	2	85.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	29	13	4	178.30	51	6	-	-
4.	Bihar	15	8	8	183.31	17	14	-	-
5.	Goa	17	17	14	328.98	19	7	7	70.00
6.	Gujarat	18	18	15	449.57	27	27	-	-
7.	Haryana	12	9	9	277.08	8	6	2	80.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12	6	6	295.00	19	15	11	465.50
9.	J & K	21	4	4	139.85	19	15	5	94.00
10.	Karnataka	16	16	12	399.82	32	10	1	50.00
11.	Kerala	17	17	13	653.05	20	10	-	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18	18	18	441.39	12	12	-	-
13.	Maharashtra	19	19	17	483.77	28	28	-	-
14.	Manipur	13	9	9	99.48	22	7	1	25.00
15.	Meghalaya	15	13	8	200.00	22	4	1	12.97
16.	Mizoram	9	8	8	175.16	16	9	3	49.56
17.	Nagaland	11	8	7	223.64	16	16	6	137.10
18.	Orissa	7	4	4	170.60	21	20	10	101.76
19.	Punjab	8	1	1	97.64	7	6	-	-
20.	Rajasthan	25	19	19	376.47	17	15	-	-
21.	Sikkim	23	22	19	238.58	22	7	1	50.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	22	22	17	316.20	34	8	1	15.00
23.	Tripura	10	9	8	81.25	8	8	3	117.10
24.	Uttar Pradesh	35	31	31	876.96	44	32	13	396.63
25.	West Bengal	20	10	10	201.13	15	10	-	-
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	5	5	4	162.50	2	1	-	-
27.	Chandigarh	8	2	2	47.91	3	1	1	40.00
28.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	5	5	2	20.00	4	-	-	-
29.	Delhi	19	7	7	132.70	9	1	1	4.50
30.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
31.	Lakshadweep	4	3	1	29.50	5	5	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	8	4	2	15.00	7	5	5	145.00
Total		471	354	298	7887.02	559	314	75	1959.12

#### Deployment of Army for Maintaining Law and Order

\*69. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of defence personnel presently deployed to maintain law and order in the country, State-wise, with particular reference to Bihar;

(b) the impact of such postings on the morale and overall performance of the defence personnel; and

(c) the details of Government's policy with regard to

the deployment of defence personnel for maintaining law and order ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) to (c) Law and Order, being a State subject, is maintained by the civil authorities in respective states with the assistance of the resources at their disposal. However, the armed forces may be called upon to assist the civil authorities to maintain law and order if the civil authorities requisition such assistance. Presently, the armed forces (Army, Navy and Air Force) are not deployed in any State exclusively for the maintenance of law and order.

### Shelling on Indo-Pak Border

\*70. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether hostile activities including provocative shelling take place very frequently at Indo-Pak border after the military coup in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details of the casualties inflicted on both sides; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Pakistan has been resorting to unprovoked firing across the Indo-Pak border in Jammu and Kashmir frequently over the years. Appropriate response is given by our troops. It has been estimated that during the period from 1st August 1999 to 31st October, 1999 Pakistan has suffered 226 casualties (killed/wounded). The casualties on our side during the relevant period have been as follows :

	Killed	Wounded
Army	12	111
BSF	-	15
Civilian	09	19

Taking due care that the incidents remain localised and no civilian casualties are caused effective retaliatory fire is brought down on the Pakistani army in response to their unprovoked firing. We have long urged Pakistan, through military and diplomatic channels, to abandon this unprovoked firing.

[English]

### Decontrol of Sugar

\*71. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to decontrol the sugar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The High Powered Committee on Sugar Industry under the chairmanship of shri B. B. Mahajan former Secretary to Government of India to study the laws and regulations governing the sugar industry and to make recommendations to Government on their review has submitted its report. One of the recommendations of the Committee pertains to decontrol of

sugar phased over a period of 2 years. This recommendation of the Committee is under consideration of the Government.

### Tourism Industry in North-East

\*72. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that due to Restricted Area Permit System, the flow of foreign tourists in the Eastern and North-Eastern States has hampered the tourism industry;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to withdraw this system for the smooth flow of tourists in this region;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to improve the tourism industry in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) to (c) Restrictions under the Restricted Area Permit regime have been completely withdrawn with effect from 19.5.1995 from Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. Moreover, in order to boost tourism in North Eastern States & Sikkim, a number of places of tourist interest have been opened for foreign tourists during 1998, in the states of Sikkim, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. Foreigners can visit these areas after obtaining permits from the competent authorities, which includes the Government of India and the State Government concerned. As such restrictions under the Restricted Area Permit/Protected Area Permit regime may not hamper the flow of foreign Tourists in North Eastern States now.

Requests for withdrawal of Restricted Area Permit/Protected Area Permit or relaxation in the existing system are considered by the Government of India from time to time keeping in view the security considerations.

States/UTs have the primary role in development of tourism. Central Govt. is providing assistance to the NE States to develop infrastructure and give publicity. Ministry of Tourism also undertakes promotional campaigns, dissemination of information through websites, sponsoring visits of media persons/tour operators etc., participation in international fairs, festivals and expos etc.

### Quota of Levy Sugar to States

\*73. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quota of levy sugar being allocated to States in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are providing levy sugar to States on the basis of Census 1991;

(c) if so, whether the Government have received requests from State Governments to revise the quota of levy sugar on the basis of present population; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The norm for supply of sugar in the Public Distribution System (PDS) for most States/UTs is 425 gms per capita per month based on the 1991 census. In addition, Government also releases about one lakh tonnes per annum as a Festival Quota which is allocated amongst the States/UTs. The details of State/UT-wise quota fixed are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The quantity of sugar accruing to the Central Government in the levy account, under the current levy sugar formula is short of the requirements for the PDS. In these circumstances, it has not been found possible to enhance the allocation of sugar under the PDS for State Governments/UTs by linking it to more recent population figures.

#### Statement

*Levy Sugar Quota and Festival Quota (Based on Population as per 1991 Census, Effective from 1-1-1996)*

(Figures in tonnes)

S.No	States/UTs	Monthly normal Festival Quota	
		Quota	for each year
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28267	7614
2.	Andaman Nicobar	282	74
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	366	94
4.	Assam	9524	2896
5.	Bihar	36707	10078
6.	Chandigarh	391	112
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	60	14
8.	Delhi	11973	2316
9.	Goa	508	150
10.	Daman	26	12
11.	Diu	17	
12.	Gujarat	17557	4878
13.	Haryana	6996	1924
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2197	608
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	3567	868

1	2	3	4
16.	Karnataka	19117	5350
17.	Kerala	12368	3600
18.	Lakshadweep	81	22
19.	Madhya Pradesh	28127	7536
20.	Maharashtra	33550	9014
21.	Manipur	782	208
22.	Mehgalaya	752	200
23.	Mizoram	293	78
24.	Nagaland	542	128
25.	Orissa	13456	3730
26.	Pondicherry	360	64
27.	Karikal	86	18
28.	Mahe	18	4
29.	Yanam	8	2
30.	Punjab	8619	2392
31.	Rajasthan	18704	5092
32.	Sikkim	174	50
33.	Tamil Nadu	23741	6790
34.	Tripura	1173	302
35.	Uttar Pradesh	59122	15936
36.	West Bengal	28934	7796
Total		368445	99950

#### Call for a Holy War against India by Osama Bin Laden

\*74. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the 'Times of India' New Delhi dated September 20, 1999 wherein it has been stated that Saudi dissident Osama Bin Laden has called for a Holy war against India and which is likely to change the nature of the ongoing conflict in Jammu and Kashmir;

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

(c) the action plan chalked out to meet the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-  
NANDES) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) India has been fighting a proxy war in Jammu & Kashmir for the last several years. This proxy war is being mainly conducted through foreign mercenaries based in Pakistan and Afghanistan. All developments having a bearing on our national security continue to be constantly monitored. Appropriate and effective measures are taken from time to time to foil any evil designs against the territorial integrity of our country.

**Production of T-72 M.B.T.**

\*75. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :  
SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a sharp decline in the production and overhaul of T-72 Main Battle Tank;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of T-72 MBT produced and overhauled during each of the last three years;
- (d) the steps taken to improve the situation;
- (e) whether the low rate of production of the tanks and delay in their overhauling has seriously affected the operational preparedness of the Indian Army;
- (f) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed on the persons found guilty of delay in production; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The No. of T-72 tanks produced and overhauled at HVF, Avadi during the last three years is given below :

Year	Production	Overhauled/ Issued
1996-97	82	08
1997-88	90	48
1998-99	120	51

(d) to (g) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

**Development of Infrastructures in Tourist Centres**

\*76. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal to provide funds for development of infrastructure at important tourist centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to attract foreign tourists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to States/Union

Territories for augmentation of tourist infrastructure facilities. Assistance is provided every year on the basis of specific proposals received from States/UT Administrations in respect of projects which are prioritised in consultation with the States/ Union Territories on the basis of merit and availability of funds.

- (c) Steps are taken to attract foreign tourists by (a) promotional, campaigns and publicity by Government of India Tourist Offices overseas (b) dissemination of information through websites (c) sponsoring visit of media persons/ tour operators etc. (d) participation in international fairs, festivals and expos etc.

**Replacement of Old Rail Tracks**

\*77. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :  
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have decided to invest Rs. 2000 crore to reduce the accidents that occur due to human error.
- (b) if so, whether the Committee on railway safety has asked the Government to help the railways for replacing old rail tracks, bridges and rolling stocks;
- (c) the total kilometres of old railway tracks in the country, gauge-wise;
- (d) whether out of the over one lakh bridges on the Indian Railway network, half were built in the 19th century and that the life of a bridge is around 100 years, and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to replace the old tracks and bridges and to consider the suggestions made by the Railway Safety Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) Improvement to Railway safety is a continuous and ongoing process. To reduce the element of human error, a number of steps are being undertaken by the Railways which include induction of modern technology in the form of track circuiting, Auxiliary Warning System, mobile communication between guard and driver, mechanised maintenance of track etc. Provision of route-relay-interlocking/solid-state-interlocking and safety devices at level crossings also help reduce the element of human error. Railway staff involved in train operations are periodically trained as per laid down schedules so as to upgrade their knowledge. Simulators are being used to train drivers.

In the current year the Railways have allocated Rs.620.96 cr. for the above measures. Further investments in the ensuing years in these areas will depend upon the availability of resources.

(b) and (e) Railway Safety Review Committee which has submitted Part I of its report, has inter alia recommended

that Government should provide a one time grant of Rs. 15,000 crore to the Railways so that arrears of track renewals, bridges, rolling stock and signalling gear are wiped out within a given time frame. Renewal of over aged tracks and rehabilitation of distressed bridges, rolling stock & signalling etc. is a continuous process and is taken up keeping in view their condition. Funds constraints has limited Railways' efforts in wiping out all arrears of renewals and replacements. It is proposed to take action according to such recommendations of this Committee as may be accepted by the Government.

(c) As on 1.4.1999, 12,260 km on broad gauge and 4,995 km on meter gauge and narrow gauge, excluding the length which has been sanctioned for gauge conversion were due for renewal.

(d) Out of a total number of 1,19,724 bridges 51,340 bridges are over a hundred years old. The life of a bridge depends upon many factors like material used for construction, physical condition, timely and regular maintenance and type of stress the bridge is subjected to and thus bridges do not have a fixed life.

#### Late Running of Trains in Konkan Railway

\*78. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether, of late, most of the long distance trains are running late causing enormous difficulties to the passengers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received numerous complaints particularly from the passengers travelling in Konkan Railway in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken to see that the train do not run late ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (e) Punctuality of Passenger trains on the Indian Railways has been affected of late due to critical law & order situation in the North Eastern Region, cyclone in Orissa area, floods and breaches in Bihar, West Bengal and North-eastern Region and increased pace of doubling in Kerala requiring additional speed restrictions as also additional speed restrictions on some other sectors where safety works are in progress. Equipment failures such as locomotive failures, carriage and wagon failures, signal failures, track failures etc. contribute to loss of punctuality as assets are extremely old due to lack of modernisation of the Indian Railway system for which adequate resources have not been available. Other reasons for loss of punctuality include agitation, miscreant activities, bad weather and accidents. Some representations have been received regarding the late run-

ning of some trains on Konkan Railway. The late running of passenger trains on the Konkan Railway is attributed largely to geo-technical problems of the recently commissioned track system. A concerted drive has been launched to monitor and improve punctuality. Three-tier round the clock monitoring system at Railway Board level, at Zonal Headquarters level and at Divisional Headquarters level has been introduced for monitoring the actual running of trains. All avoidable detentions to trains are investigated and railwaymen responsible for such detentions are taken up.

[Translation]

#### Collection of Funds for Kargil Martyrs

\*79. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :  
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Army personnel, killed, injured, made prisoner of war by Pak and also those who are still missing since Kargil conflict;

(b) whether serving and retired defence officers have shown great concern over the proliferation of Kargil funds;

(c) if so, whether some people are reported to have deposited amount with the Prime Minister, Defence authorities and also with various political leaders;

(d) if so, the total amount collected on this account from various organisations and individuals in different relief funds separately;

(e) the extent to which this amount has been utilised so far; and

(f) the total number of families of deceased jawans rehabilitated so far and the compensation paid to those who were injured and became disabled ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The information is as under :-

(i)	Army personnel killed	519
(ii)	Army personnel injured	1363
(iii)	Army personnel taken POW by Pakistan	Nil
(iv)	Army personnel missing	01
(b)	Government have no such information.	

(c) to (f) A statement is enclosed.

#### Statement

In the wake of the Kargil conflict, contributions were received from a large number of people both from within the

country and abroad to the National Defence Funds and the welfare funds of the Defence Services. Some of the donors presented cheques/drafts to the Prime Minister, Defence Minister, other Cabinet Ministers and Chief Ministers of States etc. These donations were credited to the National Defence Fund or given over to the Services for credit to their welfare funds as the case may be. The Government do not have information regarding funds collected by individuals and other organisations.

The amount collected in the National Defence Fund from 1.5.1999 onwards and its utilisation is given below :

- (a) Total fund collected upto 22.11.99 -  
Rs. 442.68 crore
- (b) Funds utilised for various welfare measures -  
Rs. 86.85 crore

In addition, contributions by the welfare funds of the Defence Services, which are managed by the respective Services, are being used by them for the rehabilitation of families of deceased soldiers and welfare of disabled soldiers invalidated out of service.

A comprehensive welfare package has been provided to the next of kin of the Armed Forces personnel killed in the Kargil conflict. This includes ex-gratia lumpsum compensation of Rs. 10 lakhs; liberalised special family pension on the basis of last pay drawn by the deceased soldier; and death gratuity and family gratuity as per specified rates, as applicable. Apart from the above, the following assistance has been provided from the National Defence Fund : Rs. 5 lakhs for dwelling unit; Rs. 1 lakh per child for education upto two children per family; Rs. 1.20 lakhs for needy parents who were dependent on the deceased soldiers. An additional ex-gratia amount of Rs. 30,000/- has also been provided from the Army Central Welfare Fund. Besides, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has separately earmarked LPG dealerships/distributorships for allocation to the next of kin of the Armed Forces Personnel killed.

Those invalidated out of service due to injury sustained in the Kargil Operation, have been paid ex-gratia amount ranging from Rs. 3 lakhs upto Rs. 6 lakhs from National Defence Fund depending upon the extent of injury. Besides, war injury pension equal to the reckonable emoluments last drawn for 100% disability is admissible. In cases where the disability is less than 100% the amount of war injury pension

is proportionately reduced. In no case, the amount of war injury pension would be less than 60% of the emoluments last drawn in the case of officers and 80% in the case of personnel below officer rank. Army personnel retained in service despite war injury assessed at 20% or more for life are paid either a lumpsum compensation in lieu of war injury pension or war injury pension in lieu of compensation at the time of retirement.

[English]

#### Loss of IAF Planes

\*80. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :  
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

(a) the details of IAF planes which crashed during 1998 and 1999 so far, date-wise and place-wise;

(b) the details of crew members and civilians killed therein, accident-wise;

(c) the quantum of loss sustained due to damage of planes and other properties, accident-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken to minimise the rate of air accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) to (c) A statement regarding the details of IAF aircrafts which crashed during 1998 and 1999 till 24th November 1999, date-wise, place-wise; details of crew members and civilians killed therein and quantum of loss of services property and other properties accident-wise is enclosed.

(d) A High Powered Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA) was constituted under the chairmanship of Scientific Adviser of Raksha Mantri to analyse the cause of the accidents which submitted its report in September, 1997. It has made certain recommendations to minimise accident rate. Implementation of these recommendations involves changes in organisational structure, procedures, training, design, technology etc. Necessary instructions have been issued to the agencies/Departments concerned to take suitable action on the recommendations of the Committee. About 55 of the 84 recommendations have been implemented so far.

#### Statement

Sl. No.	Date	Location	No. of Crew members killed	No. of civilians killed	Loss of Property (Rs. in Lakhs)	
					As per provisional loss Statement Service	Civil
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>1998</b>						
1.	21.1.98	Near Sirsa	-	-	161.27	-



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	21.3.98	Chandigarh runway	-	-	325.46	-
3.	21.3.98	Jaisalmer runway	-	-	1500.00	-
4	26.3.98	Suratgarh runway	-	-	1500.00	-
5	12.5.98	Near Pathankot airfield	-	03	147.09	8.47
6	23.5.98	Bidar airfield	01	-	111.91	-
7	4.6.98	Hasimara airfield	01	-	173.87	-
8	24.6.98	Suratgarh airfield	-	-	1017.00	-
9	27.7.98	Near Chabua	-	-	173.30	-
10.	14.8.98	Near Uttarlai	-	-	94.64	-
11.	31.8.98	Kalaikunda airfield	01 (on ground)	-	6001.84	-
12.	3.9.98	Near Halwara airfield	-	-	540.07	-
13.	7.9.98	Near Pathankot	-	-	343.41	-
14	8.9.98	Pokhran range	-	-	1585.01	-
15.	7.10.98	Near Sonamarg helipad	01	-	1000.10	-
16.	27.10.98	Pathankot local flying area	01	-	147.14	-
17.	28.10.98	Near Kalaikunda airfield	-	-	1600.06	-
18.	28.11.98	Near Allahabad airfield	01	-	75.52	1.84
<b>1999</b>						
1.	2.2.99	Near Halwara	-	-	540.06	0.05
2	16.2.99	Pune airfield	-	-	4113.10	-
3	7.3.99	Palam airfield	04+14AF passengers on board	03	475.39	9.04
4	15.3.99	Chabua airfield	-	-	175.60	-
5	16.3.99	Nalia airfield	01	-	325.70	-
6.	26.3.99	Halwara airfield	01	-	540.87	0.21
7	26.3.99	Suratgarh local flying area	01	-	333.40	0.64
8	7.4.99	Amritsar airfield	-	-	441.10	-
9.	13.4.99	Near Sirsa airfield	-	02	159.94	-
10.	10.5.99	Near Dundigal	01	-	118.22	-
11.	13.5.99	Nal Air field	-	-	146.15	-
12	17.6.99	Near Tezpur airfield	01	-	144.15	-
13	19.6.99	Giri Ram Ki Dhani 'NE' of Uttarlai Air field	01	-	102.10	-
14.	23.6.99	Near Pathankot Airfield	01	-	334.09	-
15.	30.6.99	Near Ambala airfield	-	-	9400.85	-
16	2.7.99	Jaisalmer airfield	01	-	1585.27	-
17.	4.8.99	Kurglakh village	02	-	NA	NA
18.	6.8.99	Near Chandigarh Airfield	01	-	9208.68	-
19	18.8.99	Srinagar airfield	01	-	1017.49	-
20	13.9.99	Near Uttarlai airfield	-	-	NA	NA
21	14.9.99	Near Udampur airfield	01	-	1001.48	-
22.	20.9.99	Near Gorakhpur airfield	-	-	640.52	3.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23.	1.10.99	Bidar local flying area	-	-	NA	NA
24.	14.10.99	Hakimpet local flying area	01	-	NA	NA
25.	4.11.99	Near Tezpur airfield	-	-	NA	NA
26.	8.11.99	Near Gorakhpur airfield	-	-	NA	NA

NA - Provisional cost of damage in six accidents are not available as Court of Inquiries are yet to complete and therefore marked as 'NA'

[Translation]

### Revamping of Rural Development Schemes

571. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to restructure/revamp all schemes dealing with rural development by merging them;

(b) if so, whether any new guidelines in this regard have been issued;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which these revamped schemes are likely to be implemented by the State Government ; and

(e) steps taken or proposed to ensure that the funds allocated to the State Government through the various programmes/schemes are actually spent ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (d) Government have revamped the rural development schemes effective from the current financial year. Guidelines for the revamped schemes have already been issued. Self-employment Programmes have been revamped by merging Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Supply of Improved Tool-kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), Training of Rural Youth for self Employment (TRYSEM), Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY), and Million Wells Scheme (MWS) into a holistic scheme called Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) with the objective of establishing a large number of micro-enterprises in the rural areas and building upon the potential of the rural poor. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has been revamped as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana with the primary objective of creating demand driven village infrastructure, including durable assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) has now been made an allocation based scheme.

The modified Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme aims at institutionalizing community based demand

driven rural water supply programme with cost sharing instruments by Communities, gradually replacing the current supply-driven, Centrally maintained rural water supply programme to a participatory programme. The changes effected in the Central Rural Sanitation Programme involve a major shift from a high subsidy to a low-subsidy regime, adoption of "Total Sanitation Campaign" approach, choice of technology according to customer preferences and greater community participation. School sanitation is an important component of this programme.

Funds are now shared between the Centre and the States uniformly in the ratio of 75:25 under those programmes in which States have to contribute.

(e) Utilisation of funds in every State is reviewed on regular basis and the States are impressed upon the need for achieving full utilisation of funds.

[English]

### Withdrawal of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

572. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Centrally sponsored schemes have been transferred to the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to withdraw some Centrally sponsored development schemes;

(d) if so, the names of such schemes; and

(e) the reasons for their withdrawal ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (e) As per decision taken in the Meeting of the National Development Council on 19.2.1999, a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission with Members from both the Central Ministries and the States has been set up to examine the issue of transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) including identification of schemes to be transferred and those to be retained and the modalities of such transfer.

**Development of Kurukshetra City**

573. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance given to the Government of Haryana to develop the Kurukshetra city (The Land of Mahabhart) as international tourist centre during 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(b) the amount released and utilised by Haryana Government so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism provides assistance to State Governments for the developments of tourism infrastructure on the basis of specific project proposals received as per guidelines and availability of funds.

During 1998-99, a sum of Rs. 48.00 lakhs was sanctioned and Rs. 24.00 lakhs released as a first instalment to Haryana for integrated Development of Kurukshetra as a Pilgrim Centre.

For the year 1999-2000, the project construction of Pari Karma at Brahma Sarovar-Phase II, Kurukshetra, has been prioritised for an amount of Rs. 24.00 lakhs and the project Information System at Kurukshetra has been prioritised for an amount of Rs. 10.00 lakhs.

**Land Reform**

574. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the guidelines and directions issued by the Planning Commission for Land Reforms in the States at present;

(b) whether achievements of Land Reform made at the end of Eighth Five Year Plan, the account thereof have been assessed, State-wise;

(c) whether possession of all excess land above the limits of ceiling laws have been taken by the State;

(d) if so, the details of availability of land during Sixth to Eighth Five Year Plan and possessed by the State Governments, State-wise;

(e) whether these lands had been distributed to rural poor under guidelines; and

(f) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The Planning Commission has not issued any guidelines/directions to the States regarding land reforms recently.

(b) to (f) The various Land Reform Programmes including Implementation of Land Ceiling Laws are reviewed from time to time at various fora including Revenue Secretaries/ Revenue Ministers'/ Chief Ministers' Conferences and necessary guidelines are issued to the State Governments for effective implementation of Land Reforms. For Eighth Plan, position was reviewed during Revenue Ministers' Conference held on 28th January 1997. Thereafter, the review was also done in the subsequent Revenue Ministers Conference held on 17th September, 1998. The State-wise information on area declared surplus, area taken possession of by State Government and area distributed to rural poor by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan, which shows cumulative figures from Sixth to Eighth Five Year Plans, is given in enclosed statement.

**Statement**

*Position at the end of 8th Five Year Plan i.e. March, 1997*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Area (in Acres)		
		Declared Surplus	Taken possession of	Distributed
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	791140	636237	572979
2.	Assam	612380	575837	482650
3.	Bihar	488257	416529	303330
4.	Gujarat	228884	158046	134080
5.	Haryana	93511	85348	87259
6.	Himachal Pradesh	282581	281652	3340
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	455575	450000	450000
8.	Karnataka	267758	155026	117375
9.	Kerala	137692	94800	64253
10.	Madhya Pradesh	338758	299718	185313
11.	Maharashtra	729549	664352	554833
12.	Manipur	1830	1685	1682
13.	Orissa	176569	165726	159884
14.	Punjab	222594	105151	103493
15.	Rajasthan	601922	557879	452174
16.	Tamil Nadu	194384	171114	164103
17.	Tripura	1995	1944	1599
18.	Uttar Pradesh	561377	527036	390501
19.	West Bengal	1297664	1224771	967413
20.	D & N Haveli	9406	9305	6851
21.	Delhi	1132	394	394
22.	Pondicherry	2326	1160	1022
Total		7497248	6583710	5204528

**Funds for IRDP**

575. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated for IRDP in the current financial year to the State of Kerala; and

(b) the percentage of amount spent up to November, 1999 ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is no more in operation since 31.3.1999. A new self-employment programme namely Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) has been launched since 1.4.1999. Funds for SGSY is shared between the Centre and the States on 75:25 basis. The Central allocation under SGSY to Kerala during 1999-2000 is Rs. 1762.47 lakhs.

(b) The expenditure of Kerala under SGSY upto October, 1999 is 14.73% i.e. Rs. 225.58 lakhs against the total available fund of Rs. 1531.01 lakhs comprising opening balance, Central and State releases. The due date for receipt of the progress report upto November, 1999 is 20th of December, 1999.

**Completion of Railway Line between Eklakhi and Balurghat**

576. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway line between Eklakhi and Balurghat remains incomplete for the last 20 years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to complete the above line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The work was sanctioned in 1984-85 and has thus been in progress for 14 years.

(b) The work has been progressing slowly due to acute constraint of resources and the lower operational priority of this line.

(c) The present Government has decided to accord priority to the projects which are older than 10 years and accordingly work on this project is being speeded up.

**Elections to the Zila Parishad, Chandigarh**

577. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the elections to the Zila Parishad, Chandigarh (UT) were held over three years back; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not constituting the Zila Parishad and the Panchayat Samiti so far ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Panchayat elections in Chandigarh were held in accordance with the provisions of the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1998 which has also been extended to the U.T. of Chandigarh. The provisions in the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1998 relating to the ratio of representatives of the Sarpanches and that of directly elected members i.e. 60:40 is not compatible to the U.T. of Chandigarh, as the total number of Sarpanches in the U.T. is only 17. The procedure for constitution of the Panchayat Samiti provides that the candidature for membership be proposed by a Sarpanch and seconded by another Sarpanch. It has not been possible for the Chandigarh Administration to follow this procedure, as this procedure would require a minimum of 30 Sarpanches (10 candidates, 10 proposers of the candidature and 10 seconders to the proposal). Consequently, it has not been possible to constitute the Zila Parishad.

**Shifting of Firing Range from Hyderabad**

578. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a field firing range in Jawahar Nagar, Shameerpet, Hyderabad was set up in outskirts of Hyderabad city where habitation has since been come up around it;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to shift this firing range elsewhere to save civilian population from any eventuality;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon;

(d) the number of civilians killed or injured during firing practice by Jawans during the last three years, and

(e) the compensation if any paid to them ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Small Arms Firing Range was set up in 1964. The CRPF has acquired 225 acres of contiguous land in 1996 around which habitation has come up.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, Government of Andhra Pradesh has not indicated any alternative site for the Range.

(d) No case of injury or death has been reported from this Range during last three years.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Improvement in Air Services of Indian Airlines**

579 SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Indian Air Services are not be accordance with the international standards;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the maintenance standard of the planes of the domestic carriers is very poor; and
- (d) if so, the programmes formulated by the Government to bring the standard of domestic airlines at par with the international airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Electrification of Nilgiri Mountain Railway**

580 SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to electrify Nilgiri Mountain Railway;
- (b) whether even survey of this project is possible keeping in view of low height of tunnels leaving very little room for overhead wires;
- (c) if so, whether it is possible to raise the height of tunnels without any damage to the Railway Line; and
- (d) if not, the reasons which compelled the railways to spend Rs. 245 crores on electrification of this railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Only a cost-cum-feasibility survey for assessing the possibilities of electrification of section has been sanctioned. During the survey the site conditions including various constraints such as low height of tunnels, repercussions of increasing the height etc. will be examined.

- (d) Does not arise, in view of (a) to (c) above.

*[Translation]***Chakarbhatta Airport**

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

- (a) the total number of airports in Madhya Pradesh through which domestic flights are available;
- (b) the reasons of closure of Chakarbhatta Airport despite of Bilaspur region of Madhya Pradesh being a tribal dominated region and also a rapid developing industrial area;
- (c) whether the Government are contemplating to make it an ultra modern airport; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Domestic flights operate to six airports in Madhya Pradesh, namely, Bhopal, Indore, Raipur, Khajuraho, Gwalior and Jabalpur.

(b) to (d) There have been no commercial operations to Chakarbhatta airport in Bilaspur for the last two decades. No airline has indicated its plan for operation from this airport. Hence, Airports Authority of India is not contemplating upgradation of this airport at this juncture.

*[English]***Subsidy on Sugar**

582. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to withdraw sugar from Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the amount likely to be saved by withdrawing the subsidy on sugar; and
- (d) the likely impact on the price of sugar in the open market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Expansion of Snow and Avalanche Study  
Establishment Centre**

583. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the snow and Avalanches Study Establishment Centre situated near the Manali in district Kullu of Himachal Pradesh has issued notification under Section 4 to acquire land at Vashishat for its expansion through Government of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the local people have opposed this notification as sufficient land is available for this expansion across the Beas river;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to acquire the land available in front of Centre across the Beas river instead of acquiring the fertile and valuable land of farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE), Manali, after the floods in 1995, had approached the Himachal Pradesh Government for providing suitable land near its present location for establishing the essential elements of SASE. The Himachal Pradesh Government had therefore, issued a notification to acquire some land and provide the necessary land site to SASE.

(b) and (c) Some of the local people had raised certain objections. In view of this, State Government is taking appropriate action for acquiring alternate land.

(d) Does not arise.

**Railway Projects Submitted by Karnataka**

584. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the railway projects submitted by Government of Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether some proposals have been found unviable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) The following proposals have been received from the Government of Karnataka during the last three years.

S.No.	Proposal received	Action taken
1.	New Railway line between Hassan-Bangalore via Sharvanabalagola (1996-97)	Project was sanctioned in the year 1996-97.
2.	Construction of BG line between Kadur-Chikmangalore via Sakleshpur (1996-97)	Project was sanctioned in the year 1996-97.
3.	New Railway line Mysore to Mangalore, Mysore to Tellichary (1997-98)	Project was dropped because of unremunerative rate of return (ROR) of the project.
4.	Construction of Ankola - Hubli Railway line (1996-97)	Project was sanctioned by the competent authority in the year 1996-97 (supplementary budget)
5.	New Railway line between Bangalore and Sathyamangalam via Kanakapura (1997-98)	Project was sanctioned in 1998-99.
6.	Gauge Conversion between Mysore - Chamarajinagar with extension an new line up to Mattupalyam (1997-98).	Project was included in the Railway Budget 1997-98.
7.	Laying of new Railway line between Madikeri and Chanarayapatna via Holenarasipur, Arakalgod and line between Kushalnagar and Channarayapatna via Konanur (1998-99).	Project was shelved because of unremunerative rate of return (ROR) of the project.

[English]

**Conversion of Naupada-Gunupur Railway Line**

585. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the revised traffic report regarding conversion of Naupada-Gunupur railway line into broad gauge has been finalised and examined; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above line is likely to be converted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Revised Traffic Survey report is under consideration. However, although grossly unremunerative, but being a socially desirable project, the work of Naupada-Gunupur Gauge Conversion has already been included in the Railway Budget, 1997-

98. with the proviso that the actual work would be taken up once the requisite clearances are obtained, for which necessary action has already been initiated. The work will thereafter be progressed as per the availability of resources and completed in the coming years.

[Translation]

#### **Doubling of Surat-Bhusawal Railway Line**

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

- (a) the extent to which work completed and expenditure incurred on doubling of Surat-Bhusawal rail line so far;
- (b) the time fixed for doubling work of above line;
- (c) the reasons for delay in completion of above work alongwith the cost over run thereby; and
- (d) the time by which the above line is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) No such work is sanctioned. However, double line already exists between Bhusawal-Jalgaon and Surat-Udhana section of Bhusawal - Surat line. Survey for doubling of the remaining single line section of Udhana-Jalgaon is in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[English]

#### **Conversion of Jalpaiguri-Bongaigaon Railway Line**

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

- (a) whether the gauge conversion of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon under Northeast frontier Railway has been cleared; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which the same is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The project was cleared by the Government in Feb'1999.

#### **Rules for Slaughter House Near Airports**

588. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether rules prohibit for setting up of slaughter house within a radius of 10 km. from reference point of airport.

- (b) if so, the definition of reference point in simple terms;
- (c) whether it is also applicable to Air Force airfields;
- (d) if so, whether the Government are considering to amend the provision to ensure safe flights; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Aircraft Rules prohibit a person from slaughtering or flaying of animals, depositing or dropping of any rubbish, filth, garbage or any other polluted or obnoxious matter including such material from hotels, meat shops, fish shops and bone processing mills which is likely to attract animals, vultures or other birds, within a radius of 10 kms. from "Aerodrome Reference Point."

(b) "Aerodrome Reference Point" (ARP) in relation to any aerodrome means a designated point established in the horizontal plane at or near the geometric centre of the aerodrome reserved for the departure or landing of aircraft. This is established for each aerodrome in India and published in Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

#### **Distance Between Double Tracks**

589. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether railway line run too close to each other;
- (b) if so, whether railways have examined any proposal to ensure greater distance between two sets of rail tracks on any route; and
- (c) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Generation of Power from Agriculture Waste**

590. SHRIMATI NISHA CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to generate power from Agriculture Waste or Municipal Solid Waste;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from some private/Government institutions for installation of such projects/plants for power generation;

(d) if so, whether any letter to intent has been issued to any institution; and

(e) if so, the progress made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNA-PPAN) : (a) and (b) Under the Biomass Power/Co-generation Programme and Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal and Industrial Wastes, an aggregate capacity of 222 MW of power has already been established in the country. This includes generation of power from a variety of biomass resources, including agricultural wastes and municipal solid wastes.

(c) to (e) These projects are largely being taken up as commercial projects through private investments. A limited number of demonstration projects are also being taken up through partial financial assistance by Government. The proposals are forwarded by Financial Institutions or State Nodal Agencies for eligible incentives under different schemes. No proposal for power generation from agricultural wastes is pending for consideration. Two proposals for energy recovery from municipal solid wastes are under consideration for eligible incentives. Four other proposals are at the stage of financial closure and other tie-ups.

[Translation]

#### Power Generation

591. DR. ASHOK PATEL :  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to promote generation of power by the wind energy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNA-PPAN) : (a) and (b) Under the Wind Power Programme, a capacity of 1077 MW has already been installed in the country, which includes demonstration projects of 55 MW capacity, and commercial projects of 1022 MW set up through private investments. About 5 billion units of electricity have been fed to the respective State grids from these projects. 177 potential sites in 13 States/UTs have been identified for wind power projects. Fiscal and promotional incentives are available for commercial projects. Attractive policies have been announced by the State Governments for wheeling, banking and buy-back of electricity generated from wind power

projects. Soft loans are also available from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for wind power projects.

#### Exploration of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

592. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to explore the possibilities of non-conventional energy sources in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by which the entire possibilities of non-conventional energy sources in the country are likely to be explored ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNA-PPAN) : (a) and (b) Various studies have been sponsored/undertaken by the Government which have indicated broad potentials of various Non-Conventional Energy Sources on country-wide basis. The broad potentials on Non-Conventional Energy Sources estimated on country-wide basis including in the State of Uttar Pradesh, are given in the enclosed statement. The broad potential of non-conventional energy sources in the State of Uttar Pradesh have been estimated in respect of Biogas, Improved Chulha, Small Hydro Power (upto 3 MW) and Bagasse based Co-generation in sugar mills are 20.21 lakhs, 187.45 lakhs, 327 MW and 1000 MW respectively.

(c) The exploration of the potential of renewable energy and its exploration is a continuous and on-going process. The potential/exploitation of renewable energy offers limitless possibilities and the use of renewable energy is expected to increase sharply over the years.

#### Statement

*Broad Potential of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in the Country and in the State of Uttar Pradesh*

Source/System	Approximate potential
1	2
1. Biogas plants (No.)	120 lakh
2. Improved Chulla (No.)	12 crores
3. Biomass	17,000 MW
4. Bagasse based Cogeneration	3500 MW
5. Solar Photovoltaic	20 MW/sq.km.
6. Solar Thermal	35 MW/sq.km.
7. Wind Power	20,000 MW
8. Small Hydro Power (upto 15 MW)	10,000 MW



1	2
9. Energy from Urban & Industrial Waste	1700 MW
10. Ocean Thermal Energy	1,80,000 MW
11. Tidal Power	15,000 MW

MW = Mega-watt

Sq km = Square Kilometer

[English]

#### Payment of Ex-gratia Towards of Deceased Army Officers

593. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any distinction between Army personnel killed in action against insurgents and terrorists in Punjab, North East and J & K and the those killed in action during 1962, 1965, 1971 and the current conflicts in Kargil in the matter of payment of ex-gratia and other benefits available to the family and dependents of deceased officers ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the reasons for the distinction and discrimination; and

(d) the steps taken to rationalise the system ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) to (d) Government policy on payment of ex-gratia to the next of kin of battle casualties was formulated for the first time in October, 1996 and under this dispensation ex-gratia of Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 2 lakhs were paid to the families of service personnel killed during the period 20.8.1993 to 30.4.1995 and 1.5.1995 to 31.7.1997 respectively, while performing their duties in encounter with or in an incident involving armed hostiles, extremists, terrorists or other anti-social elements such as dacoits/smugglers and also for those killed in enemy action and border skirmishes. Consequent on the implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, the ex-gratia amount was raised to Rs. 5 lakhs in cases of death occurring due to accidents in the course of performance of duties and in cases of death occurring in the course of performance of duty attributable to acts of violence by terrorists, anti-social elements etc., and Rs. 7.5 lakhs in case of death occurring during enemy action in international war or border skirmishes and action against militants, extremists etc. Further an amendment was made in August, 1999, in the wake of the Kargil conflict, to provide for ex-gratia of Rs. 10 lakhs for death occurring during enemy action in international war or war like engagements and Rs. 7.5 lakhs for death during (i) border skirmishes and (ii) action against militants, terrorists, extremists etc. The Kargil conflict has been treated as war-like engagement and ex-gratia of Rs. 10 lakhs has been granted to the next of kin of those killed in the said operation.

Apart from the above, the following assistance has been provided from the National Defence Fund: Rs. 5 lakhs for dwelling unit; Rs. 1 lakh per child for education upto two children per family; Rs. 1.20 lakhs for needy parents who were dependent on the deceased soldiers.

For ex-gratia lump sum compensation a distinction has been made between casualties in war/war-like engagements and those arising out of border skirmishes and action against militants, terrorists, extremists etc., because of different levels of risk as well as the intensity of action involved in each case. However, all casualties of war/war-like engagements are treated equally for the purpose of grant of ex-gratia lump sum compensation.

Prior to August, 1993, there was no ex-gratia award.

As per extant instructions no distinction is made in payment of terminal benefits to the next of kin of Defence Service personnel killed in the earlier wars/counter insurgency operations/action against militants/terrorists/extremists etc., and in the recent Kargil conflict. The same principle is being followed for grant of Liberalised Family Pension to the families of the deceased service personnel and Death Gratuity and Family Gratuity as admissible from time to time.

#### US Research Ship in Bay of Bengal

594. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a U.S. research ship 'Ron Brown' was seen moving into the Bay of Bengal in North-East Indian Ocean, in May 1999:

(b) if so, whether the objective behind the U.S. move has since been found out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ship, an Oceanographic and Meteorological Research Vessel of the United States of America was gathering ocean and atmospheric data in the Indian Ocean region, including the Bay of Bengal. Initially, it operated off the West Coast of India from 4th March, 99 to 23rd March, 99, and, thereafter, moved from the Arabian Sea to the Bay of Bengal for carrying out similar observations. Throughout this period, the Vessel had stayed outside the Exclusive Economic Zone i.e. beyond 200 Nautical miles from the Indian coast line.

[Translation]

#### Rural Building Centres

595. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to set up rural building centres for providing technical know-how to construct low cost houses in all the district headquarters of the country through HUDCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such centres proposed to be set up, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development has launched the Scheme facilitating the setting up of a network of Rural Building Centres from 1st April, 1999, through out the country with the following objectives :-

- (i) Technology transfer and information dissemination.
- (ii) Skill upgradation through training.
- (iii) Production of cost effective and environment-friendly material components.

These centres are to be set up by State Governments/ Semi Governments/Non-Governmental Organisations. Funds @ Rs. 15 lakh per centre for setting up these centres are to be provided by the Ministry.

(c) To start with, it is proposed to set up two Rural Building Centres in each State/UT.

[English]

#### **Encroachment on Defence Land**

596. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :  
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the removal of large scale encroachments on defence land in greater Mumbai and Pune Cantonment; and

(b) the time by which all these encroachments are expected to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Concerted efforts are on to remove the encroachments with the assistance of the State Government. Removal of encroachments being a quasi-judicial process, it is not possible to indicate a definite time frame for the same

#### **Railway Projects in Kerala**

597. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Rail projects received from Kerala during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the steps taken on each proposal;

(c) the details of the survey conducted during the above period.

(d) the details of present status of on-going railway projects under taken so far, project-wise.

(e) the expenditure incurred thereon, project-wise and

(f) the reasons for the slow progress in completion of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The following Rail Projects have been received from Kerala :-

1. Ernakulam-Trivandrum Railway Electrification: The project has been included in the Railway Budget for the year 1999-2000, subject to necessary clearances for which action has been initiated.
2. Shoranur-Mangalore Railway Electrification This proposal has not been taken up because the work is not operationally justified.

(c) The surveys carried out in Kerala during the last three years and the current year are as under :-

**1996-97 :** Reconnaissance Engineering cum Traffic survey for a new BG railway line between Angamala and Erumeli.

**1997-98 :**

1. Preliminary Engineering cum-traffic survey for gauge conversion of Quilon - Virudhunagar and Tenkasi - Tirunelveli - Tiruchendur.
2. Preliminary Engineering cum traffic survey for a new BG line between Thakazhi - Tiruvalla -Pathananthitta.
3. Preliminary Engineering cum traffic survey for a new BG line from Kayankulam to Trivandrum via Adoor and Kottarakkara.
4. Preliminary Engineering cum traffic survey for new BG line between Nilambur Road and Feroke via Manjeri and Mavur.
5. Preliminary Engineering cum traffic survey for a new BG line from Sabaraimala to Dindigul.
6. Reconnaissance Engineering cum traffic survey for a new BG line between Tellicherry and Mysore via Coorg and alternate alignment via Wayanad.

**1998-99**

- 1 Preliminary Engineering cum traffic survey for a new BG line from Guruvayur to Tanur.

**1999-2000**

1. Preliminary Engineering cum traffic survey for a new BG line from Idappally to Tirur.
2. Preliminary Engineering cum traffic survey for new BG line between Punalur and Trivandrum.

(d) The details of present status on going railway projects undertaken so far :-

1. **Quilon - Trivandrum central doubling :**

Doubling between Trivandrum central and Murukumpuzha and Vakala to Quilon has been completed and commissioned. Doubling between the remaining portion Varkala - Murukumpuzha is in progress and is likely to be completed by March, 2000.

2. **Shoranur - Mangalore doubling**

Land acquisition between Shoranur and Calicut, and construction/extension of minor bridges from Tanur - Calicut are in progress. The doubling of the following block stations have been completed :-

- (i) Calicut-Elathur
- (ii) Quilandi-Tikkoti
- (iii) Ullal to Netharavathi
- (iv) Kasargod - Uppala

The following block sections are targetted for completion by March, 2000:-

- (i) Payangadi-Cheravathur
- (ii) Elathur-Quilandi
- (iii) Badagara-Cannanore South
- (iv) Ullal to Uppala

3. **Angamali - Sabrimala New BG line**

About 60 kms have been completed and Tender for final location survey has been awarded.

4. **Kuttipuram - Guruvayur New BG line**

Requisite clearances are being processed.

5. **New BG line from Kottayam to Erumali**

Requisite clearances are being processed.

6. **Ernakulam-Trivandrum (Railway Electrification)**

Requisite clearances are being processed.

(e) and (f) The works are progressing in accordance with the allotment of the funds every year. Funds are allocated for various Railway Projects depending upon their operational importance, physical progress, national & strategic considerations and social relevance. A number of railway projects span across more than one state. Thus, state/regional boundaries per se are not a criterion for deciding railway investments and for the same reason, their expenditure is not maintained.

**Filling up of Vacant Posts for SC/ST**

598. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the requisite quota of appointments in various categories for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes has not been filled up in the Ministry and its public sector undertakings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) There is only a marginal shortfall in the quota for filling up of reserved vacancies in the Ministry and its subordinate offices. A Statement showing the percentage of reserved posts which have already been filled according to the reservation quota for SC/ST by the Public Sector Undertakings is enclosed. The main reasons for the shortfall are -

- (i) Inadequate response to advertisements;
- (ii) Adequate number of SC/ST candidates not being available to fill technical posts like Pilots, Engineers etc.
- (iii) Freezing of recruitment in Air India;
- (iv) Problems of organisation structure in Pawan Hans Helicopter Ltd. and merger of two organisations in the case of Airports Authority of India.

**Statement***Percentage of Posts Filled by SC/ST candidates in various Public Sector Undertakings*

Group(s)	Indian Airlines		Air India		Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd.		Airports Authority of India		Hotel Corporation India	
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
A.	14.40	2.81	17.51	6.30	7.42	-	12.35	3.26	15.46	2.53
B.	17.40	6.17	18.18	6.40	4.92	0.70	13.90	4.17	20.98	6.79
C.	17.97	8.05	20.32	7.21	21.29	11.41	19.08	5.32	24.76	6.36
D.	21.84	6.41	33.17	6.11	25.00	8.33	39.70	4.00	34.06	6.70

(Excluding Safai Karamcharis)

Note : Safai Karamcharis of Indian Airlines	SC	59.62%
	ST	4.15%
Safai Karamcharis of Air India	SC	59.07%
	ST	1.87%
Safai Karamcharis of Hotel Corporation of India	SC	58.51%
	ST	2.12%

**Purchase of Electronic Equipments for Army**

599. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Army plans to reassess its equipment especially of bigger howitzers;

(b) whether the Government propose to purchase latest electronic equipment after high altitude testing; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount to be spent on such purchases ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) At present, the Army do not plan to reassess their requirements of howitzers.

(b) and (c) Modern electronic equipment have been trial-evaluated by the Army with a view to procuring these equipment, in a phased manner.

**Mobile Police in Trains**

600. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :  
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mobile police posts have been functioning in important trains in some divisions;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Division-wise.

(c) whether the Government propose to extend this facility in other Divisions also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) To extend this facility in other Divisions, the State Government concerned is required to take a decision.

**Statement***Division-wise list of trains on all Indian Railways where mobile police force have been functioning*

Railway	Division	Train
		1
Central	Mumbai	2137/2138, 2105/2106, 8001/8002, 8004/8003, 1093/1094, 1063/1064, 1057/1058, 1003
	Solapur	6009/6010, 7001/7002, 1013/1014, 1023/1024, 1019/1020, 1081/1082, 6011, 1064
	Bhopal	4209/7022, 6046/6045, 4310/4309, 1017/4318
Eastern	Sealdah	3143, 3453, 3111

1	2	3
Northern	Allahabad	2417/2418, 4055/4056, 2003/2004, 3111/3112, 4517/4518, 3483/3484, 4163/4164, 2801/2802, 2402, 2301/2305, 2302/2306, 6043/6044, 4257/4258
	Moradabad	4645/4646, 3073/3074, 4681/4682, 375/376, 4265/6266, 331/332, 371/372, 3005/3006, 4231/4332, 3049/3050, 8237/8238, 2903/2904, 3151/3152
	Lucknow	4229/4230, 2419/2420, 4674, 2553/2554, 4257/4258, 2401/2402, 4215/4216, 4231/4232, 3005/3006, 4265/4266, 5207/5208, 3073/3074, 1033/1034, 3483/3484, 4307/4308, 2309/2310, 8476, 3151/3152, 135/136, 352/351, 4863/4864, 1015/1016, 4007/4008, 6093/6094, 4228/4227, 5005/5006, 4123/4124, 4649/4650, 1143/1144
N.E. Rly	Izzatnagar	147 UP, 178DN, 189UP, 4023 UP, 4024 DN, 5309 UP, 5311 UP, 5312 DN
	Lucknow	5007 UP, 5008 DN, 5307 UP, 5308 DN, 5313 UP, 5314 DN, 5319 UP
	Sonepur	222DN, 233 UP, 245 UP, 270 DN, 305 UP, 319 UP, 321 UP, 326 DN, 330 DN, 406 DN, 409 UP, 411 UP, 412 DN, 502 DN, 507 UP, 508 DN, 512 DN, 515 UP, 516 DN, 521 UP, 528 DN, 539 UP, 547 UP, 566 DN, 2423 UP, 2424 DN, 2435 UP, 2436 DN, 2453, 2020 DN, 3242 DN, 3246 DN, 4083 UP, 4650 DN, 4674 DN, 5203 UP, 5204 DN, 5217 UP, 5218 DN, 5219 UP, 5220 DN, 5542 DN, 5621 UP, 5622 DN, 5715 UP, 8181 UP, 8182 DN, 5222 DN,
N.F. Rly		N:ii
Southern	Madras, Palghat Madra, TPJ & MDU	6319/6320, 6605/6606, 6701/6702, 6119/6120
S.C. Rly	Secunderabad & Vijayawada	7007/7008
S.E. Rly	Chakradharpur	8030 UP, 8066 DN
	Waltair	7007/7008

1	2	3
	Adra	5027/5028, 8623/8624, 8015/8016, 8621/8622, 8605/8606, 8603/8604, 8601/8602, 8689/8690, 8685/8686, 8625/8626, 8101, 8121/8122, 8475/8476, 465, 85/86, 4 DCH
	Kharagpur	8407 UP, 8002 UP, 6003 UP, 8434 UP, 8005 UP, 8015 UP, 8007 UP, 315 UP, 8410 DN, 2811 DN, 7479 UP, 7486 DN, 8006 DN, 6004 DN, 8033 DN, 8008 DN
	Sambalpur	8689/8690, 8403/8404
	Shalimar	315 UP, 3033 DN, 8409 UP, 138 DN, 8434 UP, 7480 DN, 6003 UP, 3008 DN, 8005 UP, 8006 DN, 8007 UP, 6004 DN
	Khurda Rd	8008 DN, 8007 UP, 8410 DN, 8499 UP
Western	BCT	13 Exp./Mail Trains
	BRC	81 (Exp), 32 (PGR)
	RTM	38 (Exp), 18 (PGR)
	All	4 (Exp), 2 (PGR)
	RJT	8 (Exp), 8 (PGR)
	BVP	6 (Exp), 2 (PGR)

#### Construction of Tanur-Guruvayur Rail Line

601. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in construction of Tannur-Guruvayur new railway line under Southern Railways in Kerala;

(b) the number and the names of the stations (stop-pages) proposed on the above line;

(c) whether Ponnani town has been brought under the rail network; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) The work was sanctioned as a doubling project in lieu of doubling of Shoranur-Tanur sub section of Mangalore-Shoranur section. Later it was decided to double Shoranur-Tanur also, and as a result, this project now becomes a new line project. A fresh survey had to be done and the survey report for this section is under finalisation so that further action for obtaining the

requisite clearances for this work can be taken. Besides, Guruvayur and Tanur, Kunnankulam, Punnaiyurkulam, Ponnani, Mangalam and Tirur Town stations are proposed in the above line.

#### **Jodhpur Second Entry Work**

602. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Jodhpur second entry work was sanctioned as passenger amenity work in 1998-99;
- (b) if so, the funds allotted for the purpose;
- (c) the present status of the work; and
- (d) the target date for opening the Second Entry at Jodhpur ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Rs. 30.00 lakh have been allotted for the work during 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) Detailed plans and Estimate for the work have been finalised. Execution of the work is being taken up. However, opening of the second entry would depend upon widening of the narrow approach road by the Urban Infrastructure Trust, Jodhpur.

[Translation]

#### **Reserved Posts in Defence Ministry**

603. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Ministry of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some posts of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under various categories are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether various employees working in these departments and undertakings have been given promotion besides fresh recruitment during the last three years;
- (d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of fresh recruitments made under various categories during this period and till date in the current year;

(e) whether the recruitment and promotions of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were made in accordance with the rules in this regard; and

(f) if not, the remedial action taken in this regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the table of the House

[English]

#### **Chinese Military Activities on Arunachal Border**

604. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

- (a) whether Chinese activities on their side of the border have been increased since last June and that the Army had been placed on full alert along the border in Arunachal Pradesh;
- (b) the steps taken to defuse the tension in the border areas;
- (c) the number of incidents of border violations by China during the current year;
- (d) whether the Chinese have violated any agreements signed by the two-countries, and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) to (e) The resolution of the boundary question between India and China is outstanding. The two sides also have differences in perception of the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas including the Arunachal Pradesh, in the Eastern Sector. Both sides carry out patrolling activity in the border areas as per their respective perceptions of the LAC.

As and when any violation of the LAC is noticed, it is taken up with the Chinese side through diplomatic channels as also through Border Personnel Meetings and Flag Meetings. Presently, there is no tension along the India-China Border

The two sides are discussing the boundary question in the framework of the Joint Working Group. India and China have agreed to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through dialogue. Both sides have also reiterated their commitment to respect the Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas (1993) and the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas (1996) which provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas

#### **Losses in Kargil Conflict**

605. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :  
SHRI C.N. SINGH :  
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA  
SHRI A.C. JOS

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of soldiers and other army personnel died and injured, separately, on both sides, during the Kargil conflict;

(b) the number of Indian Martyrs whose bodies were found mutilated or disfigured by Pakistani Army alongwith the number of those who were subjected to torture by Pakistan during this period.

(c) the details of the welfare package along with the financial assistance and job opportunities provided to the dependents of the martyrs and the criteria adopted for grant of the same alongwith the number of the families rehabilitated so far; and

(d) the action plan formulated to prevent recurrence of such intrusion in future ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The information is as follows:

Army personnel killed	519
Air Force Personnel Killed	5
Army Personnel Injured	1363

The casualties on the Pakistan side is assessed at 772 dead

(b) 6

(c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) A constant watch is maintained on the border and all possible steps are taken to thwart attempts of misadventure on the part of our adversaries.

#### Statement

A comprehensive welfare package has been provided to the next of kin of the Armed Forces Personnel killed in the Kargil war. This includes ex-gratia lumpsum compensation

#### Statement-I

*National Project on Biogas Development - Achievements vis-a-vis targets for setting up of family type biogas plants during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (April-September, 1999).*

State/UT/Agency	Number of family type plants							
	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (Apr.-Sept. 99)	
	T	A	T	A	T	A	T	A
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	11,000	13,801	16,000	18,929	14,000	21,123	5,500	1,728
Assam	1,000	343	1,500	275	500	223	125	21
Bihar	2,815	682	1,500	920	500	708	188	37

of Rs. 10 lakhs; liberalised special family pension on the basis of last pay drawn by the deceased soldier; and death gratuity and family gratuity as per specified rates, as applicable. Apart from the above, the following assistance has been provided from the National Defence Fund; Rs. 5 lakhs for dwelling unit; Rs. 1 lakh per child for education upto two children per family; Rs. 1.20 lakhs for needy parents who were dependent on the deceased soldiers. An additional ex-gratia amount of Rs. 30,000/- has also been provided from the Army Central Welfare Fund.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has separately earmarked LPG dealerships/distributorships for allocation to the next of kin of the Armed Forces Personnel killed.

#### Setting up of Bio-Gas Plants

606. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state

(a) the target fixed and achievements made in setting up of Bio-gas Plants in various parts of the country during each of the last three years till date, State-wise, and

(b) the details of Bio-gas Plants functioning and those lying closed, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) The targets fixed and achievements made for setting up of family type biogas plants during the last three years, i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (April-September, 1999) under the Central Sector Scheme - National Project on Biogas Development are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The details of percentage of functional and non-operational family type biogas plants, including those lying closed, in 18 States are reported in the third round of Evaluation Survey Study by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi are given in the enclosed statement-II.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Gujarat	19,000	18,019	12,000	12,006	10,200	10,282	3,000	385
Haryana	1,700	1,949	2,000	1,906	1,500	2,343	750	531
Himachal Pradesh	1,200	1,262	1,200	1,142	750	794	188	222
Karnataka	18,000	19,379	19,500	12,465	12,500	12,558	2,450	2,185
Kerala	1,200	1,013	1,500	1,527	1,000	993	375	211
Madhya Pradesh	18,000	18,745	18,000	16,387	13,000	13,017	3,750	1,195
Maharashtra	10,000	11,474	15,000	15,406	12,000	13,474	3,000	2,535
Orissa	7,000	7,964	7,500	8,128	6,000	6,046	2,500	1,751
Punjab	4,000	3,868	6,000	5,524	8,000	5,818	1,375	1,875
Rajasthan	1,500	1,715	1,500	1,526	1,000	1,319	250	72
Tamil Nadu	4,000	3,205	2,000	2,000	1,500	1,500	375	222
Uttar Pradesh	11,000	11,070	12,000	12,040	8,500	8,645	2,125	1,766
West Bengal	8,000	8,210	10,000	11,336	8,510	10,010	3,750	3,823
KVIC, Mumbai	40,000	40,018	40,000	46,265	30,000	36,701	9,150	6,552
Other	5,585	7,172	7,800	6,883	4,040	4,053	3,151	1,337
<b>States/UTs/Agencies</b>								
Total	1,65,000	1,69,889	1,75,000	1,74,665	1,33,500	1,49,607	42,002	26,448

T- Target

A- Achievement

**Statement-II**

*State-wise information on survey sample size and percentage of functioning and non-conventional plants, including those lying closed, reported in the third round of Evaluation Survey Study of family type biogas plants set up under the National Project on Biogas Development during 1992-93 to 1994-95, carried out by National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi in 1995-96.*

State	Survey sample size (no. of households owning biogas plants)	Functional plants (% of the sample)	Non-operational plants (% of the sample)
1	2	3	4

Andhra Pradesh	362	90.6	9.4
Assam	120	86.6	13.4
Bihar	179	67.6	32.4
Gujarat	370	94.1	5.9
Haryana	186	89.2	10.8
Himachal Pradesh	143	83.9	16.1
Karnataka	271	93.7	6.3
Kerala	191	97.9	2.1

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	425	92.9	7.1
Maharashtra	460	86.9	13.1
Meghalaya	90	100.0	0.0
Mizoram	76	86.8	13.2
Orissa	282	90.1	9.9
Rajasthan	254	52.8	47.2
Sikkim	85	85.8	14.2
Tamil Nadu	265	88.7	11.3
Uttar Pradesh	382	89.5	10.5
West Bengal	247	90.7	9.3
Total/Average	4388	87.4	12.6

**Gauge Conversion in Gujarat**

607. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :  
SHIR DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received some proposals from the Government of Gujarat and other organisations in the State for gauge conversion:

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



(c) the details of the railway lines which are being converted into broad gauge in Gujarat alongwith the works completed so far, project-wise; and

(d) the details of the new railway lines which are being laid in Gujarat alongwith the works completed so far, project-wise ?

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

(b) and (c) The details are as under :

<b>Proposal</b>		<b>Status</b>
1	2	
1	Gauge conversion of Rajkot-Veraval and its extension upto Kodinar/Somnath	Work is in progress for Rajkot-Veraval portion. This work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. A survey for extension of line upto Kodinar/Somnath has already been completed and the survey report is under examination.
2	Gauge conversion of Surendranagar-Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extension upto Pipavav	Work has been sanctioned. The work on long lead items such as major bridges, shifting of OHE crossings has been taken up. No target date is fixed.
3	Gauge conversion of Viramgam-Mehsana (A part of Bhildi-Viramgam project)	Work has been sanctioned. Work is being progressed as per availability of resources. No target date has been fixed.
4	Gauge conversion of Mehsana-Patan (A part of Bhildi-Viramgam project)	Work on gauge conversion of Mahesana-Patan is being progressed as per availability of resources. Work of reconstruction of bridges in this section has already been completed. No targets date has been fixed.
5	Gauge conversion of Navlakhi-Dahinsara, Morbi-Wankaner and Dahinsara-Maliya Miyana.	Work has been sanctioned. The first phase from Morbi to Maliya Miyana and Dahinsara-Navlakhi has been completed. The rest of the section is expected to be completed by Dec. 2000 subject to availability of resources.
6	Gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj-Nalia	Work on Gandhidham-Bhuj is in progress and is targeted for completion by June-2000. Survey for gauge conversion of Bhuj-Nalia has already been completed and survey report is under examination.
7	Gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Samakhiali-Palanpur	Work has been included in the budget 1998-99 and will be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances.
8	Gauge conversion of Dharangadhara-Kuda Salt siding.	Works has been included in the Supplementary Budget 1997-98. Work is being executed on cost sharing basis with the Government of Gujarat and Ministry of Industry and expected to be completed by Dec. 2000 subject to the balance amount from co-sharers becoming available.
9	Gauge conversion of Bharuch-Samni-Dahej	Bharuch-Samni-Dahej has been covered in the proposed 3rd line from Ahmedabad to Virar for which survey report is under finalisation.
10	Gauge conversion of Ankleshwar-Rajpipla	Surveys conducted in the past have revealed inadequate traffic prospects for this line. As such, it has not been found possible to take up the work for the present.
11	Gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar.	A survey for gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur is already in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

1	2
12. Gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Vijapur	In view of heavy throw forward for gauge conversion project, there is no proposal for gauge conversion of this section at present.
13. Gauge conversion of Dabhoi-Miyagam	Survey for gauge conversion of this line has already been completed as an alternative line of the proposed alignment for 3rd line between Virar-Ahmedabad. However, this line could not be considered as part of 3rd line as the alignments on western side of Virar-Ahmedabad BG line has been found most suitable for the 3rd line on operational consideration.
14. Gauge conversion of Chhotaudepur-Pratapnagar	A survey for gauge conversion of this line is already in progress. Further consideration of this project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

(d) Details of new railway line projects in Gujarat are as under :

Project	Status
1. New line for Kapadvanj-Modasa	Work is in good progress and is targeted for completion by June-2000.
2. New line for Godhra-Dahod-Indore and Dewas-Maksi	This work is being executed in phases. Phase-I work of Dewas-Maksi is in progress and will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources  Phase-II work of Godhra-Indore will be taken up once the first phase work has been completed.

[Translation]

**Stock of Wheat With F.C.I.**

608. SHRI J.S. BRAR :  
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) The details of actual demand and stock of wheat and rice available with the Food Corporation of India during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 upto October, 1999;

(b) the quantity of wheat and rice procured by the Food Corporation of India during the above period;

(c) the estimated requirement of wheat and rice in the country during 1999-2000;

(d) the quantity of wheat and rice exported/imported by the Government during the above period; and

(e) the logic behind importing these items when the country have more quantity than required ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The demand of wheat and rice, based on the allocation to the States, is as follows :

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Rice	Wheat
1996-97	150.09	105.37
1997-98	126.56	99.24
1998-99	127.57	99.20
1999-2000 (upto October 1999)	77.07	59.62

The stock of rice and wheat with FCI during these years is as follows :

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Stock as on							
	1st January		1st June		1st October		1st December	
	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat
1996	154.09	131.47	130.60	77.62	128.82	141.31	93.40	105.42
1997	129.40	70.82	131.70	32.40	109.50	114.20	70.38	83.04
1998	114.86	67.56	130.47	50.75	120.39	164.76	89.59	152.38
1999	116.83	126.96	117.39	99.21	107.35	216.35	88.18	204.05

(b) The quantity of wheat and rice procured by the Food Corporation of India and also the State Government/ Agencies during the above period are as follows :

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Rice	Wheat
1996-97	122.22	81.57
1997-88	143.08	92.98
1998-99	117.79	126.52
1999-2000 (upto October 1999)	61.41	141.38

(c) As per the Behaviouristic Approach, the demand of rice and wheat at 6% GDP growth rate has been projected at 90.75 million tonnes and 68.50 million tonnes, respectively for the terminal year of the IX Plan i.e. 2001-02.

(d) Government has not directly exported any wheat or rice since 1996-97. Rice has not been imported by Government since 1996-97. The quantity of wheat imported by Government during the above period is as follows:

Years	Quantity in lakh tonnes
1996-97	17.51
1997-98	10.18
1998-99	14.15
1999-2000 (upto October, 1999)	Nil

(e) Government, after reviewing of the stock position of wheat and trend of production during 1997-98 Rabi Season, to be marketed in 1998-99, decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat in 1998-99. However, only 14.15 lakh tonnes were imported against the authorization of 20 lakh tonnes.

#### Price Index

609. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :  
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase of 2.84 per cent in the wholesale price index after the hike in the prices of diesel on October 16, 1999:

(b) if so, whether the prices of essential commodities transported attributed, much to the above increases; and

(c) if so, the facts in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The administered prices of diesel was raised on 5.10.99. The annual rate of inflation based on the variations in the all commodities wholesale price index numbers was estimated at 2.84% as on 16.10.99 from the pre-hike level of 2.0% as on 2.10.99. The entire increase in the wholesale price index numbers cannot be attributed to the rise in the prices of diesel. The direct impact of increase in the diesel prices on the annual rate of inflation was estimated at around 0.7%. The impact of diesel price hike on the prices of other essential commodities is estimated to be marginal.

[English]

#### Technology Transfer by Bofors

610. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Celsius, the parent company of Bofors, has expressed its willingness to extend the transfer of technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to get the clause incorporated in its deal with Bofors to transfer such technology beyond 2000; and

(d) the benefits likely to be accrued by transfer of such technology and start production of Bofors Arms in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (c) A Licence Agreement between the Ministry of Defence and erstwhile AB BOFORS, Sweden, of which Celsius is the successor company, for transfer of technology had already been concluded in March 1986. The Agreement is effective upto March 2001, subject to further extension by mutual agreement.

(d) The benefits likely to accrue would be dependent on the comparative advantages of the upgraded technology made available in the light of technologies currently under adoption by Armies elsewhere.

#### **Backward Districts in the Country**

611. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the districts which have been declared as backward districts in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to remove their backwardness ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) To identify the 100 most backward and poorest districts in the country with the objective of framing special Action Plan for infrastructure development in the rural areas, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. E.A.S. Sarma was constituted. The Committee has since submitted its report identifying the 100 most backward and poorest districts (list enclosed as statement). The Sarma Committee's Report has since been circulated to all the States/UTs for comments.

#### **Statement**

*List of the 100 most backward and poorest districts (State wise)*

#### **Bihar**

1. Nalanda
2. Bhojpur
3. Ranchi
4. Aurangabad
5. Jahanbad
6. Gaya
7. Nawada
8. Saran
9. Siwan

10. Gopalganj
11. Pashim Champaran
12. Purba Champaran
13. Sitamarhi
14. Muzaffarpur
15. Vaishali
16. Begusarai
17. Samastipur
18. Darbhanga
19. Madhubani
20. Saharsa
21. Madhepura
22. Purnia
23. Katihar
24. Khagaria
25. Munger
26. Bhagalpur
27. Godda
28. Sahibganj
29. Dumka
30. Deoghar
31. Giridh
32. Hazaribag
33. Palamu
34. Lohardaga
35. Gumla
36. Pashmi Singhbhum
37. Araria
38. Kishanganj

#### **Dadra & Nagar Haveli**

39. Dadra & Nagar Haveli

#### **Haryana**

40. Kaithal

#### **Himachal Pradesh**

41. Hamirpur

#### **Karnataka**

42. Bidar

#### **Madhya Pradesh**

43. Tikamgarh
44. Chhatarpur
45. Panna
46. Sagar
47. Damoh

48. Khargone
49. Khandwa
50. Vidisha
51. Sehore
52. Raisen
53. Betul
54. Hoshangabad
55. Narsimhapur
56. Mandla
57. Chindwara
58. Seoni
59. Balaghat
60. Rajnandgaon
61. Sarguja

**Maharashtra**

62. Aurangabad
63. Jalna
64. Parbhani
65. Beed
66. Nanded
67. Osmanabad
68. Latur
69. Buldana
70. Gadchiroli
71. Yavatmal

**Orissa**

72. Phulbani
73. Kalahandi
74. Koraput
75. Keonjhar

**Rajasthan**

76. Dungarpur
77. Banswara

**Sikkim**

78. West Sikkim
79. South Sikkim

**Uttar Pradesh**

80. Sitapur
81. Hardoi
82. Unnao
83. Rae Bareilly
84. Jalaun
85. Lalitpur

86. Hamirpur
87. Banda
88. Fatehpur
89. Pratapgarh
90. Bahraich
91. Bara Banki
92. Siddharthnagar
93. Maharajganj
94. Jhansi
95. Mau
96. Kanpur Dehat

**West Bengal**

97. Kooch Bihar
98. Jalpaiguri
99. Maldah
100. Darjeeling

**Scam in Supply of Wooden Sleepers**

612. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :  
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned "scam in supply of wooden sleepers to Railways" appearing in the "Hindu" dated August 20, 1999;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) M/s Gujarat State Forest Development Corporation, Vadodara supplied 15,000 cum of wooden sleepers vide contract dated 2.3.93. Sleepers supplied against this contract to the Northern Railway were found defective.

Out of the total quantity of 15000 cum, 2200 cum (15,890 sleepers) were supplied to Northern Railway Construction Organisation. From this lot, 8162 Nos. of sleepers were received by Northern Railway in August, 1995. At that time, on receipt of a complaint, all the available 6561 Nos. of sleepers were checked and out of these, 6016 sleepers were found defective.

In this matter, three railway officials were considered responsible and disciplinary action under Discipline & Appeal Rules has been taken in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission.

Besides the railway officials, some other non-railway agencies are also involved. However, in order to determine their criminal involvement, the case has been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation for detailed investigation. The CBI has since registered the case and the investigation is in progress.

[Translation]

#### **Loss due to Travelling without Tickets**

613. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the annual loss suffered by the Government due to travelling without tickets;
- (b) whether the Government have chalked out any ambitious plan to check the without ticket travel: and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The loss due to ticketless travel is not quantifiable. To curb the menace of ticketless travel, various types of checks are conducted by ticket checking staff and officers in association with Railway Magistrates and Police Personnel. Besides, special drives are also launched from time to time.

[English]

#### **Rail Link with Bangladesh**

614. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the rail link between India and Bangladesh is likely to be made operational; and
- (b) if so, the time by which the trains are likely to start running between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There are already four Railway links operational between India and Bangladesh as under :-

- (i) Gede (India)-Darsana (Bangladesh)-Broad Gauge
- (ii) Singhabad (India) - Rohanpur (Bangladesh) - Broad Gauge
- (iii) Radhikapur (India)- Birol (Bangladesh) - Meter Gauge
- (iv) Mahisasan (India) - Shahbazpur (Bangladesh) - Meter Gauge

Again, a fifth Railway link namely Petrapole (India) - Benapole (Bangladesh) - Broad Gauge, is likely to be opened very shortly

In addition to the above, India and Bangladesh have agreed in principle to open/establish one more rail link between Agartala (India) - Akhaura (Bangladesh)

(b) Goods trains are already running through first three interchange points mentioned above and there is no traffic available on the fourth interchange point namely Mahisasan-Shahbazpur.

It is also stated that at present there is no passenger train service between India and Bangladesh through any of the routes.

#### **New Satellite for Enhancing Surveillance**

615. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR .  
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to enhance its surveillance capabilities with Cartosat-1 the first of a new series of earth imaging satellites with advanced equipment in view of recent intrusion in Kargil; and
- (b) if so, the main features of this satellite and the extent to which it is likely to help in checking these infiltrators in mountains along with the expenditure involved in launching the same ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) (a) The Indian space programme is primarily focused on civilian applications. The Cartosat is also for civilian use.

(b) For reasons of national security it would not be desirable to reveal this information on the floor of the House

#### **Gauge Conversion of Lumding-Silchar Railway Line**

616. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar rail the in Assam is going on with a very slow pace, and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the above work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The existing alignment of the Lumding-Silchar line between Lumding and Badarpur has some grades and curves which are not suitable for BG operations. In view of this, a final location survey has been taken up through M/s RITES to locate the required diversions. Work has been taken up between Badarpur and Siichar and it is progressing satisfactorily. Work is also being taken up between Lumding and Hathikhalli where RITES have completed the survey. The target date for this work will

depend on the work content identified on completion of the final location survey and the availability of resources in the coming years.

#### Visit of Tourists in Sikkim

617. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of tourists visited Sikkim during 1998-99;
- (b) whether the number of tourists have increased as compared to previous year; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) As per the information available from the State, the number of tourists who visited Sikkim during 1998-99 were 1,42,096.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) The number of tourists visited Sikkim during 1997-98 were 1,27,980.

#### Losses in Air India

618. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :  
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Air India is losing crores of rupees every year on account of corruption in the commercial wing;
- (b) if so, the details of the factors responsible for such losses.
- (c) whether the Government have also received some complaints about large scale corruption in the commercial wing;

- (d) if so, the facts and details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) Some complaints have been received with regard to the working of the commercial wing of Air India. These are under examination.

#### Railway Projects

619. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI :  
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of Railway projects of West Bengal are pending with the Government;
- (b) if so, the details of those projects and present status thereof;
- (c) whether the Government received representations on October 13, 1999 and November 9, 1999 regarding the early completion of the above projects;
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (e) the time by which the above projects are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) A number of Railway projects have been taken up in West Bengal. Execution of some of the projects has been delayed due to various reasons like problems in land acquisition, paucity of resources etc. However efforts are now being made to expedite the execution of these works.

- (b) A Statement is enclosed.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### Statement

(b) The details and present status of the projects are as under :

Plan	Rly	State	Project	YR APV	KMS	Cost	Exp up to 31.3.99	Outlay 99-2000	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 NL	ER	BIH. WB	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	1994-95	130	170.5	6.47	4	Final location survey has been completed. Preparation of land acquisition plan & papers is in progress. Land acquisition papers for 20 km stretch from Mandarhill side have been submit-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
									ted to State Government. The work would be started once the land is made available by the State Government.
1 NL	ER	WB	Laxmikantapur-Namkhana	1987-88	47.5	72.92	57.81	11	The work is in progress in phases, first phase being Laxmikantapur to Kakdweep. The section from Laxmikantapur to Kashinagar (31 kms) has already been opened to traffic. The work is in progress between Kashinagar and Kakdweep (3.16km). However land in 2 km length is yet to be handed over by the state govt. The phase-I work will be completed within one year after land becomes available. The work on phase II from Kakdweep to Namkhana has now been defrozen.  Necessary arrangements are being made to start the work.
1 NL	ER	WB	Bongaon-Petrapole	1997-98	6	3.7	0.7	3	The work has been completed.
1 NL	NFR	WB	Eklakhi-Balurghat	1984-85	87	82.45	25.9	20	Work is in progress. Earthwork and bridge work are nearing completion on the first block section from Eklakhi to Gazo (14 km) and formation and bridges on this section are ready. Land acquisition papers from Gazol to Buniadpur (14 km) have been submitted to state govt. Land has been received on patches and the rest of the land is expected to be received soon. The work would be taken up once the land is handed over.
1 NL	SER	WB	Howrah-Amta	1974-75	73.5	120	31.19	10	After completing the work from Howrah to Bargachia (24 km), the work was frozen. Owing to



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
									strong demands from Hon'ble Members. the work was defroze in 95-96 for the segment from Bargachia to Munshirhat (8 km). The work on this 8 km long section is in good progress. However, the state govt. has not yet handed over land for 3 km Notification under section (7) has been issued and state govt. has indicated that land will be made available soon. The line from Bargachia-Munshirhat will be completed within one year of land being made available.
1 NL	SER WB		Tamluk-Digha	1984-85	87.5	73.71	38.79	14	Earthwork and minor bridges are in progress from km 0 to 28 and on major bridge on river Haldi and tenders are in process from Km 28 to 35. Land acquisition is yet to be done by the state govt. from km 35 to 86.
2 GC	NFR	BIH, WB	Katihar Div.-MG to BG	1996-97	0.69	1.11	0.88	0.0001	Work is in progress.
2 GC	NFR	Assam, WB	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri	1997-98	280	535.9	0.001	69	Requisite clearanaces have sicne been received. Tenders have been invited for earthwork and bridge over 125 kms. The tenders for another 170 km stretch and 4 bridges have also been invited.
2 GC	SER WB		Bankura-Damodar Valley	1998-99	96	100	0.0001	5	Work included in budget 1998-99. The work has been cleared by CCEA. Preliminary arrangement are being made for taking up the work.
3 DL	ER WB		Gurup-Shaktigarh 3rd line	1996-97	26	41.53	2.1	2	The plans have been finalised. This work has relatively lower operational priority and will be progressed as per availability of resources.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3 DL	ER	WB, BIH	Sahibganj-New Farakka-Malda	1986-87	49.5	62.35	61.2	0.15	The work has been completed and commissioned.
3 DL	ER	WB	Khana-Santhia phase-I	1992-93	5	12.27	10.82	1	This work has earlier held up first due to court case and contractual problems and then due to release of excess water by DVC leading to flooding of area. The work is now expected to be completed in by Dec. 2000 including the fly over at Khana.
3 DL	ER	WB	Jhapatardal-Guskara Ph-II	1993-94	15.2	11.46	9.26	2.2	Two block section from Jhapatardal-Bonpass (5.4 km) and Bonpass-Naodhandal (5 km) have been completed. The work on the remaining section would be completed by Feb. 2000.
3 DL	ER	WB	Guskara-Bolpur Ph-III	1995-96	19	24.14	12.75	7	The work is in progress. The section from Guskara to Pitchkuridhal (5.5 km) has been completed & rest of the section by Dec. 2000, subject to availability of resources.
3 DL	ER	WB	New Alipur-Akra Ph-I	1996-97	9	11.82	0.11	2	The plans have been finalised. This work has relatively lower operational priority and will be progressed as per availability of resources. Tender papers are under preparation.
3 DL	ER	WB	Chandrapur-Gurup 3rd line	1994-95	17	23.82	5.65	15	Work is in progress and Cheragram - Gurup (5km) will be completed by Dec. 99. The work is targeted for completion in 2000-2001, subject to availability of resources.
3 DL	ER	WB	Budge Budge-Akra Ph-I	1995-96	6.09	10.37	5.36	1	Akra-Nungi and Nungi-Budge Budge section will be completed in this financial year.
3 DL	NFR	WB	Aluabari Road-Kishanganj	1989-90	40	49.27	49.22	0.05	The work has been completed and commissioned.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
3 DL	NFR	WB, BIH	Kishanganj-Dalkolha	1990-91	28	43.73	20.47	15	Earthwork, minor and major bridges are in progress. Two block sections from Kishanganj-Hatwar-Kanki (14 kms) have been completed and rest will be completed by Mar 2000.	
4 MTP	ER	WB	Dum-Dum-Garia Design and construction of Rapid Transit	1972-73	22	2402	1648.4	36	Dum Dum to Tollygunge commissioned on 27.9.1995. Extension of metro railway from Tollygunge to Garia has been taken up as a material modification of ongoing project. Action has already been initiated for Engg. Survey including Soil investigation, structural Design etc. Soil investigation work in first stretch of 4.2 km completed. TD is Mar. 2005.	
4 MTP	ER	WB	Circular-Railway	1984-85	18.5	121.4	37	11.94	Line upto Princepghat opened on 17.6.1990. Extension from Princeghat to Majerhat has been taken up as a material modification of the ongoing project Detailed Engg. Survey work already commenced. Issue of acquisition of land near the site of proposed Hastings station has not yet been sorted out. TD is Mar., 2004.	
4 MTP	ER	WB	Ranaghat-Bangaon Electrification	1997-98		14.78	1.5	10	Detailed estimate has been sanctioned. Work is under progress.	
4 MTP	ER	WB	Ranaghat-Gede Electrification	1997-98	44	32.35	1.5	15	Detailed estimate has been sanctioned. Work is in progress.	
4 MTP	ER	WB	Electrification-Hasanabad to Barasat	1998-99	74	37.46	0	5	New work included in the budget 1998-99. Detailed estimate has been sanctioned in Aug., 99. Work in progress.	
5 RE	ER	BIH, UP, WB	Sitarampur-Danapur-Mugalsarai	1991-92	562	330.8	203.8	68.53	286	RKMs since energised till Mar. 99. The progress

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
									has been slow due to law and order problem and failure of contractor. Work is now targetted for completion by Dec., 2000.
5 RE	SER WB		Adra-Midnapur	1993-94	155	84.41	47.71	23	An entire section targetted for completion by Mar 2000. 125 RKMs have since been energised upto Mar 1999.
5 RE	SER WB		Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar incl. Talcher-Paradeep	1995-96	540	310.2	71.2	50.27	This work was earlier planned under BOLT. However, owing to high rates and unacceptable conditions, it has been decided in Feb., 97 to take up the work with railway funds. 56 RKMs energised upto 31.3.99. This work is now targetted for completion by March, 2002.

#### Catering Facilities in Trains

620. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed or proposed to fix any norms to be followed by the agencies providing catering facilities in Mail/Express/Superfast trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such agencies in Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Government have decided to corporatise the catering system of the Indian Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken in that direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Detailed norms including menu, packaging presentation etc. have been prescribed in order to provide good quality food in trains at pre-determined rates. State-wise information pertaining to licences are not maintained.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) A Catering and Tourism Corporation under the Ministry of Railways has been set up with the approval of Cabinet. The Corporation will take up the modernisation and standardisation of catering services on Indian Railways.

#### Fixation of Price of Levy Sugar

621. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed the levy sugar price which was purchased from the sugar mills during 1998-99;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the levy sugar price is likely to be fixed; and

(d) by when the outstanding payments with interest thereon is likely to be released to the sugar milis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The levy sugar price for 1998-99 sugar season has since been notified on 29.11.99.

(d) The differential amounts, without interest, due to the sugar mills, are paid on submission of Bills by them.

[Translation]

#### Manufacturing of Airconditioned Wagons

622. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether airconditioned wagons are being manufactured;
- (b) whether these wagons are beneficial for the transportation of vegetables, betel leaves etc;
- (c) if so, whether the betel farmers of Jabalpur be able to avail of the facility of these airconditioned wagons; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

**Direct International Flight on Ahmedabad-Nairobi Sector**

623. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat for introduction of a direct flight between Ahmedabad and Nairobi; and

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) (a) No such proposal has been received in the recent past.

(b) Does not arise.

**Consumer Awareness Programme**

624. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :  
SHRI R. L. JALAPPA :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched Consumer Awareness Programmes on the occasion of World Consumer's Day;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked for the above programme during 1999-2000, State-wise; and

(c) the extent to which these programmes are likely to help the people about their Rights ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) On the occasion of World Consumer Rights Day, 1999 the Government took the fol-

lowing measures in order to spread consumer awareness in the country;

- (i) An outdoor publicity campaign was undertaken through the Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity.
- (ii) All India Radio and Doordarshan were asked to broadcast and telecast programmes on consumer protection.
- (iii) To spread consumer awareness, State Governments/UTs, Central Ministries, Trade & Industry Associations and voluntary consumer organisations were asked to celebrate in a befitting manner in the World Consumer Rights Day.
- (iv) Four Consumer Information Centres were opened to disseminate information to the consumers, on the Consumer Rights Day.
- (v) A website for the Department was launched on 15th March, 1999 coinciding with the Consumer Rights Day making available information on the working of the Department of Consumer Affairs.
- (vi) A seminar on consumer protection was organised in New Delhi.
- (vii) A newspaper supplement was brought out highlighting the rights of the consumers in all the leading newspapers both in the regional and national languages.

The launching of such programmes will definitely go a long way in building up consumer awareness in the country. The budget allocation for advertising and publicity for the year 1999-2000 to increase consumer awareness is Rs. 2.07 Crores. Statewise allocation is not done.

[Translation]

**Air Services from Ranchi to Delhi and Mumbai**

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

(a) whether Indian Airlies have introduced a daily service from Ranchi to Delhi and Ranchi to Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines is operating a daily A-320 service on Mumbai-Delhi-Patna-Ranchi and return route with effect from 29th March 1999.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]***Train Accident at Jhansi Division**

626. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether New Delhi bound G.T. Express collided with a goods train between Fareh and Baad stations of Jhansi Division of Central Railway on July 16, 1999;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed in the accident and the value of Government property damaged therein;

(c) whether investigations into the cause of accident has since been completed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of compensation paid to the victims; and

(f) the steps taken to avoid recurrence of such accidents in future ?

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

(b) The number of persons killed in this accident is 21 and the value of Government property damaged is estimated as Rs. 7.66 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The cause of the accident has been established as failure of Driver of Up Goods trains and controllers to observe prescribed rules and directions.

(e) No compensation has been paid so far as none of the application filed have been decided by the Railway Claim Tribunal so far.

(f) The following major steps are taken to curb train accidents to improve safety to the passengers.

1. Walkie-Talkie sets have been supplied to Drivers and Guards of all Passenger carrying trains. The same is presently being supplied to Drivers and Guards of goods trains also and the same is likely to be completed by 31st March, 2000.
2. Intensified training, counseling and special monitoring of safety category staff.
3. Detailed enquiry into all accidents to find out the correct causes of accidents with recommendations to prevent similar accident in future. Deterrent action is taken against the staff held responsible for the accident and system improvements are being initiated to improve safety in operation.

4. Intensive training and refresher courses and periodical medical examination of safety category staff to ensure their competency and suitability for the job. Frequent safety camps and safety seminars are organised to inculcate safety consciousness amongst the staff.

5. Identification of critical areas and causes of accidents and extra attention for better maintenance of vulnerable track and rolling stock.

**Disinvestment in Air India**

627. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to disinvest its stake in Air India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission of India to disinvest Government's equity in Air India Limited are under consideration.

*[Translation]***Rural Development Schemes**

628. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the Rural Development Schemes sponsored by the Union Government are being implemented through State Governments; and

(b) the amount being spent on such schemes out of the Union Government's Budget, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of Central allocation of funds for Rural Development Schemes to the States in 1999-2000 are given in the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

*Central Allocation for Rural Development Schemes, 1999-2000*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Allocation
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5402.2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3848
3.	Assam	35100.78

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	131813.36
5.	Goa	675.45
6.	Gujarat	19294.84
7.	Haryana	9066.58
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5331.16
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	10078.41
10.	Karnataka	36142.68
11.	Kerala	17684.80
12.	Madhya Pradesh	70623.92
13.	Maharashtra	65291.43
14.	Manipur	2739.88
15.	Meghalaya	3234.14
16.	Mizoram	1256.75
17.	Nagaland	2197.40
18.	Orissa	46162.90
19.	Punjab	5582.02
20.	Rajasthan	32587.96
21.	Sikkim	883.09
22.	Tamil Nadu	39052.14
23.	Tripura	4257.88
24.	Uttar Pradesh	133761.45
25.	West Bengal	53390.81
26.	A & N Islands	407.13
27.	Chandigarh	24.17
28.	D & N Havel.	268.52
29.	Daman & Diu	131.59
30.	Delhi	323.01
31.	Lakshadweep	126.49
32.	Pondicherry	344.99
Total		785713.80

#### Packing of Oil

629. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHIR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation, Mumbai has got the work of oil packing done by the contractors discontinued; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The contract

of packing of oil done by a private contractor had been discontinued due to violation of conditions of contract by the contractor.

[English]

#### Direct Flight from Calicut to Saudi Arabia

630. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce direct flight from Calicut to Saudi Arabia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Owing to the pay-load and runway restrictions, Air India is unable to operate out of Calicut Airport, however, it provides on-line connections to Saudi Arabia over Mumbai for passengers originating from Calicut. The Customs and Immigration formalities for such passengers could be completed at Calicut.

#### Shortage of Coaches

632. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the requirement and availability of coaches, in the country, division-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the acute shortage of coaches in the country and particularly in Trivandrum Railway Division;

(c) whether a number of trains could not be introduced due to shortage of coaches in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof division-wise; and

(e) the steps taken so far/proposed to be taken to meet the shortage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Division-wise coach requirement is not maintained by the Indian Railways. However, Zonal Railway-wise coaching stock requirement and availability figures are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

(b) Overall coach availability position is satisfactory. However, due to deployment of large number of coaches for strategic movements, certain Railways do not have the reserve which is normally available.

(c) No, Sir. Trains announced in the budget are being introduced during the course of the financial year.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Construction of Road Over Bridge in Karnataka**

633. SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for construction of road over bridges in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount sought by the State Government therefor ;

(c) the action initiated by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the details of the on-going projects regarding construction of road over bridges in that State ?

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

(b) Statement-I is enclosed.

(c) The proposals are being examined for inclusion in the Railway's future Budgets having regard to the priority accorded by the State Govt. and subject to availability of funds with the Railways.

(d) Statement-II is enclosed.

**Statement-I**

S.No.	Level Crossing No.	Location KM	Location between Stations	Amount
1.	139	407/10/11	Lingarajapuram (Hennur Road)	Not yet worked out
2.	74	418/3-4	Hebbal - Yeshwantpur (Gokul Gate)	-do-
3.	136 A	345/14-346/1	Biyappanahalli - Bangalore Cant.	-do-
4.	-	416/1-2	Hebbal- Banaswadi	-do-
5.	2	3/13-14	Birur	-do-
6.	34	47/7-8	Bhadravathi - Shimoga	-do-
7.	74	94/14-95/1	Mandya-Yelkur	-do-
8.	110	135/16-136/1	Naganahalli	-do-
9.	3	2/6-7	Mysore-Ashokapuram	-do-
10.	2	1/19-20	Mysore - Ashokapuram	-do-

**Statement-II**

S.No.	Level Crossing No.	Location KM	Location between stations	Sharing of cost (in lakhs Rs.)		Physical progress
				Railway's share	Road Authorities' share	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	12	16/12-13	Chennashandra-Yelahanka	202.4	205.24	Road Under Bridge just commissioned
2.	146	-	Banaswadi-Hebbal	222.64	-	In planning stage
3.	138	406/2-3	Belandur-Banaswadi	580.21	-	-do-
4.	36 & 37	44/8-9	Ramanagaram	686.1	-	-do-
5.	-	In lieu of Br. No. 832 A	Cable Stayed Road Over bridge at Krishnarajapuram	236.4	3723 (most)	Work just started
6.	138	348/5-613	(Wheelers Road) Bangalore East-Baiyappanahalli	516.60	236.44 (State) 589.60	In Planning stage



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	132	333/1-2	(Whitefield) Bangalore City-Jolarpettai	590.60	205.24	In Planning stage
8	95 A	-	Pandavapura	749.3	742.3	-do-
9	388	611/13-14	Londa-Miraj near Belgaum	161	241.00	-do-
10	110	-	Bellary-Kolagallu	980	940	-do-
11	85	-	Hospet-Kariganuju	102	110	-do-
12	284	-	Hubli-Unkal	660	960	-do-

[Translation]

### Report on Railways Safety

634. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee for Railway Safety have pointed out that smaller accidents are concealed by the Railways ;

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

(c) the steps taken against the officials held responsible for not giving the actual report on accidents that occurred during the reporting period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Railway Safety Review Committee in part I of their report has commented on the statistic maintained by Railways regarding accidents

As per definition of accident, even cattle run over cases and engine failures are termed as accidents. Various types of accidents are reported to different levels depending upon their seriousness. Yard derailments etc. are reported only upto the level of the divisions. Smaller accidents not having serious repercussions are reported only upto the level of Zonal Railways. Only 'Consequential Train Accidents' include collisions, derailments, level crossing accidents and fire cases having serious repercussions are reported to Railway Board.

Therefore, it is a matter of reporting at different levels for different accidents depending on their seriousness and there is no concealment.

[English]

### Sugar Technology Mission

635. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up sugar technology Mission for modernisation of sugar mills in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Central Government (Department of Sciences and Technology) have set up a Sugar Technology Mission in August, 1993 with the purpose of upgrading the technologies level of the Indian sugar industry in order to increase the production of sugar in a cost effective manner

The Mission has so far prepared modernisation schemes for 22 sugar factories in the country focussing on energy conservation, higher plant efficiencies and capacity optimisation. Further, trials of 17 new technologies have been undertaken, out of which 4 have been successfully completed and 6 are at different stages of implementation.

### Construction of Road over-bridge in Jalandhar

636. SHRI BALBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a road over bridge at "Do Moriya Pul" in Jalandhar City; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above bridge is likely to be constructed ?

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

(b) Not fixed as State Govt. has not yet fulfilled certain formalities.

### Survey for Jalna-Khamgoan Rail Line

637. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey for laying Railway line from Jalna to Khamgaon in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to lay the rail line on that sector ?

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

(b) and (c) A Survey for Jalna-Khamgaon new line was carried out in 1994. The survey report revealed the cost of the 155 km long line as Rs. 228 crs. with a negative Rate of Return.

In view of the unremunerative nature of the line and the heavy throw forward of ongoing new line projects on hand coupled with server resource constraints, it has not been found possible to consider the project for the present.

[Translation]

#### Air-Brake, Vacuum System

638. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mail and express trains equipped with air-brake system, Zone-wise;

(b) the number of trains still being run with ordinary vacuum system, Zone-wise;

(c) the number of rail accidents caused by these during the last three years;

(d) whether there is any proposal to equip the remaining trains with air-brake system; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The number of Mail/Express trains Zone-wise with Air-brake/Vacuum-brake is as follows :

Railway	Air-brake	Vacuum-brake
Central	36 Pairs	14 Pairs
Eastern	22 Pairs	26 Pairs
Northern	52 Pairs	51 Pairs
North Eastern	11 Pairs	20 Pairs
North East Frontier	06 Pairs	07 Pairs
Southern	33 Pairs	43 Pairs
South Central	22 Pairs	22 Pairs
South Eastern	24 Pairs	23 Pairs
Western	18 Pairs	68 Pairs

(c) Nil

(d) and (e) It is planned to convert the residual long distance trains to air-brake system within next 5 years subject to availability of funds.

[English]

#### Wastage of Foodgrains

639. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :  
SHRIMATI JAYSHREE BANERJEE :  
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Food Corporation of India is hiring private godowns for storage of Foodgrains;

(b) if so, the number of private godown hired during the last two years and the current year, capacity-wise and amount spent thereon; year-wise;

(c) the quantum of foodgrains destroyed in storage transportation and pilferage and losses suffered as a result thereof during period, State-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid losses of foodgrains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The godowns hired from private parties are managed by the FCI and operational losses do occur. However, during the above period no abnormality has been noticed in respect of shortages in private godowns.

(d) To avoid the operational losses in handling of foodgrains, measures such as enforcement of strict quality checks at the time of procurement, adoption of 50 kg packing in a phased manner, installation of weighbridges, are taken. Administrative and preventive measures are also taken which include augmentation of covered capacity and minimising CAP storage, machines stitching of bags, reduction of multiple handling and tightening of security at depots, induction of CISF at sensitive depots to curb theft and pilferage and intensification of surprise checks alongwith regular stock verification.

**Statement**

*Number of Godowns / storage capacity hired from the private parties during the past two years and current year as on 30.9.1999 remained as under :*

Figure in lakh tonnes

	Number of Godowns		Storage Capacity			
	Covered	CAP	Total	Covered	CAP	Total
1.4.98	234	81	315	26.11	16.56	42.67
1.4.99	241	117	358	26.50	26.55	53.05
30.9.99	234	111	345	29.79	24.18	50.97

Note : Number of godowns and storage capacity hired from private parties varies from time to time.

*Estimated amount spent on hiring or private godowns is given as under :*

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	Amount	
1997-98	2030.68	
1998-99	2300.00	

**Proposals from Secunderabad Cantonment**

640. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of each of the pending proposals received from the Secunderabad Cantonment Board; and

(b) the details of Central Annual Grant/Assistance given to the Secunderabad Cantonment Board during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) A total of 14 proposals for various civil works were received from the Cantonment Board, Secunderabad by the Directorate General of Defence Estates (DGDE). Out of these, 6 proposals are under examination, 7 proposals have been returned to Cantonment Board for clarification/rectification, and one proposal has been dropped by the Board.

(b) Secunderabad Cantonment Board being financially self-sufficient, no Annual Grant/Assistance was given to the Board during the last three years. However, service charges paid to the Board during the last three years are as under :

1996-97	Rs. 7,22,71,498/-
1997-98	Rs. 8,25,17,000/-
1998-99	Rs. 7,44,10,113/-

**Shifting of Headquarter to Hubli**

641. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift the Headquarter of South Western Railway Zone from Bangalore to Hubli;

(b) is so, whether the High Court of Karnataka has stayed the proposal;

(c) if so, whether the Government have decided to establish another headquarter in Hubli; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter is presently subjudice.

(d) Does not arise.

**Land for International Airport at Devanhalli**

642. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have requested the Government of Karnataka to acquire land for the proposed International airport at Devanhalli, near Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the progress made in that regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. No such request has been made by the Union Government.

(b) Does not arise.

**Fighting Capabilities of Armed Forces**

643. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to enhance the fighting capabilities of Army, Airforce and Navy in view of the recently concluded Kargil War; and

(b) the total defence expenditure earmarked during the current financial year for each of the three forces ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) In order to enhance the fighting capabilities of the armed forces and to prepare for future battlefield scenario, the Armed Forces are continuously being modernised.

(b) During the current financial year, the allocation for Army, Navy and the Air force is Rs. 25265 crores, Rs. 6763 crores, and Rs. 10278 crores respectively.

[Translation]

#### Concession to Senior Citizens

644. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide the 50 percent travel concession to the senior citizens; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Development of Vijayawada Airport

645. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India had sanctioned the works of strengthening of runway, construction of new apron and link taxiway for Vijayawada Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present position of the work; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The work of strengthening of runway, construction of new apron of size 350 x 250 ft. alongwith a taxiway of size 450 x 75 ft. connecting the runway has already been completed in July, 1999 at a cost of Rs 7.83 crores.

#### Free Air Tickets

646. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines and Air India have incurred huge losses on account of issue of free ticket to the public during the last three years;

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

(c) the level at which these tickets are being issued ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Airlines do not incur losses due to issue of free tickets as these complementary tickets are normally

issued, in their commercial interests to tour promoters, travel writers, media personnel, important commercial contacts and promotional schemes/events etc. to encourage & promote travel on the national carriers. Moreover, these are generally accommodated only after the revenue paying passengers.

(c) The following officers in Air India and Indian Airlines are authorised to issue complimentary tickets :-

(i) Air India - Managing Director, Commercial Directors and Regional Director.

(ii) Indian Airlines - Chairman & Managing Director/ Deputy Managing Directors, Directors in Commercial, Corporate Affairs and Public Relations departments and Regional Directors.

#### Restoration of Rail link with Bangladesh via Changrabandha

647. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway line from Newmal Junction, a gateway to Bangladesh via Changrabandha was destroyed by devastating flood in 1968;

(b) whether the Railway Communication is now highly potential commercially between India and Bangladesh;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to restore the above railway line; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) No study has been carried out in this regard.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There has ben no demand from Trade and Industry.

#### Withdrawal of Trains

648. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some trains were withdrawn during the Kargil conflict;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps have been taken to restart them; and

(c) the time by which the Kalka-Jodhpur train is likely to start ?

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

(b) and (c) A large number of coaches are at present deployed in strategic movements. As soon as the strategic movements are over, train services will be restored gradually.

[Translation]

#### **New Aerodrome in Rajasthan**

649. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the plan of the Government to boost air traffic and set-up new aerodromes in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation regarding establishment of an aerodrome at Ajmer; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard and the time by which the aerodrome is likely to be established at Ajmer and connected with air route ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) (a) To boost air traffic in Rajasthan, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken up following upgradation works.

- (i) Construction of new terminal building at Jaipur airport;
- (ii) Extension of runway upto 7500 feet at Udaipur;
- (iii) Extension of terminal building to accommodate 400 passengers at a time at Jodhpur airport.

AAI has no plans to set up new airport in Rajasthan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ajmer is only 136 km away from Jaipur. Under the existing policy, no green-field airport is to be developed within an aerial distance of 150 km of an existing airport.

[English]

#### **Rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen in Tripura**

650. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of ex-servicemen in the country as on date, State-wise, with particular reference to Tripura;

(b) the amount provided for the rehabilitation of the ex-servicemen during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the amount for rehabilitation of ex-servicemen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) There is no specific budget allocation for the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen. However, the Central and State governments have a number of schemes for their rehabilitation.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Statement**

*Number of Ex-servicemen registered with Zila Sainik Boards in various States and Union Territories as on 30.6.99*

S.No.	RSB/ZSB	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	56535
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	206
3.	Assam	15830
4.	Bihar	57915
5.	Goa	1518
6.	Gujarat	12205
7.	Himachal Pradesh	76357
8.	Haryana	158064
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	47507
10.	Karnataka	44539
11.	Kerala	124869
12.	Madhya Pradesh	28878
13.	Maharashtra	139223
14.	Manipur	3526
15.	Meghalaya	1772
16.	Mizoram	4045
17.	Nagaland	1996
18.	Orissa	14917
19.	Punjab	186514
20.	Rajasthan	100592
21.	Sikkim	1102
22.	Tamil Nadu	101451
23.	Tripura	1547
24.	Uttar Pradesh	263170
25.	West Bengal	37100
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	445
27.	Chandigarh	5604
28.	Delhi	29271
29.	Pondicherry	1130
	Total	1517828

#### **Dalli-Rajhara-Bailadilla-Vishakhapatnam Rail Line**

651. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed 235-km railway line to connect the rich iron ore mines of Dalli, Rajhara and Bailadilla in

Madhya Pradesh to Vishakhapatnam port is not being attended to;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Steel and the Government of Madhya Pradesh have offered to pay their shares of the cost;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in completion of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) The Dallirajahara-Jagdapur new line is to be constructed on cost sharing basis among the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Steel and the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. The first phase of the Railway line from Dallirajahara of Rowghat is to be constructed entirely at the cost of SAIL as the line is primarily for supplying iron ore to Bhilai Steel Plant. SAIL have not yet deposited the cost of this project since the environment clearance for mining iron ore at Bailadilla mines has not yet been received by them. The work would be taken up as and when SAIL receive the environmental clearance and deposit the cost. In view of the above, it is not possible to indicate any date by which the project can be completed.

#### **Ban on Sale and Transfer of Land**

652. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a ban on the sale of land;

(b) if so, the details of land sold which was distributed under Section 74(4) of Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954;

(c) the manner in which the ownership of that land has been changed in the revenue records;

(d) whether any notice has been served upon to Panchayat Department while transferring the ownership rights/land by the revenue department;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to abide the ban strictly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) As per provisions of the Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954, there is no ban on sale of land in Delhi.

(b) Under section 74 (4) of the Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954, Gaon Sabha land is not allotted but detailed procedure has been laid down for declaring an *asami* as *Bhoomidar* by the Revenue Assistant. However, Gaon Sabha land measuring 6869.5 acres was distributed for agricultural purposes under 20-Point Programme.

(c) Change the ownership in Revenue Records is carried out in the manner as provided for in Sec. 22 of the Delhi Land Revenue Act, 1954. Further, the records and registers of right are maintained as per provisions of Section 20

to 27 of the Delhi Land Revenue Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of the reply given to part (d), question does not arise.

(f) In view of the reply given to part (a), question does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Wasteland**

653. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any estimate as regard to the total wasteland of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total land out of it made cultivable so far, State-wise; and

(c) the names of the proposals regarding making the wasteland into cultivable are cleared or under consideration of the Union Government alongwith the action taken thereon so far and the latest position in this regard; State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) As per the report of National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad on Area Statistics of Land Use/Land Cover generated using remote sensing techniques on 1:250,000 scale of mapping, the total extent of wastelands (described by NRSA as problem lands) in the country is 75.5 Mha. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

The Department of Land Resources (the erstwhile Dept. of Wastelands Development) in the Ministry of Rural Development has the mandate to develop wastelands in non-forest areas aimed at checking land degradation, putting wastelands in the country to sustainable use and increasing biomass availability, specially fuelwood and fodder. Wastelands are degraded lands which are currently under-utilized and are deteriorating for lack of appropriate water and soil management or on account of natural causes. Therefore, agricultural operations are generally not possible on such land at the first stage of development. The Dept. of Land Resources has the mandate to develop wastelands rather than to convert wastelands into cultivable lands. It is implementing a major scheme viz. integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) for development of non-forest wastelands on watershed basis. However the details of such degraded lands brought under cultivation through some of the Central Sector /Centrally sponsored Sector Schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture (Dept. of Agriculture & Cooperation) in the country upto 31.3.1999 State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The State-wise details of the projects cleared by the Deptt. of Land Resources under Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme (IWDP), till the end of March 1999 are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I  
Statewise and Categorywise area of problem lands in India (Area ha.)

S.No.	State	Total Geo-graphical Area	Salt affected Area	Water Logged Area	Marshy/Swampy Area	Gullied/Ravinous Area	Land with or without scrubs	Sandy Area	Barren/Stony/Sheet rock area	Shifting Cult.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27506800	85516	350	77788	7753	3009021	63732	391944	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8374300	0	0	18673	0	1000	0	97059	381154
3.	Assam	7843800	0	17213	58134	1142	501542	0	0	482571
4.	Bihar	17387700	0	124661	37296	44218	667379	122138	108219	0
5.	Goa	370200	0	0	12750	0	18497	2741	1121	0
6.	Gujarat	19602400	728146	57885	142825	173255	2231776	60946	426165	0
7.	Haryana	4421200	38749	23658	0	0	191095	66982	9646	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5567300	0	3210	0	116601	317365	0	453061	0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	13894200	0	0	13695	3774	666558	80379	2672819	0
10.	Karnataka	19179100	30615	0	1500	32446	1494350	8739	261725	0
11.	Kerala	3886300	0	4219	0	0	52017	1349	14169	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	44344600	1437	0	0	777051	5253103	3404	765905	0
13.	Maharashtra	30769000	45532	5024	42935	53280	4706633	15313	246380	0
14.	Manipur	2232700	0	0	29010	0	0	0	0	578529
15.	Mehgalaya	2242900	0	1400	0	0	1150	0	0	730354
16.	Mizoram	2108100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85608
17.	Nagaland	1657900	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	473892
18.	Orissa	15570700	0	5549	44942	15436	1230647	18776	46642	11407
19.	Punjab	5036200	51979	26614	36	2783	48373	173441	0	0
20.	Rajasthan	34223900	251999	5866	0	399300	2752695	4589438	424975	0
21.	Sikkim	709600	0	0	0	0	133448	0	82978	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	13005800	59541	29459	23434	11255	1079226	142595	76730	0
23.	Tripura	1048600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50477
24.	Uttar Pradesh	29441100	693950	884491	271492	381415	1972699	159344	156003	29634
25.	West Bengal	8875200	0	28899	49634	480	165774	52236	15812	0
26.	Union Territories	1097300	916	1168	1732	140	20216	10535	104	0
27.	Unsurveyed	8329400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>328726300</b>	<b>1988380</b>	<b>1219666</b>	<b>823876</b>	<b>2020329</b>	<b>26514564</b>	<b>5572086</b>	<b>6251477</b>	<b>2823626</b>

\* Source : NRSA, Hyderabad; 1995

**Statement- I (Contd.)**  
*Statewise and Categorywise area of problem lands in India (Area ha.)*

S.No.	Grass Grazing lands	Salt Pans/ Snow covered	Mining/ Industr. waste	Degraded Forest	Forest Blanks	Non-forest		Total Forest and wastelands		Non-Forest Wastelands	
						Area	Percent to total geo-area	Area	Percent to total geo-area	Area	Percent to total geo-area
1. Andhra Pradesh	1249	4769	9567	2295685	2646	5950020	21.63	3651689	13.28		
2. Arunachal Pradesh	2056	644649	0	1093719	3583	2239893	26.75	1142591	13.64		
3. Assam	228418	0	1428	213784	0	1504232	19.18	1290448	16.45		
4. Bihar	5607	0	35778	1370013	67402	2582709	14.85	1145294	6.59		
5. Goa	128	0	3274	1986	2460	42957	11.60	38511	10.40		
6. Gujarat	225386	10183	0	367991	161698	4586236	23.40	4056547	20.69		
7. Haryana	0	0	0	26593	16764	373487	8.45	330130	7.47		
8. Himachal Pradesh	253020	1738307	0	178670	499	3050753	54.98	2881584	51.76		
9. Jammu & Kashmir	210928	3073857	0	277452	62557	7062019	50.83	6722010	48.38		
10. Karnataka	25507	250	4180	851372	2443	2713127	14.15	1859312	9.69		
11. Kerala	1976	0	0	91463	55	165248	4.25	73730	1.90		
12. Madhya Pradesh	158392	0	18661	2071305	134751	9184009	20.71	6977953	15.74		
13. Maharashtra	556566	3781	5675	1094063	1155288	7930470	25.77	5681119	18.46		
14. Manipur	0	0	0	260843	0	868382	38.89	607539	27.21		
15. Meghalaya	0	0	0	240485	0	973389	43.40	732904	32.68		
16. Mizoram	0	0	0	1588047	0	1673655	79.39	85608	4.06		
17. Nagaland	0	0	0	558435	0	1032327	62.27	473892	28.58		
18. Orissa	0	2625	8276	683053	4862	2072215	13.31	1384300	8.89		
19. Punjab	2777	0	0	66724	4912	377639	7.50	306003	6.08		
20. Rajasthan	1365186	0	13016	1180755	34139	11017369	32.19	9802475	28.64		
21. Sikkim	0	123798	0	52406	10898	403528	56.87	340224	47.95		
22. Tamil Nadu	2814	16199	7568	849868	0	2298687	17.67	1448819	11.14		
23. Tripura	0	0	0	236112	0	286589	27.33	50477	4.81		
24. Uttar Pradesh	45635	1411644	0	488349	93543	6588199	22.38	6006307	20.40		
25. West Bengal	7671	0	9076	121687	52523	503792	5.68	329582	3.71		
26. Union Territories	11222	21	0	13410	2830	62294	5.68	46054	4.20		
27. Unsurveyed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3104538</b>	<b>7030063</b>	<b>116497</b>	<b>16274270</b>	<b>1813853</b>	<b>75553225</b>	<b>22.98</b>	<b>57465102</b>	<b>17.48</b>		



**Statement-II**

The State-wise details of Area brought under cultivation for agriculture by the Ministry of Agriculture (Dept. of Agriculture & Cooperation) through some of the Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Sector Schemes upto March '1999.

(Area in lakh ha.)

Sr. No	Name of States	Area Covered upto 31.3.1999	
		Reclamation of Alkali Soil	Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	0.03
3.	Assam	-	0.007
4.	Bihar	-	-
5.	Gujarat	0.02	-
6.	Haryana	1.46	-
7.	Karnataka	-	-
8.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-
9.	Maharashtra	-	-
10.	Manipur	-	0.013
11.	Mehgalaya	-	0.032
12.	Mizoram	-	0.088
13.	Nagaland	-	0.10
14.	Punjab	2.48	-
15.	Tamil Nadu	-	-
16.	Tripura	-	0.03
17.	Uttar Pradesh	1.28	-
18.	Rajasthan	0.04	-
Total		5.28	0.30

**Statement-III**

State-wise details of projects sanctioned under IWDP Scheme upto 31.3.99

Sl No.	State	Name of the District	Total Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Total Area (in ha.)
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>				
1.	AP	Nalgonda	302.09	4059.00
2.	AP	Nellore-I	416.72	8917.00
3.	AP	Nellore-II	416.59	9320.00

	1	2	3	4	5
4.	AP	M. Nagar-I	362.38	4332.00	
5.	AP	M. Nagar-II	362.27	4312.00	
6.	AP	Vizianagaram	381.05	5100.00	
7.	AP	Nizamabad	357.56	8570.00	
8.	AP	Prakasam-I	21.33	583.00	
9.	AP	Prakasam-II	335.51	4200.00	
10.	AP	Visakapatnam	402.04	5200.00	
11.	AP	Karimnagar	418.00	4870.00	
12.	AP	Chittoor-I	323.40	8085.00	
13.	AP	Kurnool	293.20	7330.00	
14.	AP	Ranga Reddy	485.64	4574.00	
15.	AP	Cuddapah	110.00	1800.00	
16.	AP	Chittoor-III	20.00	500.00	
17.	AP	Chittoor-II	331.20	8280.00	
18.	AP	Chittoor-IV	450.00	11250.00	
19.	AP	Medak	496.48	12412.00	
20.	AP	Nizamabad-II	500.00	12500.00	
21.	AP	Sirkakulam	500.00	12500.00	
22.	AP	Cuddapah-II	500.00	12500.00	
23.	AP	Nellore-III	500.00	12500.00	
24.	AP	Khammam	500.00	12500.00	
25.	AP	Medak-II	500.00	12500.00	
26.	AP	Khammam-II	500.00	12500.00	
27.	AP	Nellore-IV	500.00	12500.00	
28.	AP	East Godavari	500.00	12577.00	
Sub-total			10785.46	226271.00	

**Arunachal Pradesh**

1.	AR	Pwest Kameng	60.00	1500.00
Sub-total			60.00	1500.00

**Assam**

1.	AS	Skarbi Anglong	245.20	6130.00
Sub-total			245.20	6130.00

**Bihar**

1.	BH	Chatra	138.45	1445.00
2.	BH	Loharadaga	248.66	2670.00
3.	BH	Garhwa	114.21	1295.00

1	2	3	4	5
4.	BH	Gaya	433.37	5470.00
5.	BH	Nawada	288.37	3620.00
6.	BH	Vaishali	40.00	1000.00
7.	BH	Deoghar	331.60	4400.00
8.	BH	Palamau	233.97	2705.00
Sub-total			1828.63	22605.00
<b>Delhi</b>				
1.	DE	Delhi	55.75	500.00
2.	DE	Capart	0.00	0.00
Sub-total			55.75	500.00
<b>Gujarat</b>				
1.	GJ	S. Nagar-I	19.26	600.00
2.	GJ	S. Nagar-II	206.14	3100.00
3.	GJ	Kutch-I	396.55	5200.00
4.	GJ	Kutch-II	389.66	5500.00
5.	GJ	Panchmahal	287.89	3370.00
6.	GJ	Dang-I	345.67	4095.00
7.	GJ	Dang-II	409.50	4906.00
8.	GJ	Amreli	359.45	5550.00
9.	GJ	Jamnagar	245.89	2480.00
10.	GJ	Mehsana	466.69	7000.00
11.	GJ	Rajkot	352.84	4900.00
12.	GJ	Gandhinagar	144.43	1500.00
13.	GJ	Banaskantha	369.71	5000.00
14.	GJ	Kheda	32.48	812.00
15.	GJ	Junagadh	480.00	12000.00
16.	GJ	Vadodara	451.00	11275.00
17.	GJ	Bhav Nagar	440.00	11002.00
18.	GJ	Sabarkantha	480.00	12000.00
19.	GJ	Junagarh-II	493.00	12340.00
20.	GJ	Panchmahal-II	488.00	12200.00
21.	GJ	Kheda-II	459.60	11490.00
Sub-total			7317.76	136270.00
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>				
1.	HP	Hamirpur	300.55	4500.00
2.	HP	Kangra	349.50	4330.00

1	2	3	4	5
3.	HP	Solan	352.64	4236.00
4.	HP	Chamba	281.82	3713.00
5.	HP	Solan-II	499.52	12488.00
6.	HP	Sirmour	499.00	12500.00
7.	HP	Mandi	499.00	12567.00
8.	HP	Chamba-II	494.00	12351.00
Sub-total			3276.03	66685.00
<b>Haryana</b>				
1.	HR	Hissar-I	280.45	2974.00
2.	HR	Karnal	335.21	2847.00
3.	HR	Hissar-II	306.54	3353.00
4.	HR	Yamuna Nagar	151.80	5350.00
5.	HR	M.Garh-I	296.22	5985.00
6.	HR	Rewari	283.99	3025.00
7.	HR	M.Garh-II	20.50	190.00
8.	HR	Gurgaon	218.92	5473.00
9.	HR	Panipat	478.88	11972.00
Sub-total			2372.51	41169.00
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>				
1.	JK	Udhampur	137.11	1593.00
2.	JK	Udhampur-II	500.00	12500.00
3.	JK	Jammu	230.00	5730.00
4.	JK	Kathua	346.00	8650.00
Sub-total			1213.11	28473.00
<b>Karnataka</b>				
1.	KA	Tumkur-I	436.20	6780.00
2.	KA	Tumkur-II	120.00	1500.00
3.	KA	Mandya	372.91	7453.00
4.	KA	Mandya-II	500.00	12500.00
5.	KA	Gulbarga	474.00	11847.00
6.	KA	Chitradurga	500.00	12500.00
7.	KA	Bellary	485.60	12140.00
8.	KA	Belgaum	499.24	12481.00
9.	KA	Bellary-II	490.00	12400.00
10.	KA	Kolar	489.56	12239.00
11.	KA	Tumkur-III	496.48	12412.00
12.	KA	Bidar	499.40	12485.00
Sub-total			5363.39	126737.00

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Kerala</b>				
1	KE	Thrissur	157.59	2030.00
2	KE	Palakkad-I	372.25	6000.00
3	KE	Palakkad-II	313.60	4900.00
4	KE	Wyanad	315.47	4500.00
5	KE	Mallapuram	87.50	2000.00
6	KE	Idukki	403.20	10080.00
Sub-total			1649.61	29510.00
<b>Maharashtra</b>				
1	MA	Nasik	156.73	1700.00
2	MA	Ahmednagar	42.03	531.00
3	MA	Parbhani	381.60	9540.00
4	MA	Sindhudurg	452.80	11320.00
5	MA	Amravati	456.96	11424.00
6	MA	Parbhani-II	455.78	11395.00
Sub-total			1945.90	45910.00
<b>Meghalaya</b>				
1	MG	W.Khasi Hills	117.39	1800.00
Sub-total			117.39	1800.00
<b>Manipur</b>				
1	MN	Imphal	202.20	2200.00
2	MN	Imphal (West)	267.00	6675.00
3	MN	Senapati	55.72	1393.00
4	MN	Senapati-II	400.00	10000.00
5	MN	Tamenglon	500.00	12500.00
6	MN	Imphal (West)-II	440.00	11000.00
7	MN	Ukhrul	496.00	12400.00
Sub-total			2360.92	56168.00
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>				
1	MP	Indore	95.52	1816.00
2	MP	Jhabua-I	32.40	417.00
3	MP	Datia-I	40.00	500.00
4	MP	Jhabua-II	319.44	4980.00
5	MP	Bhopal	65.84	992.00
6	MP	Chindwara	301.69	4500.00
7	MP	Tikamgarh	128.68	2362.00
8	MP	Sarguja	322.14	5082.00
9	MP	Ujjain	338.57	4600.00
10	MP	Dhar	184.91	3000.00
11	MP	Durg	215.94	3680.00
12	MP	Raigarh	390.55	5700.00
13	MP	Raipur	252.68	3860.00

1	2	3	4	5
14.	MP	Rajnandgaon	444.00	11100.00
15.	MP	Mandla	350.28	6912.00
16.	MP	Datia-II	21.28	532.00
17.	MP	Guna	243.60	6090.00
18.	MP	Seoni	280.00	7000.00
19.	MP	Narasingpur	280.00	7000.00
20.	MP	Mandsaur	280.00	7000.00
21.	MP	Guna-II	337.96	8449.00
22.	MP	Sehore	427.18	12000.00
23.	MP	Shadhol	422.22	10555.00
Sub-total			5774.68	118127.00
<b>Mizoram</b>				
1.	MZ	Aizwal	359.95	4500.00
Sub-total			359.95	4500.00
<b>Nagaland</b>				
1.	NG	Kohima-I	216.14	3055.00
2.	NG	Kohima-II	516.00	9050.00
3.	NG	Phek	362.53	6658.00
4.	NG	Zunobuto	100.00	2500.00
5.	NG	Wokha	480.00	12000.00
6.	NG	Mokochung	480.00	12000.00
7.	NG	Tuensang	500.00	12500.00
8.	NG	Mon	500.00	12500.00
Sub-total			3154.67	70263.00
<b>Orissa</b>				
1.	OR	Kalahandi-I	207.13	2826.00
2.	OR	Malkangiri-I	62.39	1469.00
3.	OR	Kalahandi-II	441.53	6672.00
4.	OR	Koraput-I	216.66	2816.00
5.	OR	Koraput-II	49.12	741.00
6.	OR	Bolangir	437.54	6467.00
7.	OR	Dhenkanal-I	45.97	691.00
8.	OR	Nawrangpur	284.28	3539.00
9.	OR	Malkangiri-II	157.78	2186.00
10.	OR	Dhenkanal-II	100.60	2515.00
11.	OR	Koraput-III	7.29	300.00
12.	OR	Jhasuguda	288.64	7216.00
13.	OR	Kalahandi-III	493.48	12337.00
14.	OR	Balangir-II	486.00	12400.00
15.	OR	Koraput-IV	481.80	12045.00
16.	OR	Mayurbhanj	496.00	12400.00
17.	OR	Dhenkanal-III	244.64	6116.00

1	2	3	4	5
18.	OR	Keonjhar	205.74	5145.00
19.	OR	Angul	241.50	6037.00
20.	OR	Jajpur	325.10	8534.00
21.	OR	Keonjhar-II	208.00	5200.00
22.	OR	Sambalpur	41.00	1025.00
23.	OR	Nayagarh	400.00	10000.00
Sub-total			5932.19	128677.00
<b>Punjab</b>				
1.	PB	Hoshiarpur	599.82	9780.00
2.	PB	Bathinda	409.13	5570.00
3.	PB	Sangrur	287.78	3493.00
4.	PB	Patiala	22.00	550.00
Sub-total			1318.73	19393.00
<b>Rajasthan</b>				
1.	RJ	Jaisalmer	170.30	1800.00
2.	RJ	Bhilwara	320.00	4000.00
3.	RJ	Tonk	304.00	3800.00
4.	RJ	Sikar	397.19	7500.00
5.	RJ	Jhalawar	273.95	3883.00
6.	RJ	Jaipur-I	329.40	3381.00
7.	RJ	Jaipur-II	153.32	2780.00
8.	RJ	Jaipur-III	414.05	4748.00
9.	RJ	Ajmer-I	320.76	5422.00
10.	RJ	Jodhpur	191.36	2072.00
11.	RJ	Udaipur	252.41	4600.00
12.	RJ	Palli	320.85	5049.00
13.	RJ	Ajmer-II	26.00	650.00
14.	RJ	Bundi	27.30	686.00
15.	RJ	Jhunjhunu	168.00	4200.00
16.	RJ	Jhalawar-II	394.24	9856.00
17.	RJ	Tonk-II	441.88	11047.00
Sub-total			4505.01	75474.00
<b>Sikkim</b>				
1.	SK	E. Sikkim-I	71.26	1345.00
2.	SK	S. Sikkim	18.49	350.00
3.	SK	S. Sikkim-I	77.81	1595.00
4.	SK	S. Sikkim-II	92.04	1760.00
5.	SK	S. Sikkim-III	89.62	1770.00
6.	SK	S. Sikkim-IV	93.09	1860.00
7.	SK	N. Sikkim	155.55	3513.00
8.	SK	W. Sikkim	220.00	5500.00
9.	SK	E. Sikkim-II	333.66	7425.00

1	2	3	4	5
10.	SK	East Sikkim-III	222.76	5669.00
11.	SK	N. Sikkim-II	480.00	12000.00
12.	SK	East Sikkim-IV	476.00	11900.00
Sub-total			2330.28	54687.00
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>				
1.	TN	Pudukottai	126.45	2155.00
2.	TN	Periyar	343.93	4000.00
3.	TN	Pasumpon	284.73	3073.00
4.	TN	North Arcot	296.04	5000.00
5.	TN	South Arcot	249.80	3010.00
6.	TN	T. Samuvrayar	255.94	3900.00
7.	TN	Coimbatore	19.20	480.00
8.	TN	Dindigul	200.00	5090.00
9.	TN	Coimbatore-II	362.32	9058.00
Sub-total			2138.41	35766.00
<b>Tripura</b>				
1	TP	S. Tripura	145.44	1792.00
Sub-total			145.44	1792.00
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>				
1.	UP	Jhansi	349.85	4895.00
2.	UP	Hamirpur	302.33	4623.00
3.	UP	Lalitpur	287.76	4500.00
4.	UP	Mathura	115.40	1372.00
5.	UP	Rai Bareilly	172.01	1800.00
6.	UP	Mainpuri	338.30	4400.00
7.	UP	Farukhabad	147.00	1500.00
8.	UP	Lucknow	391.19	4000.00
9.	UP	Ferozabad	459.16	11479.00
10.	UP	Fatehpur	395.20	9880.00
11.	UP	Agra	491.80	12295.00
12.	UP	Jaunpur	468.72	11718.00
13.	UP	Varanasi	385.80	9645.00
14.	UP	Etawah	406.00	10150.00
15.	UP	Azamgarh	319.28	7982.00
16.	UP	Kanpur (C)	220.40	5510.00
17.	UP	Unnao	481.64	12041.00
18.	UP	Tehri Garhwal	484.76	12119.00
19.	UP	Sonbhadra	404.26	10106.00
20.	UP	Raibareilly-II	484.00	12100.00
21.	UP	Unnao-II	482.16	12054.00
22.	UP	Sultanpur	481.56	12039.00
23.	UP	Jhansi-II	495.00	12379.00

1	2	3	4	5
24	UP	Jhansi-III	400.00	10000.00
25	UP	Sitapur	482.32	12058.00
26	UP	Chandauli	444.00	11000.00
27	UP	Lakhimpur	489.60	12240.00
28	UP	Kanpur Dehat	481.56	12039.00
29	UP	Gonda	486.28	12157.00
30	UP	Mirzapur	499.12	12478.00
31	UP	Aligarh	499.20	12480.00
Sub-total			12345.66	283039.00
<b>West Bengal</b>				
1	WB	Bankura-I	256.98	3600.00
2	WB	Purulia-I	93.83	1348.00
3	WB	Bankura-II	256.52	4000.00
4	WB	Purulia-II	137.75	2759.00
5	WB	Darjeeling	469.74	5400.00
Sub-total			1214.82	17107.00
Grand Total			77811.50	1598553.00

[English]

#### Gauge Conversion of Rupsa-Bangiriposi Rail Line

654. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- the steps have been taken so far to convert Rupsa-Bangiriposi narrow gauge railway line into broad gauge;
- the latest estimate of the project; and
- the time by which the above work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Earthwork and re-construction of bridges have been taken up from km 0 to km 75.

(b) Rs. 57.95 crores.

(c) Due to acute resource constraints, the work is being regulated as per the availability of resources and will be completed in the coming years.

#### Pumpsets in Rural Areas

655. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for improvement in Energy Efficient Irrigation Pumpsets in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the number of such pumpsets installed and in operation at present, Statewise;

(d) the number of pumpsets which need to be covered under the scheme and the funds to be incurred thereon during the current financial year, State-wise; and

(e) the quantum of energy likely to be saved by introducing the programme ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) The Ministry of Rural Development has not formulated any scheme for improvement in Energy Efficient Irrigation Pump-sets in the rural areas of the country.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### Recruitment of Youths in Army from H.P.

656. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the number of vacancies filled up in each of the Armed Forces during 1998-99 and proposed to be filled up during 1999-2000 from Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : The recruitment of Sailors in the Navy and Air-men in the Air Force are carried out on the basis of all-India merit and no specific quota is allotted to States. However, the number of personnel from Himachal Pradesh inducted in the Navy and Air Force during the year 1998-99 is as follows:

Navy	72
Air Force	52

So far as Army is concerned, state-wise quota is allotted on the basis of Recruitable Male Population ratio. In the year 1998-99, 2691 persons were recruited from Himachal Pradesh and the number of vacancies allotted to the State for 1999-2000 is 1069.

#### Reduction of Import Duty on Edible Oil

657. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to reduce the import duty on edible oil to keep the prices under check ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether a number of consignments of edible oil were rejected and returned back which caused great shortage of edible oil during the months of August and September, 1999; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check the price of edible oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Government have not yet decided to reduce the import duty on edible oils.

(c) and (d) No report of a number of consignments of edible oils having been rejected and returned has been received. Some price rise reflecting shortage in edible oils during the months of August and September was basically because of the following factors :

- (i) Widely publicised Press Report about the setback to the oilseeds production.
- (ii) Low vegetable oil stock largely because of higher consumption in the earlier months when the prices were low.
- (iii) Lean season.
- (iv) Higher demand because of the ensuing festival season.

Anyway, Government has constituted a High Powered Price Monitoring Board (HPPMB) under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary to monitor the prices of edible oils on weekly basis and take appropriate remedial measures as and when situation demands.

#### Supply of Sub-Standard Food in Trains

658. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether sub-standard and unhygienic food is supplied to passengers through railway catering services;

(b) if so, whether any health agency inspects the food supplied on long distance trains which ply from Delhi to Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to modernise and improve the catering for railway passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir

(b) Officials from Health/Commercial department are conducting regular checks to ensure quality and standard of catering services. In addition, special drives are also launched from time to time to monitor the services. Standard specifications for quality of meal, packaging & presentation have been prescribed. Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation has also been set up in order to modernise catering services.

[Translation]

#### Promotion of Tourism in Goa

659. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tourism projects sanctioned during the last two years and the current year in Goa, and

(b) the amount allocated and released for this purpose, year-wise and project-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, a total of 29 projects/schemes have been sanctioned.

(b) The details of the amount allocated and released for this purpose, year-wise and project-wise are given in the enclosed Statement-I, II and III.

#### Statement-I

#### Projects/Schemes sanctioned for Goa during 1997-98

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Project/Scheme	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Public conveniences at important places in Goa i.e.		
(i)	Mapusa	9.77	2.93
(ii)	Margao	9.77	2.93
(iii)	Vasco	9.77	2.93
(iv)	Bicholim	9.77	2.93
(v)	Ponda	9.77	2.93
(vi)	Anjuna Beach	9.77	2.93
2.	Tourist Reception and Facilitation centre at Canacona	25.00	7.00

1	2	3	4
3.	Tourist Reception and Facilitation centre at Margao	25.00	7.50
4.	Signages for walking tours	10.00	3.00
5.	Refurbishment of Khorjuven Fort and Environs at Aldova in Bardez Taluxa Goa	20.00	5.00
6.	International Sea food festival (renamed Goa Food and Cultural Festival)	2.00	1.00
7.	Carnival	2.00	1.00
8.	Shigmo	2.00	1.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>144.62</b>	<b>43.08</b>

**Statement-II***Projects/Schemes sanctioned for Goa during 1998-99*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No	Name of the Project/Scheme	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Public conveniences at important tourist destination in Goa (4 locations)		
	(i) Asnora	10.00	3.00
	(ii) Dona Paula	10.00	3.00
	(iii) Molem	9.44	2.83
	(iv) Calan Gute Market	9.44	2.83
2.	Construction of Restaurant and other facilities at Benaulim beach	15.00	4.50
3.	Construction Tourist Restaurant at Tambdi Surta	8.84	2.70
4.	Construction of Restaurant and parking facilities at Baga	18.98	5.70
5.	Wayside facilities at Anjunem Dam Site in Sattari Taluka	25.00	7.50
6.	High Mast Illumination system at important destinations in Goa (4 locations) Cavelossim, Carambolim and Margao	27.00	3.00
7.	Shigmo Festival	5.00	2.50
8.	Upgradation and renovation of Tourist Hotel Panaji	20.00	6.00
9.	Upgradation and renovation of Tourist Complex, Colva	9.00	3.00
10.	Tourist Cottages at Selaulim, Sangauem Taluk, South Goa	40.84	12.25
11.	Wayside facilities at Pernem Taluka, North Goa	42.87	12.86
12.	Upgradation and renovation of Tourist Complex at Calangute Beach	39.00	9.00
13.	Upgradation and renovation of Tourist Hotel, Margao	18.00	5.40
14.	Development of infrastructure at World Heritage Churches and Monuments, Old Goa	25.57	8.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>328.98</b>	<b>91.57</b>

**Statement-III***Projects/Schemes Sanctioned for Goa during 1999-2000 (Upto 30.11.99)  
Sulabh Shauchalaya at important tourist destinations in Goa*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	No. of project prioritised	Amount prioritised
1.	Caranzalem beach	10.00	3.00	17	716.00
2.	Bambolim	10.00	3.00		
3.	Arambol beach	10.00	3.00		
4.	Majorda beach	10.00	3.00		
5.	Sanquelim bus stand	10.00	3.00		
6.	Curcholem bus stand	10.00	3.00		
7.	Palolem beach	10.00	3.00		
Total		70.00	21.00	17	716.00

*[English]***Doubling of Trivandrum-Kollam Section**

660. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the doubling work on Trivandrum-Kollam section started and the extent of work completed so far alongwith the amount spent thereon; and

(b) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed and the estimated expenditure incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The above work was included in the budget 1990-91. Doubling between Trivandrum Central to Murukkampuzha and Varkala to Quilon has been completed and commissioned. An amount of Rs. 113.80 crs. has been spent upto the end of October, 99.

(b) Work in the remaining section Varkala-Murukkampuzha is in progressing satisfactorily and is likely to be completed by 31.3.2000. The anticipated cost of the whole project is Rs. 145 crs. The expenditure incurred on the project has been indicated in reply to part (a) of the question.

**Onion in the List of Essential Commodities**

661. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the onion will be continued in the list of essential commodities; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shortage of Flights on Kolkata-Agartala Sector**

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to non availability of seats in Indian Airlines flights on Kolkata-Agartala sector, people are facing a lot of hardships; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) In view of the high seat factor on this sector, additional flights are operated from time to time by Indian Airlines keeping in view the passenger demand

**Delhi-Nagpur Flights**

663. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi-Nagpur flights are generally delayed causing enormous difficulties and inconvenience to passengers;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(c) whether the Nagpur-Delhi flight is also delayed as a result thereof;



(d) if so, the number of times these flights were delayed during the last year and upto November 15, 1999; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure smooth running of Delhi-Nagpur and Nagpur-Delhi flights ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) (a) to (c) Delhi-Nagpur and Nagpur-Delhi flights are operated by the same aircraft on the sector Delhi/Nagpur/Raipur/Nagpur/Delhi. There have been delays primarily due to late arrival of aircraft from other sectors operated by it.

(d) The details of the number of flights delayed between Delhi and Nagpur are as under :-

Year	Total take offs	No. of delays
1998	607	286
1999 (upto 15th November, 1999)	592	311

(e) In the schedule effective from 1.11.1999 Indian Airlines have provided more time between the inter-sectoral flights, which is expected to improve the on-time performance.

[Translation]

#### Migration of Labourers

664. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the labourers have been continuously migrating from Palamu and Gadhwa districts of Bihar due to famine and naxalite terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to check the migration of labourers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) steps taken to implement the Employment Assurance Scheme to check the migration of labourers?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected.

#### Expansion and Modernisation of Airports

665 SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made with regard to expansion and modernisation of domestic and international airports in the country, airport-wise;

(b) the amount spent on these projects during the last two years, project-wise;

(c) the time by which the said each project is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government have approved the expansion scheme for Patna and Ranchi airports as well;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to invite foreign capital for constructing new airports; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The progress made airport-wise with regard to the expansion and modernisation of domestic and international airports, amount spent project-wise during last two years and probable date of completion are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has expanded and modified the terminal building of Patna airport with modern facilities to cater to 500 passengers at a time at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.30 crores. Provision of funds of Rs. 1.00 lakhs in the current financial year 1999-2000 and Rs. 10 lakhs in 2000-2001 has been earmarked for extension of existing terminal building at Ranchi Airport. Widening of taxi-track work has been completed at a cost of Rs. 20 lakhs. The soil erosion control work has been approved for a sum of Rs. 2.92 crores and tender action is at hand.

(f) and (g) The Policy on Airport Infrastructure (Para 15.4), as approved by the Cabinet, permits foreign equity participation upto 74% with a automatic approvals and upto 100% with special permission.

**Statement-I**

*Details of Airport-wise progress made, amount spent during the last two years and the probable date of completion with regard to the expansion and modernisation of international airports.*

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of Work	Expenditure during the last two years	Physical progress	Probable date of completion
<b>A. Mumbai Airport</b>				
1.	Const. of new international passenger complex phase-III	115.38	100%	Completed
2.	Replacement of old conveyor baggage system	6.1	100%	Completed
3.	Recarpeting of Runway 14/32	3.69	100%	Completed
4.	Construction of new A1-A2 Taxi track	3.67	100%	Completed
5.	Construction of Hard Stand	1.84	100%	Completed
6.	Extension of 'F' Taxi Track and Construction of parallel taxi track balance portion	2.87	72.5%	Dec. 1999
<b>B. IGI Airport</b>				
1.	Reconstruction of Terminal 1A	21.81	100%	Completed
2.	Construction of Export Cargo Ph.II	9.86	98%	Dec. 1999
3.	Construction of Import Cargo Ph.III	4.60	40%	Aug. 2000
4.	Provision of stand-by ETV System at Cargo Complex	7.41	70%	Mar. 2000
<b>C. Chennai Airport</b>				
1.	Strengthening of runway 12/30 and grade correction	5.41	100%	Completed
2.	Construction of Integral Cargo Complex (module-I) including Admn. Office	2.16	10%	Mar. 2001
<b>D. Calcutta Airport</b>				
1.	Modification of International Terminal Phase-I	2.05	80%	Feb. 2000
2.	Construction of Aerolinks, Security hold and apron of 3rd Aerobridge at New Domestic Terminal	2.47	75%	Civil works completed. Tenders for aerobridge to be finalised.
<b>E. Trivandrum Airport</b>				
1.	Extension of Apron	6.85	100%	Completed
2.	Interim Modification of Terminal Building	2.17	100%	Completed
3.	Air-conditioning to International Terminal	3.54	100%	Completed

**Statement-II**

*Details of Airport-wise progress made, amount spent during the last two years and the probable date of completion with regard to the expansion and modernisation of international airports*

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of Work	Expenditure during the last two years	Physical progress	Probable date of completion
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Strengthening of Apron and Taxiway at Agartala airport	2.03	51%	Mar. 2000

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Extension and strengthening of runway at Ahmdeabad airport	5.11	39%	Mar. 2001
3.	Expansion of Terminal Building, Apron at Agra airport	4.32	100%	Completed
4.	Resurfacing of Runway, providing shoulders and Turning Pad at Bhopal airport	3.45	100%	Completed
5.	Expansion of Terminal Building at Bhopal airport	1.63	100%	Completed
6.	Construction of New Terminal Building at Bagdogra airport	5.12	71%	Mar. 2000
7.	Resurfacing of Runway at Bhunter Airport	1.96	100%	Completed
8.	Extension of Runway at Bhubaneswar airport	6.71	68%	Mar. 2000
9.	Construction of New Terminal Building at Bhubanewshar airport	4.68	100%	Completed
10.	Construction of New Arrival Building at Bangalore airport	12.22	100%	Completed
11.	Extension of Runway at Calicut airport	19.78	88%	Mar. 2000
12.	Construction of Terminal Building at Dimapur Airport	1.94	100%	Completed
13.	Extension of Apron at Goa airport	2.64	100%	Completed
14.	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building at Guwahati airport	4.13	82%	Jul. 2000
15.	Construction of New International Block at Hyderabad airport	15.27	100%	Completed
16.	Construction of Terminal Block cum Control Tower at Imphal airport	12.14	100%	Completed
17.	Extension of Runway and Apron at Indore airport	8.20	100%	Completed
18.	Construction of Technical Block cum Fire Station at Indore airport	1.54	99%	Dec. 1999
19.	Extension of Runway at Jabalpur airport	6.47	100%	Completed
20.	Construction of New Airport at Kargil airport	2.25	35%	Oct. 2000
21.	Construction of New Terminal Building, Control Tower at Lilabari airport	6.50	44%	Jun. 2000
22.	Extension of Runway at Lilabari airport	8.86	68%	Mar. 2000
23.	Extension and strengthening of main Apron, Construction of New Taxi-track at Lucknow airport	1.58	34%	Mar. 2000
24.	Construction of New Terminal Building at Lucknow airport	1.66	100%	Completed
25.	Construction of Technic Block cum Control Tower at Chennai airport	5.21	58%	Jul. 2000
26.	Construction of New Terminal Building at Nagpur airport	2.51	100%	Completed
27.	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building at Patna airport	2.51	100%	Completed
28.	Construction of Civil Air Terminal Complex at Portblair airport	8.54	62%	Feb. 2000
29.	Strengthening of Runway, Apron and Taxiway at Rajkot airport	2.51	100%	Completed
30.	Construction of New Terminal Building at Raipur airport	3.28	100%	Completed
31.	Expansion and modification of Terminal Building at Silchar airport	2.56	100%	Completed
32.	Construction of New Air Terminal Complex at Tezpur airport	11.08	55%	Mar. 2000
33.	Development of Airport for B-737 and AB-320 class of aircraft at Tirupati airport	5.38	100%	Completed
34.	Extension of Runway at Udaipur airport	3.26	100%	Completed
35.	Development of Airport at Vijayawada airport	6.86	100%	Completed

**Fund Sanctioned under Rural Development Schemes**

666. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated for Bihar under Plan and non-Plan for rural development schemes during each of the last three years, project-wise; and

(b) the details of their completion and present position ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) The amount allocated under various major rural development schemes for last three years for Bihar is as follows :

Schemes	Allocation (Rs. in lakhs)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY)	27260.46	30458.60	38340.78
Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)	16218.24	16754.81	25336.66
Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)	7795.00	9380.00	11768.50
Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)*	21245.00	18234.00	18596.00
Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)	17398.92	17597.09	27420.52

\* - EAS was not an allocation-based scheme.

(b) The schemes of Rural Development are of on-going nature.

[English]

**Price Rise of Essential Commodities**

667. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to increase the prices of rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene meant for public distribution system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Fixing of Fares & Freight Charges**

668. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a scientific way to fix passenger fares and freight charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the fare rate in long distance trains has been decreased in proportion to distance; and

(d) if not, the rationale in the present fixation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Fixation of railway fare and freight charges is mainly governed by the principles of Cost of Service and Value of Service and the fare and freight structures have evolved gradually through various recommendations made by expert committees, headed by well-known economists. However, the fare and freight charges are adjusted from time to time to generate internal resources and to meet the rising cost of inputs in a fast changing dynamic economy.

(c) and (d) Passenger fare structure for all trains is telescopic in the sense that the rate per kilometre decreases as the distance increases. The decrease in rate per kilometer is not exactly proportionate to the increase in distance since the taper only reflects, to some extent, the diminishing share of fixed cost.

**Projects of Rural Development Cleared for Kerala**

669. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects in regard to rural development submitted by the Government of Kerala during each of the last three years, programme-wise.

(b) the projects out of them which have been approved by the Union Government; and

(c) the details of pending projects and since when pending and the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected.

[Translation]

**Gauge Conversion of Luni-Barmer-Munabao Rail Line**

670. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI :  
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of gauge conversion of Luni-Barmer Munabao railway line;

(b) the reasons for slow progress;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to speed up the work, and

(d) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The work is in progress.

(b) to (d) The work is progressing satisfactorily as planned and is expected to be completed by the end of the 9th Plan as scheduled, subject to availability of resources in the remaining years of the 9th Plan.

**Development of Tourism**

671. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra and Kerala have sent any proposals for the development of Tourism particularly in Coastal areas of the States ;

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

(c) whether any package schemes have been formulated by the Union Government to allure foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) and (b) Government of Maharashtra and Kerala have sent the following proposals for development of coastal areas during 1999-2000 which have been prioritised for sanction for Central Financial Assistance by the Ministry of Tourism.

**Maharashtra :**

1. Wayside Accommodation at Kharepatan, District Sindhudurg costing Rs. 49.00 lakhs.

2. Budget Accommodation - Tourist Complex at Tarkarli, District Sindhudurg costing Rs.49.00 lakhs.

3. Budget Accommodation - Tourist complex at Vijaydurg, Dist. Sindhudurg costing Rs. 49.00 lakhs.

4. Budget Accommodation - Bunk Resort at Diveager, Dist. Raigad costing Rs. 20.00 lakhs.

5. Budget Accommodation - Bunk Resort at Kashid, Dist. Raigad costing Rs. 20.00 lakhs.

6. Budget Accommodation - Bunk Resort at Bordi, Dist. Thane costing Rs. 20.00 lakhs.

7. Budget Accommodation - Bunk Resort at Satpati, Dist. Thane costing Rs. 20.00 lakhs.

**Kerala:**

1. Integrated development of Kovalam beach - development of sewage treatment plant and roads.

2. Development of Waterside Amenities for Pamba-Kuttanad backwater cruise routes.

Development of Waterside amenity at Pallathuruthy

Development of Waterside amenity at Kotharathode

Development of Waterside amenity at Nedumudi

Development of Waterside amenity at Vattakayal

3. Construction of 'Malabar Dhow'

4. Development of an eco-friendly floating Resort at Pathiramanal

5. Integrated development of Fort Kochi, Mathancherry and Jew Town.

(c) and (d) Government of India Tourist Offices located overseas undertake various promotional campaigns for increasing inflow of foreign tourist to India.

[English]

**Creation of New Army Unit for Ladakh Region**

672. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in 'Asian Age' dated 23rd September, 1999 stating that Beijing has objected to the creation of a new Indian Army Unit to be based in Leh to exclusively look after the Ladakh region; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government with regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Chinese have not raised any issue regarding the said creation of a new army unit referred to in the news item in question.

**Train Accidents**

673. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :  
SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK :  
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :  
SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of train accidents occurred since January 1999 till date, location wise/zone wise alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of persons killed/injured in each of such accidents and the value of Government property damaged therein;

(c) the amount of compensation given by the Government to the victims;

(d) the details of inquiries conducted by the Government on such accidents and the outcome of each inquiry; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such accidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The railway accident statistics are maintained zone wise and not location wise Zone wise Consequential Train Accident statistics for period Jan. '99 to Oct. '99 is as follows :

Railway	Number of accidents
Central Railway	67
Eastern Railway	27
Northern Railway	60
North Eastern Railway	22
Northeast Frontier Railway	48
Southern Railway	34
South Central Railway	30
South Eastern Railway	38
Western Railway	28
Metro Railway	-
Konkan Railway	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>357</b>

Prime facie causes for above accidents are as follows :  
(The figures are provisional)

Reason	Number of accidents
Failure of Railway Staff	227
Human failure other than railway staff	56
Equipment failure	24

Sabotage	25
Combination of factors	-
Incidental	11
Cause could not be established	6
Under Investigation	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>357</b>

(b) Number of persons killed in above accidents = 457

Number of persons injured in above accidents = 1007

Cost of Government property damaged = Rs. 66.16 crores

The above figures are provisional

(c) Amount of compensation given by the Government to the victims = Rs. 5.89 lakhs for 29 cases.

In rest of the cases, compensation will be paid after the claims are decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal.

(d) Out of 357 accidents mentioned above, 31 were inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety and the remaining accidents inquired into by Railway Officials.

(e) Brief steps taken to prevent accidents:

- The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.
- Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimize chances of human errors in causing accidents.
- Auxiliary warning system for giving advance warning about 'signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections.
- Railway Board has cleared a pilot project of AWS for Tughlaqabad-Mathura section of Central railway on a trial basis.
- Walkie-Talkie sets have been supplied to Drivers and Guards of all Passenger carrying trains. The same is presently being supplied to Drivers and Guards of goods trains also and the same is likely to be completed by 31st March, 2000.
- There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.
- For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometer are being progressively used.
- For detecting rail fractures and weld failure 96 more double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors are being procured.

9. Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
10. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.
11. Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.
12. Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
13. Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
14. Periodic Safety Audit of different divisions by interdisciplinary teams from zonal headquarters has been introduced.
15. Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernized including use of simulators for training of drivers.
16. Refresher courses are regularly organized at specified intervals.
17. Performance of the staff connected with train operations is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.
18. Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

#### On-going Railway Project

674. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of on-going railway projects viz. gauge conversion/electrification/doubling/laying of new lines in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed;

(c) whether any survey for new projects in Tamil Nadu has been undertaken or in the process of being undertaken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The On-going Railway Projects in Tamil Nadu are as under :-

#### Gauge Conversion

1. Chengalpattu - Arakkonam gauge conversion (Material modification to Chennai Beach- Tiruchchirappalli gauge conversion).
2. Thanjavur - Villupuram

3. Villupuram - Pondicherry
4. Madurai - Rameshwaram
5. Tiruchchirappalli - Nagore- Karakkal
6. Quilon -Tirunelveli -Tiruchendur - Tenkasi -Virudhunagar
7. Cuddalore - Salem via Virudhachalam

#### Electrification

Tambaram - Chengalpattu - Villupuram and Chengalpattu - Arakkonam section.

#### Doubling

1. Irugur - Coimbatore
2. Attipattu - Korukkupet

#### New Line

1. Karur - Salem via Namakkal new B G line.
2. Nagapattinam - Velankanni (as material modification to Tiruchchirappalli - Nagore - Karaikkal gauge conversion project).

Chengalpattu - Arakkonam gauge conversion project is likely to be completed by 31.12.1999. For the other works, completion will depend on the availability of resources in the coming years.

#### MTP

1. MRTC - phase - 1 from Chennai Beach to Thirumailai. This work has been completed.
2. MRTS phase II from Thirumailai to Velacheri. This is targetted for completion in March, 2002.
3. Chennai Beach - Tambaram - Chengalpattu gauge conversion. This is targetted for completion in March, 2004.

#### Railway Electrification

1. Tambaram-Chengalpattu- Villupuram & Chengalpattu - Arakkonam. This is targetted for completion in March 2003.

(c) and (d) The following surveys have been undertaken in Tamil Nadu in the year 1999-2000.

1. Reconnaissance Engineering cum traffic survey for a new BG line from Tindivanam to Cuddalore via Pondicherry.
2. Preliminary Engineering cum traffic survey for new BG line between Mettur and Chamarajanagar.

3. The cost-cum-feasibility survey for the electrification of Coimbatore-Udgamandalam section.

**Regulatory Mechanism for Airports**

675. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :  
SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to form a regulatory mechanism for airports in the country;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the regulatory mechanism for airport in the country proposed to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) In the context of possible privatisation of airports in the country, the Government has received a suggestion to create a regulatory framework for airports independent of DGCA. No concrete decision has so far been taken.

[Translation]

**Import of Wheat under O.G.L. Scheme**

676. SHRI J.S. BRAR :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have included the import of wheat under Open General Licence (O.G.L.);

(b) if so, since when this scheme is enforced in the country;

(c) the quantity of wheat imported under this scheme during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 till September, 1999 and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the amount of foreign exchange spent in this regard; year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) As per the EXIM POLICY import of wheat is canalised through the Food Corporation of India. However, in order to augment the domestic availability of wheat, Roller Flour Mills were allowed with effect from 13.12.1996 to freely import wheat to meet their own requirement on actual user condition for milling purposes and sale of the resultant flour in the domestic market after registering their import contracts with Agricultural and Processed Food Product Export Development Authority (APEDA). With effect

from 5.10.1998, Roller Flour Mills can freely import wheat either directly or through State Trading Corporation of India, Project Equipment Corporation and Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India and the flour produced out of imported wheat can be sold in the domestic market or be exported. The importers are required only to inform the details of imports and exports to APEDA.

(c) and (d) No separate details of imports by FCI and Roller Flour Mills are maintained by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIIS), Calcutta. The details of wheat imported on government account during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as under :-

Year	Quantity (in lakh tonnes)	Foreign Exchange spent (in million US \$)
1996-97	17.51	281.92
1997-98	10.18	163.46
1998-99	14.15	205.18
1999-2000 (upto September 99)	Nil	Nil

**Helicopter Services for Vaishno Devi Shrine**

677. DR ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the much awaited helicopter service for Vaishno Devi Shrine is being finalised;

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

(c) the time by which the helicopter service is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) plans to operate helicopter services on Jammu-Sanjichhat-Jammu and Katra-Sanjichhat-Katra sectors. A helipad at Katra is being constructed for this purpose by the Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

(c) The services shall commence as soon as necessary clearance for all safety/security, etc. are issued by the concerned authorities.

**Wheat Scam**

678. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL  
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "CBI probe into Wheat



Scam ordered last August reveals BJP" appearing in the Business Standard, dated September 8, 1999;

- (b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Trading Corporation of India (STC) had imported 14.15 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia on Government account during 1998-99. Government has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation on 20.7.98 to look into the wheat import from Australia. The CBI has registered a preliminary enquiry into specific acts of misconduct on the part of any official/organisation.

[English]

#### Purchase of Howitzers

679. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have invited tenders from foreign firms for purchase of 155 MMK52-Calibre Howitzers:
- (b) the foreign concerns which have offered themselves for the same; and
- (c) the estimated budget of Defence Ministry for these Howitzers and the action taken, if any, on the offer of these foreign firms ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) No Techno-commercial proposals have been invited from foreign firms for procurement of 155 mm Howitzers for the Indian Army.

#### Survey for Dindigul-Sabarimala Rail Line

680. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the survey has been completed for laying of broad gauge line between Dindigul and Sabarimala via Theni-Cumbum-Kumuli;
- (b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;
- (c) the funds allocated so far;
- (d) the progress of the work achieved so far; and
- (e) the time by which the work is likely to be completed ?

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

(b) to (e) The survey report for construction of a new line from Dindigul to Sabarimala revealed that the cost of the 165 km line would be Rs. 530 cr. with a negative rate of return. Due to unremunerative nature of the project and acute constraint of resources it has not been found possible to take up the project for the present.

[Translation]

#### New Civil Aviation Policy

681. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :  
SHIR INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are seriously considering to evolve a comprehensive Civil Aviation Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to allow private foreign companies in domestic field; and
- (d) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) A new draft of the National Policy on civil aviation is under formulation.

#### Production of Sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh

682. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) the production of sugarcane in U.P. in Public and private sectors separately during the last year and estimated production thereof during the current year;
- (b) the existing crushing capacity of the sugar mills of the State;
- (c) whether existing sugar mills have capacity to crush the entire sugarcane produced in the state; and
- (d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the crushing of the entire sugarcane ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Sugarcane is grown by the farmers who can not be identified on a particular sector basis. However, the quantum of sugarcane crushed by the sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh in Public and Private sectors during the sugar season 1998-99 was as under :-

Sector	Sugarcane crushed (in lakh tonnes)
Public sector	52.22 (Provisional)
Private sector	280.51 (-do-)

The estimated production of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1999-2000 is 1199.74 lakh tonnes.

(b) The existing capacity of the sugar mills of the state was 335474 tonnes cane crushing per day.

(c) and (d) Sugarcane is consumed not only by the sugar manufacturing units but also by Khandsari and Gur manufacturers as also for chewing purposes, seed etc. Further, sugar industry has been delicensed and the mills are free to expand their capacities and entrepreneurs are also free to set up new sugar factories keeping in view the techno economic viability of the project and maintaining a distance of 15 kms from existing sugar factories. These were no reports about the sugarcane remaining un-crushed at the end of season 1998-99.

[English]

#### Visit of Russian Defence Delegation

683. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high power Russian defence team arrived in New Delhi on November 4, 1999; and

(b) if so, the specific proposals discussed with the team under the Indo-Russian Military Technical Cooperation frame-work and the outcome thereof along with the cost of the items to be purchased and the mode of payment contemplated ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) A high powered Russian delegation headed by Mr. I. Klebanov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation visited India from November 4-8, 1999 in connection with the sixth meeting of the Indo-Russian Group on Military Technical Cooperation. The Indo Russian Group annually reviews and monitors the progress of the implementation of the on going Programme of Military Technical Cooperation between the two countries. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose details of discussions held during the joint meeting.

#### International Airport at Hyderabad

684. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the stage at which the proposed International Airport at Hyderabad stands;

(b) whether the land has been acquired;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the work is expected to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) A committee has been set up to examine the need for a new international airport at Hyderabad. Its report is awaited.

#### Development of Tourism in the North Eastern Region

685. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Task Force on North-East constituted has identified the places for development of tourism infrastructure in the North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details of those places, State-wise; and

(c) the financial assistance sanctioned and released to these States for development of tourism during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

#### Statement

(b) the State-wise list of identified places is :

Arunachal Pradesh : Passighat, Yambung, Sangam, Yazali, Glow Lake, Nabo bridge point, Parsuram Kund, Gibbon's Land, Longran, Changlang, Khimiyong, Rangkatu, Miao

Assam : Guwahati, Kaziranga, Pobitora, Orang, Bhalukpong, Tezpur, Jorhat, Majuli, Sibsagar

Manipur : Loktak Lake, Imphal and Keibul Lamjao National Park

Meghalaya : Dawki, Williamnagar, Rainkor, Nongstoin, Nongpoh, Jowai, Syndai, Nongkyllem, Balfakram, Maheshkhola, Saipung, Saphai, Shillong, Umiam, Cherrapunji.

Mizoram : Berawtlang, Aizawal, Tamdil

Nagaland : Dimapur, Kohima, Chumukedima, Mokokchung, Wokha.

Tripura : Ujjayanta palace, Unakoti, Tirtha, Sipahajala Sanctuary, Rudrasagar Lake, Neermahal, Jampui Hill, Kumar Ghat, Teliamura and Manu.

(c) Financial Assistance sanctioned/released during 1996-97 to 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (as on 15.11.1999) to North Eastern States and Sikkim

(Rs. In lakhs)

S No.	State	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (as on 15.11.99)	
		Amt. Sanccd.	Amt. Relsd.	Amt. Sanccd.	Amt. Relsd.	Amt. Sanccd.	Amt. Relsd.	Amt. Sanccd.	Amt. Relsd.
1.	Assam	155.96	32.66	288.88	94.20	1376.64	469.95	85.00	25.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.00	1.75	271.00	82.50	178.30	53.93	—	—
3.	Manipur	51.90	22.00	186.11	56.35	99.48	29.80	25.00	8.00
4.	Meghalaya	88.81	32.50	85.70	28.05	1189.99	397.15	12.97	2.24
5.	Mizoram	107.18	40.44	142.45	43.50	175.16	56.90	49.56	14.82
6.	Nagaland	100.62	70.00	116.90	40.58	223.64	65.00	137.10	41.13
7.	Tripura	105.40	56.60	126.68	40.16	81.25	26.85	117.10	32.13
8.	Sikkim	93.09	18.55	65.20	24.55	238.58	80.07	50.00	15.00
Total		704.96	284.50	1282.92	409.89	3573.04	1179.65	476.73	138.82

**Defence Minister's statement on Pak hand in Kargil Intrusion**

686. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is reported to have said at any point of time that Islamabad Government led by the then Prime Minister had no knowledge of infiltration of Pak intruders or Army in Kargil;

(b) if so, the basis of the observations made at (a) above, and

(c) the factual position realised in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-  
NANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has been informed not only of the direct involvement of Pakistani Army in the Kargil operations but also of the Pakistani Government being briefed about these operations by the Army.

[Translation]

**Production of Sugar**

687. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :  
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of sugar in the country has been much more than the requirement during the last three years;

(b) if so, the quantum of sugar produced during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(c) the estimated demand of sugar in the country during the said period; and

(d) the quantum of sugar imported by private and public sector institutions during the said period, year-wise, alongwith the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The production and consumption of sugar in the country during the last three sugar seasons (Oct.Sept) 1996-97 to 1998-99 were as under :

Sugar Season (Oct-Sept)	Carry over stocks at the beginning of the sugar season	Production	Internal Consumption
(Qiv. in lakh tonnes)			
1996-97	79.07	129.05	136.75
1997-98	66.01	128.44	139.78
1998-99	53.70	155.20	141.45

(P) - Provisional

With the carry over stocks of sugar at the beginning of the sugar season and the production of sugar during the sugar season, the requirement of sugar for internal consumption has been fully met and there has been no shortage of sugar in the country.

(d) Import of sugar is placed under OGL from March 1994 and various parties registered with the Agricultural Food

Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) are importing sugar as per their own commercial judgement. During the last three financial years, no imports have been made on Government account. Government does not monitor individual imports of sugar as the same are under Open General Licence. However, the quantities of sugar imported under Open General Licence are as under :-

Financial Year	Sugar Imports (Qty. in lakh tonnes)
1996-97	0.02
1997-98	3.47
1998-99	8.58

(Source DGCIS)

[English]

#### Laying of Railway Line between Meerut and Kalagarh

688. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey was carried out to lay a railway line between Meerut and Kalagarh in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon and the time by which the above railway line is likely to be laid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### Bhartiya Anaj Sanchayan Sansthan at Jabalpur

689. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether serious flaws had been found in the newly constructed building of Bhartiya Anaj Sanchayan Sansthan in Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the action taken against the responsible persons;

(c) whether the building has been declared safe now for the functioning of the Sansthan;

(d) the amount was spent for strengthening of this building; and

(e) the party who has beared this loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) against the staff responsible for construction and the arbitration case has been filed against the contractor.

(c) Central three storeyed portion of the building has been declared unsafe and is to be demolished.

(d) and (e) Since defective portion of the building is to be demolished, no amount has been spent on its strengthening. Cost of defective work has been claimed by Government in the arbitration. Arbitration award is awaited.

#### Development of Ahmedabad Airport

690. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to develop Ahmedabad Airport in a joint venture project;

(b) if so, the details of the works alongwith the modalities that have been finalised for the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Tourism Policy

691. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate any tourism policy emphasising the need for better coordination among the various related Ministries and to promote the participation of private sector in the field of tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of tourists visited India during 1998-99, State-wise;

(d) whether there is possibility of greater number of tourists visiting India as a result of better coordination and a provision of better facilities; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to provide better facilities to the foreign tourists ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A draft National Tourism Policy was formulated in 1997. It is being revised. The Policy would take account of the liberalized economic policies of the Government and the emergence of tourism as an important instrument for sustainable human development. The Policy would aim at achieving diversification of tourism product and its sustainable development as a coordinated effort of the Central Government, State Governments and the Private Sector.

(c) As per the information available from the State Governments, the estimated number of foreign tourists who visited different States during 1998 are as given below :

States	Tourist Arrivals (1998)
Andhra Pradesh	82720
Arunachal Pradesh	34
Assam	754
Bihar	130723
Goa	272028
Gujarat	9252
Haryana	1316
Himachal Pradesh	62952
Jammu and Kashmir	23137
Karnataka	249836
Kerala	184227
Madhya Pradesh	102800
Maharashtra	980580
Manipur	274
Meghalaya	1055
Mizoram	126
Nagaland	210
Orissa	35090
Punjab	12690
Rajasthan	607000
Sikkim	9960
Tamil Nadu	645580
Uttar Pradesh	719000
West Bengal	194011
Andaman & Nicobar	6030
Chandigarh	8563
Daman & Diu	7600
Delhi	1162400
Lakshadweep	807
Pondicherry	20900
<b>Total</b>	<b>5531925</b>

The figures are maintained calendar year-wise and not financial year-wise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Steps being taken include among others, development of few mega tourism areas, infrastructure development product diversification and enhanced tourist facilitation at the airports and procedure for issue of visa. Web-site of the Ministry has been created on internet.

[English]

#### Direct Flight from Hyderabad for Haj Pilgrims

692. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of Muslims go for Haj pilgrimage from Hyderabad and surrounding areas annually;

(b) if so, whether there is no direct flight from Hyderabad for Hajies and they have to travel via Bombay;

(c) if so, whether Government have received requests from people to start a direct flight from Hyderabad; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is difficult to operate Haj Flights directly from Hyderabad to Jeddah, since preference is given to wide-bodied aircraft for Haj Charter Operations and Hyderabad airport does not have the necessary infrastructural facilities to handle such aircraft.

[Translation]

#### Construction of Railway-cum-Road Bridge in Mungher

693. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey work for railway-cum-road bridge over the river Ganga in Mungher district of Bihar has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the time by which the construction for the bridge is likely to be started and completed alongwith the estimated cost thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Field survey for the model studies for the work of construction of Rail-cum-Road Bridge on river Ganga near Monghyr has been taken up. This will be followed by detailed

Final Location Survey and model studies which will reveal the firm cost of the project. Thereafter, action for obtaining requisite clearances would be taken and work would be progressed once this clearance is received. The estimated cost of the work will be known after the survey is completed.

#### **Regularisation of Daily Wagers in Army Canteens**

694. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Haryana and Punjab High Court had sometime back given a verdict that the services of employees working on daily wages in the canteens of Army Headquarters should be treated as regular after completing their services of 240 working days;

(b) whether the Supreme Court rejecting the Government's petition on that account and holding the above Court's order on July 14, 1998 had also given verdict to treat such workers as Government employees; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not issuing the order for treating such workers as regular Government employees so far ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) There is no such judgement delivered by Hon'ble Haryana and Punjab High Court in relation to the employees working on daily wages in the Canteens of Army Headquarters. However, a judgement had been delivered by Hon'ble Haryana and Punjab High Court on 29th October, 1992 in CWP No. 319 of 1989 in the case of 24 employees of 'Golden Lion Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh Area Canteen' under Headquarters Western Command, wherein the Hon'ble Court, interalia, directed the regularisation of the services of the employees. Against the order of Haryana & Punjab High Court, an SLP No. 4542/98 was filed in the Supreme Court of India by M/s Golden Lion Canteen, which was dismissed by the Supreme Court on 14.7.1998. In view of the above, the judgement of Hon'ble Haryana & Punjab High Court has been fully complied with. However, in another case of Sarasama Vs UOI & Others, (CWP No. 12654 of 1993) in Haryana & Punjab High Court, it had been ruled that each Canteen is an independent unit and it has a right to take its own policy decision.

[English]

#### **International Airport in Punjab**

696. SHRI BALBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the date from which International flights are likely to be operated from Amritsar Airport;

(b) whether there is any proposal of having an international airport in Punjab in addition to Amritsar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) International Flights are already operating from Amritsar Airport with a hub and spoke system.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Development of Blocks**

697. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the funds being provided to each Development Block under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the existing funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). These funds are allocated to each State at the beginning of the financial year as per the approved allocation criteria. Further disbursement of the funds at the district and block levels is carried out by the State Government and the issue of raising or reducing district level and block level allocation etc. are also decided at the State level. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has been restructured into Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) w.e.f. 1st April 1999. It is implemented in the rural areas of the country including the State of Madhya Pradesh. The village Panchayats are the implementing agencies under the Yojana. Central assistance is released directly to the DRDAs/ZPs for this Scheme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **High Speed Trains on Konkan Railways**

698. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether high speed rail services are being started on Konkan route by Konkan Railway Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise.

**Shortage of Cranes**

699. DR. RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of cranes in operation with the Railways;
- (b) whether the Railways have shortage of 140 tonne capacity cranes;
- (c) whether the Railways are importing the 140 tonne capacity cranes from the same companies inspite of signing the agreement for transfer of technology fifteen years ago;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the expenditure incurred on imports of these cranes during 1997-98 and 1998-99 ; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the manufacturing of such cranes indigenously to meet the country's requirement and to avoid the extra expenditure to be incurred on imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Presently, Indian Railways has 79 nos. Accident Relief Cranes of capacity 50 Tonne and above on its BG system. This excludes the one no. 140 Tonne Crane available with Konkan Railway Corporation.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) Railways had placed orders in 1997-98 for import of 12 cranes.
- (d) The total requirement of BH 140 T accident relief cranes for Indian Railways is 73 nos. Till the time of placing order for import of 12 cranes, IR had only 23 cranes of this capacity. With fast pace of gauge conversion and the need for speedy restoration after accident and the time required for Railway Workshop to augment the rate of manufacture of these cranes, it was felt necessary to go for one time import of 12 cranes. While importing these cranes, advantage has been taken of improvements in the crane technology to facilitate production of latest state-of-the-art crane in Railway Workshop.

Presently, there are 32 nos. of 140 T accident relief cranes on Indian Railways excluding the one available with Konkan Railway Corporation.

(e) The expenditure incurred in imports of the Cranes during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is as under :

1997-98	Rs. 2.98 crore
1998-99	Rs. 115.31 crore

(f) Jamalpur Workshop, which was the recipient of technology for 140 Tonne cranes, manufactured 3 cranes using CKD components and 3 cranes using kits. The value addition for manufacture of 3 cranes using kits was about 64%. In addition, Jamalpur Workshop has a programme for manufacture of 21 cranes, out of which one crane has already been manufactured and it is expected to manufacture 3 cranes in 1999-2000. It is planned to manufacture 4 cranes per year from 2000-2001 onwards. Parel Workshop will also be manufacturing 140 T cranes after technology transfer.

**Generation of Energy through Non-Conventional Sources**

700. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of sources of generation of 'Energy' through non-conventional sources in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the quantum of energy produced annually during each of the last three years; and
- (c) the efforts made to encourage the production of such energy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNA-PPAN) : (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a wide range of programmes for the production and development of non-conventional energy sources such as Biogas Plants, Improved Chulhas, Biomass Gasification and Briquetting Plants, Solar Thermal Water Heating, both domestic and industrial, Solar Photovoltaic energy based rural home-lighting, lanterns, water pumping for irrigation and village level power plants, grid connected power from Wind Energy, Small Hydro, Biomass Combustion, Bagasse-based Co-generation and Solar Photovoltaic Energy and energy from Urban and Industrial Wastes, throughout the country including in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The details of quantum of energy estimated to be produced through various non-conventional energy sources in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years i.e. from 1996-97 to 1998-99 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources has taken a number of steps in order to promote the production and utilization of non-conventional energy in the country including in the State of Andhra Pradesh which include fiscal, financial and promotional incentives provided by the Central Government under its various programmes for production of energy sources, announcement of conducive policies for wheeling, banking, buy-back, third party sale and sales tax benefits by the State Governments to attract private sector participation and soft loan from IREDA.

**Statement**

*Details of energy produced through various non-conventional energy sources in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years i.e. from 1996-97 to 1998-99*

Sl.No.	Sources	Unit Estimated Energy Generation			
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	
1.	Wind Power	Million units	40	52	39
2.	Small Hydro Power	Million units	33	40	55
3.	Biomass Co-generation	Million units	4	4	44
4.	Energy from Urban & Industrial Wastes	Million units	3.95	12.57	12.86
5.	Biomass Gasifier	Million units	4.84	1.92	4.41
6.	Solar Photovoltaic	Lakh KWh	2.97	3.04	3.21
7.	Solar Thermal	Million units	6.4	8.2	12.8
8.	Biogas	Million cubic meter	13.6	17.0	19.0

**Increasing the Capital Base of F.C.I.**

701. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to increase the capital base of the Food Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India, Department of Public Distribution enhanced the authorised capital of the Food Corporation of India from Rs. 1500 Crores to Rs. 2500 Crores on 27th September, 1999.

**Night Landing System at Nedumbasseri International Airport**

702. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the landing system at night at Nedumbasseri International Airport has not been functioning, as a result of it tourists are not coming to Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. The night landing facilities at Cochin International Airport, Nedumbassery are functioning normally since its inauguration in May, 1999. The airport is functional during night also.

(b) Does not arise.

**Survey for Doubling of Bandel-Katwa Section**

703. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have completed the survey work of doubling of line between Bandel and Katwa in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the target date for completion of the above work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir

(b) The above survey is expected to be completed by 31.3.2000.

**Zonal Advisory Committee for NF Railway**

704. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have constituted the North-east Frontier Railway Zonal Advisory Committee;

(b) if so, the objectives of the said committee.

(c) whether the said committee has made certain suggestions in their meeting on December 30, 1998 at Maligaon, Guwahati; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) With a view to secure better representation of railway users and affording more frequent opportunities for consultation between Railway Administrations and users on matters relating to the service provided by railways and means of improving the effi-



ciency of such service, Railway Users' Consultative Committees are formed on all Zonal Railways including Northeast Frontier Railway. Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees which were constituted for a two-year term w.e.f. 1.7.1998 to 30.6.2000 have since been dissolved.

(c) and (d) The suggestions given by the members of Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee/Northeast Frontier Railway in the meeting held on 30.12.1998 were examined by the railways and necessary action taken wherever found necessary and feasible.

#### **Facilities at Hyderabad Airport**

705. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :  
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Prime Minister on September 18, 1996 for providing certain facilities at Hyderabad Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Andhra Pradesh Government had requested for provisions of the following facilities at Hyderabad airport:-

- (1) Direct international cargo flights from Hyderabad to foreign destinations.
- (2) Cold storage facilities at Hyderabad airport.
- (3) Provision of infrastructure and staff at Hyderabad airport for importing plant materials through the airport and notifying Hyderabad airport as plant Quarantine Fumigation station.

(c) The latest progress is as follows :-

- (1) Under "Open Sky Policy" both Indian & foreign air carriers are eligible to operate cargo flights to foreign destinations from Hyderabad.
- (2) Agricultural Processed Food Exports Development Authority (APEEDA) has constructed a Centre for Perishable Cargo at Hyderabad. The facility is likely to be commissioned by 31st January, 2000.
- (3) Space has been identified for Plant Quarantine Fumigation Station.

#### **Sanitation Facilities at Railway Stations**

706 PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the level of sanitation at all major railway stations is in a shockingly bad level;

(b) if so, whether the Government have interacted with NGOs Sulabh Sauchalaya and others to built, improve and maintain sanitation facilities at Railway Stations; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Some complaints regarding unsatisfactory sanitary conditions prevailing at major station have come to notice.

(b) and (c) Cleanliness of stations, trains and tracks is accorded priority. Monitoring cells have been set up at Zonal, divisional and station level. At some important stations, with an object to improve the standard of sanitation, the work of cleaning toilets, bathrooms an urinal blocks has been entrusted to many agencies/non-Governmental Organisations including M/s Sulabh International under 'Pay & Use' system.

#### **Development of Trivandrum Railway Station**

707. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to develop some selected railway stations as a model railway station;

(b) if so, whether Trivandrum railway station has been declared as a model station;

(c) if so, the reasons for not developing this railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Trivandrum Railway station has been selected as a model station. The following upgraded/improved passenger amenities have already been provided thereat :

1. Standardised signages;
2. National Train Enquiry System;
3. Inter-active Voice Response System;
4. Three enquiry counters, seven booking counters, three waiting rooms and eleven retiring rooms;
5. In the circulating area, Vehicle-wise segregation done for traffic flows and parking facilities improved;
6. Two toilets have been made 'Pay & Use'; and
7. Computerisation of complaints.

**Air Services for Pilgrims of Mansarover**

708. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to have some arrangements of air services for the pilgrims of Kailash Mansarover like Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The possibility of arranging air-services for the pilgrims of Kailash Mansarover has been explored by the Government. Two alternatives, requiring air travel to Lhasa and Kathmandu respectively, were considered, but each involved further travelling by land routes and also substantially higher costs. The air route would prevent high-altitude acclimatisation of the Yatris, which is considered essential for the well-being of the pilgrims. Arrangements made by Government of India/State Government along the present overland route across Lipulekh Pass in Uttar Pradesh are better and involve substantially lower costs.

**Inferior Quality of Rice**

709. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :  
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a good quantity of rotten rice and wheat which is unfit for human consumption had been supplied by FCI to Tripura and Chandigarh during the last few months;

(b) whether the State Governments have requested to replace the rotten rice and wheat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No such request has been received.

**Recommendations of Railway Safety Review Committee**

710. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :  
SHRI N.R.K. REDDY :  
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Safety Review Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the said committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Railway Safety Review Committee has submitted Part-I of their Report. Part-II of their report has not yet been submitted.

(b) In Part I of their Report, Railway Safety Review Committee has made 150 recommendations.

(c) It is proposed to take action on those recommendations of this Committee which will be accepted by the Government.

[Translation]

**Railway Line from Barwadih to Chirmiri**

711. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey work for laying rail line from Barwadih to Chirmiri has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further steps taken by the Government on the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Survey is in progress and is expected to be completed by 31.12.2000. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the Survey Report becomes available.

**Development of Power from Non-Conventional Energy Sources**

712. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any step for generation and development of power from the non-conventional energy sources in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes formulated for development of non-conventional energy sources in the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNA-PPAN) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources has taken various steps for generation of power/energy through non-conventional energy sources such as Biogas Plants, Improved Chulhas, Biomass gasification and Briquetting plants, Solar Thermal Water Heating, both domestic and industrial, Solar Photovoltaic energy based rural home-lighting, lanterns, water pumping for irrigation and village levels power plants, grid connected power from Wind Energy, Small Hydro, Biomass Combustion, Bagasse-based Co-generation and Solar Photovoltaic Energy and energy from Urban and Industrial Wastes, throughout the country including the State of Bihar. A number of steps has been taken to promote the production and utilization of non-conventional energy sources which include fiscal, financial and promotional incentives provided by the Central Government under its various programmes for production of energy sources, announcement of conducive policies for wheeling, banking, buy-back, third party sale and sales tax benefits by the State Governments to attract private sector participation and soft loan from IREDA. Accordingly a wide range of schemes have been formulated for the production and development of non-conventional energy sources as indicated above during the Ninth Five Year Plan. A list of all schemes continued during Ninth Five Year Plan, are given in enclosed statement-I and of the State of Bihar are given in enclosed statement-II.

#### Statement-I

*List of Schemes/programmes of Non-Conventional Energy Sources continued during Ninth Five Year Plan*

- a. National Programme on Biomass Power/Co-generation.
- b. Solar Photovoltaic Demonstration Programme
- c. SPV Water Pumping System for agriculture and related uses
- d. Solar Thermal Energy Programme
- e. National Programme on Energy Recovery from urban, municipal and industrial wastes.
- f. Wind Power Programme
- g. Solar Power Programme
  - Grid Interactive SPV Power Programme
  - Solar Thermal Power Programme
- h. Programme for water Pumping Wind Mills, Small Aerogenerators and Hybrid Systems
- i. Small Hydro Projects Programme
- j. National Programme on Biogas
  - National Programme on Biogas Development
  - Community/Institutional/Night soil based Biogas Plants
- k. National Programme on Improved Chulha
- l. Integrated Rural Energy Programmes

- m. Special Area Demonstration Project
- n. Animal Energy Programme
- o. New Technologies
  - Chemical Sources of Energy
  - Hydrogen Energy
  - Geothermal Energy
  - Alternate Fuel for Surface Transport
  - Ocean Energy (Tidal Energy)
- p. Information and Publicity
- q. International Cooperation
- r. Seminar, symposia, Workshops and Conferences
- s. Technology Information Forecasting Assessment & Data Bank (TIFAD)
- t. National Institute of Renewable Energy (NIRE)
- u. National Bio-energy Board (NBB)
- v. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)
- w. Setting up State Nodal Agencies in North-East and Sikkim

#### Statement-II

*List of Schemes/programmes of Non-Conventional Energy Sources being implemented in the State of Bihar*

- a. National Programme on Biomass Power/Co-generation.
- b. Solar Photovoltaic Demonstration Programme
- c. SPV Water Pumping System for agriculture and related uses.
- d. Wind Pumps and Aerogenerators
- e. Biomass Gasifier Demonstration Programme
- f. Small Hydro Projects Programme
- g. National Programme on Biogas Development and Community/Institutional/Night Soil based Biogas Plants
- h. National Programme on Improved Chulha

#### Central Assistance under Rural Sanitation Programmes

713. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are implementing any scheme to provide grants under the Central Rural Sanitation Programmes throughout the country; and

(b) if so, details of grants provided to various States under this scheme during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government is implementing a scheme called Restructured Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme (RCRSP) throughout the country.

(b) Details of grants provided to various States under this scheme during the last three years, State-wise are given in the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

*Details of grants Provided to States/UTs under the CRSP during last three years*

(Rs. in lakh)

State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1021.32	1148.93	657.68
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	15.00
Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00
Goa	3.75	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	215.00	200.00	125.00
Haryana	52.42	0.00	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	50.54	70.77	35.28
Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	1014.55	498.67	230.57
Kerala	531.47	731.37	253.03
Madhya Pradesh	506.86	525.48	438.11
Maharashtra	1285.38	575.28	402.44
Manipur	15.00	45.50	8.96
Meghalaya	15.91	35.00	0.00
Mizoram	4.68	21.00	0.00
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00
Orissa	405.54	315.82	527.98
Punjab	0.00	53.35	0.00
Rasjasthan	193.76	193.76	223.35
Sikkim	23.13	28.00	3.47
Tamil Nadu	925.93	496.39	283.59
Tripura	48.67	24.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	2641.99	1116.49	567.28

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	304.21	304.21	0.00
A & N Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
D & N Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daman & Diu	2.50	3.50	0.00
Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lakshadweep	2.50	3.50	0.00
Pondicherry	2.50	3.50	0.00
Total	9267.61	6394.52	3771.72

[English]

**Production of Locomotives, Coaches and Wagons**

714. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :  
SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the type of locomotives with railway at present, zone-wise;

(b) the number of locos/coaches/wagons being produced in the country every year, factory-wise alongwith the number of locos/coaches imported annually in the country;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to make the country self-reliant in the production of locos/coaches/wagons; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways is already self-reliant in the production of locos, coaches and wagons.

(a) The type of locomotives with railway at present (as on 1.4.99) zone-wise is as below :

Railway	BG		MG			NG	
	Diesel	Electric	Diesel	Elec.	Steam	Diesel	Steam
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CR	665	772	-	-	-	-	-
ER	500	431	-	-	-	41	-
NR	573	282	-	-	-	28	-
NER	125	-	131	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
NFR	119	-	126	-	-	-	-
SR	378	173	105	20	8	-	14
SCR	421	304	54	-	-	-	-
SER	557	507	-	-	-	70	-
WR	358	323	237	-	14	22	-
Total	3696	2792	653	20	22	161	14

(b) The number of locos/coaches/wagons being produced in the country every year, factory-wise alongwith the number of locos/coaches imported annually in the country for the last three years is as below :

#### Locomotives

Year	Diesel	Electrical		Imported	
	DLW	CLW	BHEL	Diesel	Electrical
1996-97	157	155	20	-	24
1997-98	164	165	28	-	-
1998-99	161	165	5	21	-

#### Coaches

Year	RCF	ICF	BEML	Jessops	Imported
1996-97	920	1011	211	26	-
1997-98	1031	1010	220	16	-
1998-99	1087	1057	295	27	-

#### Wagons

Year	Golden Rock workshops	Samastipur Workshops	Amritsar workshops	Wagons manufacturers	Imported
1996-97	590	452.5	550	20592.5	-
1997-98	802.5	550	550	25962.5	-
1998-99	762.5	600	650	23222.5	-

#### Quota of Rice to States

715. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- the criteria for allotment of rice to States;
- whether the Government have reduced quota of rice to the States during the last three years; and
- if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Under The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) which was launched from June, 1997

the monthly quotas of rice and wheat to all the States/UTs have been fixed so as to provide foodgrains to the population living Below Poverty Line (BPL) @ 10 kg per family per month at specially subsidised rates. The BPL population in each State/UT has been estimated by the Planning Commission based upon the methodology of 'Expert Group on estimation on proportion and number of poor under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala. Transitory allocation of foodgrains for population Above Poverty Line (APL) is also made equal to the difference of past 10 years' annual average lifting of foodgrains under PDS in States/UTs and the BPL quotas. Bifurcation of quantity of foodgrains allotted under TPDS into rice and wheat is made according to the choice of States/UTs.

(b) and (c) In comparison with quantities of allotment made immediately prior to introduction of TPDS which were

record high for various reasons the allotments made under TPDS as per the above criteria were less. In view of this State Governments have been given additional allocations also.

[Translation]

#### Gauge Conversion of Pipar-Bilara Rail Line

716. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for delay in starting the gauge conversion work on Pipar-Bilara railway line whose foundation stone was laid on September 22, 1997 by the then Minister of Railways; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to start the above conversion work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The work is sanctioned. However, due to acute constraints of resources and low operational priority of this line, it has not been found possible to allocate resources for taking up this work so far. The work would be taken up after some of the ongoing projects get completed and the resource position improves.

[English]

#### Shortage of Sugar for Public Distribution System

717. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the demand of sugar for P.D.S. in the country during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the shortage of sugar has been estimated; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to meet the requirement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) During the current sugar season 1999-2000 (Oct.-Sept) the total requirement of levy sugar for distribution under Public Distribution System is assessed to be around 46.00 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c) With the carry over stocks of 67.23 lakh tonnes (Provisional) as on 1.10.99 and the estimated production of 160.00 lakh tonnes during the current sugar season 1999-2000, there may not be any shortage of sugar under Public Distribution System in the country. However, to meet the requirement of levy sugar during the initial lean months of the current sugar season 1999-2000, a loan of 2.00 lakh tonnes

was taken from the sugar mills out of their free sale sugar portion for use under Public Distribution System which would be returned by June '2000.

#### Train Accident at Gaisal

718. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a serious rail accident took place on August 2, 1999 between Delhi bound Brahmaputra Mail and Guwahati-bound Awadh-Assam Express at Gaisal Station under Northeast Frontier Railway;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed/injured and loss of Government property in the said accident;

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the families of the victims;

(d) whether it took 20 hours for the first crane and 50 hours for the second crane to reach Gaisal;

(e) if so, whether the Government inquired into this inordinate delay of the crane arrival at the crash site;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken in the matter;

(g) whether the railways have shortage of cranes; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) 287 persons were killed and 359 persons were injured in the said accident. The Government property worth Rs. 1007.18 lakhs was lost in this accident.

(c) Nil

(d) to (f) No, Sir. The first Accident Relief Train with a crane reached the accident site after 15 hours and 30 minutes and the second one reached after 21 hours and 55 minutes.

(g) and (h) While there is no overall shortage of cranes, there is shortage of 140 T capacity cranes.

#### Generation of Power through Windmills

719. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the location of Windmills, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of power generated through windmills during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any steps have been taken and funds provided to increase the quantum of power generated through windmills;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPAN) : (a) An aggregate wind power capacity of 1077 MW has so far been installed in the country. Statewise break-up of installations is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The quantum of energy generated from wind power projects during the last three years is given below :

1996-97	878 million Kwh
1997-98	988 million Kwh
1998-99	1065 million Kwh

(c) and (d) Under the wind resource assessment programme, potential sites are identified which can be considered suitable for wind power projects. 177 sites have so far been identified in 13 States/UTs. Funds are provided for a limited number of demonstration projects in the potential States. Demonstration projects of capacity 55 MW have so far been installed in nine States. The Central and the State Governments also provide fiscal and financial incentives, including relief from taxes and duties, accelerated depreciation, etc. 14 States have so far announced promotional policies for wheeling, banking and buy-back of electricity generated from such projects. Soft loan are also provided by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for commercial wind power projects.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Statement

*State-wise Break-up of wind power installed capacity as on 31.10.1999*

State	Capacity MW	Major Locations
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	68	Kadavakallu, Ramagiri, Tallimadugula
Gujarat	167	Okhamadhi, Lamba, Navadra, Bhogat, Pateika, Kalyanpur, Dhank, Pransala, Raisalka, Vadekhan, Mervadar
Karnataka	28	Chikodi, Madhakaripura, Mallasamudra, Beladodi, Kappatagudda, Hanamsagar, Jogimatti

1	2	3
Kerala	2	Kanjicode
Madhya Pradesh	20	Jamgodrani
Maharashtra	32	Deogad, Vijaydurg, Chalkewadi, Gudepanchani, Thoseghar, Vankuswade
Rajasthan	2	Jaisalmer
Tamil Nadu	757	Kayathar, Muppandal, Kethanur, Tuticorin, Puliyamkulam, Sultanpet, Perungudi, Poolavadi, Devarkulam, Edayarpalayam

#### Price of Levy Sugar

720. SHRI C.N. SINGH :  
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the price of levy sugar vis-a-vis sugarcane prices;

(b) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken thereon;

(c) whether the sugar mill owners owe about Rs. 1000 crores to the farmers for their crops and are unable to make the payment due to non receipt of their payment of the levy sugar already procured by the Government amounting to Rs. 300 crore;

(d) if so, the reason for withholding the payment of about Rs. 700 crore to the farmers; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to get the payments released to the farmers from the sugar mill owners ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The ex-factory price of levy sugar for the sugar season 1998-99 has been notified by the Government on the basis of the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane fixed at Rs. 52.70 per quintal linked to a basic recovery % cane of 8.5 percent.

(c) and (d) As on 30.9.1999, the cane price arrears payable by the sugar mills to the cane growers for the sugar season 1998-99 were to the tune of Rs. 288.65 crores which constitutes 3% of the total price payable as against Rs. 239.28 crores which is 3.1% of the total price payable on the corresponding date of last sugar season 1997-98.

(e) The responsibility for ensuring timely payment of cane prices dues to the farmers by the sugar mills lies with the State Governments who have necessary powers & field agencies to ensure such payments. The Central Government

on its part has been drawing the attention to the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 including payments of interest in the case of delay beyond 15 days and advising the State Governments at the highest level from time to time to expedite clearance of cane price arrears. Central Government has also been pursuing a policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market through judicious release of free-sale sugar quota and helping deserving specific cases with higher free-sale sugar quota as measures to enable clearance of cane price arrears of the farmers.

#### Price Rise of edible Oil

721. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a sharp increase in oil particularly of mustard oil just after permitting its sale in sealed containers;

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

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to control the prices of edible oils ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The edible Packaging Order for mandatory sale of edible oils in packed containers came into force on 15.12.1998. The prices of edible oils particularly mustard oil showed steady declining trend since then till July, 1999. There was slight increase in prices in the months of August and September, 1999. The prices have again shown declining trend since then.

A High Powered Price Monitoring Board (HPPMB) under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary has been constituted. The Board has been monitoring the prices of edible oils on a weekly basis and taking appropriate measures to control the prices.

#### Deduction of Cracks on Railway Tracks

722. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that rail track fracture is a major safety hazard;

(b) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government for detection of defective tracks;

(c) whether Ultrasonic Flaw Detector (USFD) and Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Test Car (SPURT) can be used to detect cracks on railway tracks in a big way; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the use of USFD and SPURT Car in detecting the defective tracks ?

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

(b) More frequent testing of rails by Ultrasonic Flaw Detectors and manually by using magnifying glass.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) More frequent testing of rails by manually operated Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) machines.

(ii) Provision of two nos. of SPURT Cars has been sanctioned for procurement.

[Translation]

#### Import of Edible Oil

723. SHRI J.S. BRAR :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gap between the demand and supply of edible oil in the country during the current financial year was estimated;

(b) if so, details thereof ;

(c) whether edible oil was imported to meet the demand; and

(d) if so, the total quantity of edible oil imported through private and public sectors during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The gap between demand and supply of edible oils was estimated for the oil year 1998-99 (Nov.-Oct.).

(b) For the oil year 1998-99, the details are as under:-

(Figures in Lakh tonnes)

	Supply	Demand	Gap
1998-99	72.61	91.99	19.38

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Based on the returns received from the importers till 22.11.1999, the total quantity of edible oils imported during the year 1998-99 (Nov.-Oct.) has been 33 lakh tonnes. This includes import of 1.67 lakh tonnes of edible oils by State Trading Corporation (STC) for Public Distribution System (PDS).



**Setting up of International Airports**

724. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to set up more international airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, airport-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The Government has been receiving suggestions for upgradation of existing airports to international standards as well as construction of new international airports. No concrete decisions have so far been taken.

**Expansion of Civil Aviation Services in Rajasthan**

725. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Scheme formulated for expanding civil aviation services in Rajasthan and to construct new airports in the State;

(b) the financial provisions made therefor ;

(c) whether the Government have also received any representation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India has plans to develop Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer airports during Ninth Five Year Plan for which a provision of Rs. 44 crores has been made. However, there are no plans to construct any new airport in Rajasthan. At present, Alliance Air, a subsidiary of Indian Airlines, operates scheduled services to Udaipur, Jodhpur and Jaipur. During winter season, flights are also operated to Jaisalmer to cater to tourist traffic. Private operators are free to operate to any destination in Rajasthan depending on commercial viability.

(c) and (d) Government of Rajasthan had sent a proposal for construction of an airport at Ajmer. However, this proposal has not been approved by the Planning Commission as the project is economically unviable. Moreover, in terms of the Policy on Airport Infrastructure, new airport can be developed if the location is outside the 150 km radius of an existing airport.

**Introduction of Walkie-Talkie System in Goods Trains**

726. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce the 'Walkie-Talkie' system in goods trains also to establish contact between the driver and the guard in view of its success in express trains; and

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, sir.

(b) It has already been decided to provide walkie-talkie sets on all the goods trains by 31.3.2000 in addition to passenger and Mail/Express trains, which have already been equipped.

[English]

**Operation Leech in A & N Islands**

727. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the investigations into the "Operation Leech" conducted jointly by the three armed forces in February 1998 have since been completed;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Extension of Rail Network to Sikkim**

728. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to extend the Rail Network to Sikkim;

(b) whether any Survey has been conducted in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) A survey for extension of the railway line from Sevak to Gangtok via Singtum is in progress. The survey is expected to be completed during the next financial year. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

**Upgradation of Technology**

729. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to improve the Technology for manufacturing of wagons, locomotives and coaches;

(b) if so, the details of proposals finalised/under consideration and implications thereof;

(c) the data regarding import of diesel/electric locomotives and coaches during the last three years and proposals under consideration for further three years;

(d) whether imported diesel/electric locomotives are in service at present, if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to import specially designed coaches for specific trains to attract and promote tourism; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) (i) Wagons : The existing design of BOXN wagon has been upgraded to carry higher axle load to higher speeds which will increase the throughput substantially. A trial order for 300 such wagons has already been placed.

A tender for development of track-friendly bogies with higher speed potential is under consideration. This will improve the wheel life and reduce track wear thereby bringing substantial savings in maintenance expenditure. There will also be an overall improvement in the productivity due to higher speed potential, etc.

ii) Coaches : A transfer of technology-cum-supply contract for new generation coaches from M/s Alstom Hoffmann Busch of Germany is under execution which will bring modern, light weight coaches with longer length and higher passenger carrying capacities to replace the existing coaches. These coaches will provide passenger comforts and interiors matching with international standards, to the Indian Railway passengers.

iii) Diesel locos : Indian Railways have entered into a contract for transfer of technology for indigenous manufacture of 4000 HP 3 phase AC/AC diesel locomotives at DLW/Varanasi;

iv) Electric locos : 30 electric locomotives with three-phase-drive, microprocessor control and fault diagnostic features and regenerative braking system have been acquired up till now along with technology transfer from M/s ABB (now M/s Adtranz) against contract No. 92/RSF/459/1(GP-140) dated 23.7.93 for manufacturing these state-of-the-art technology Electric locomotive at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan. Process of technology transfer has progressed satisfactorily and indigenous manufacturing of these locomotives has already started at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan. Besides existing locomotives are also being upgraded by providing microprocessor control system, static converters, Air Dryers, single bottle vacuum circuit breaker, etc.

(c) (i) Diesel Loco : Year wise import of diesel locomotives is as under :

1996-97	Nil
1997-98	Nil
1998-99	21 diesel freight locos (including 8 locos received in partially knocked down condition for assembling at DLW, Varanasi.)

Another contract for import of 10 passenger diesel locomotives has been signed with M/s General Motors/USA, which will be received during the next 3 years.

(ii) Electric Locos : The year wise import of 3-phase ABB Electric locomotive during the last 3 years is as below :

1996-97	24 Nos.
1997-98	Nil
1998-99	Nil

At present, there is no proposal under consideration for import of electric locomotive.

(iii) Coaches : No coach has been imported during the last 3 years and 24 coaches are likely to be imported within next 3 years.

(d) (i) Diesel Loco : 13 assembled and 2 partially knocked down locos assembled by DLW/Varanasi are presently in service.

(ii) Electric Locos : 30 imported electric locomotives are in service and are hauling prestigious Mail/Exp. Coaching trains and heavier goods trains.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### Army-Type Discipline in Railways

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

(a) whether after the worst disaster, the Railway Board has decided to impose "Army-type discipline" for achieving a "zero-accident" situation;

(b) if so, whether during the month of August 1998, the Railway Board had met to review the working of the "most strategic" transport system;

(c) if so, the main decisions arrived at;

(d) whether any concrete line of action has been prepared by the Railway Board as to check the discipline in the railway staff to avoid rail accidents in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Consequent to the collision of Awadh Assam Express and Brahmaputra Mail on 2nd August 1999 resulting in heavy loss of life, Chairman/Railway Board wrote a detailed letter dated 19th August 1999 on the subject of 'Safety on Rails' to all the General Managers, stressing that Indian Railways have to work to a situation where the mistakes by the staff and failures of the assets are eliminated. It was also emphasised that, a providing safe and efficient service, the systems and procedures of the Indian Railways have to be more akin to Army.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The steps which need to be taken immediately to improve discipline of the railway staff so as to ensure safe movement on Rails, have been brought out in Chairman Railway Board's aforesaid letter dated 19th August 1999 to the General Managers. The same include (i) More rigid staff discipline norms, including punctual attendance (ii) Knowledge of rules, mental alertness, availability at duty places and total commitment to the organisation (iii) Availability of update Instructions with the staff (iv) Devotion of full time by supervisory officials to their areas of activity, keeping off-line activities to a bare minimum (v) Appropriate training of railway officials as per prescribed modules at various stages i.e. Initial Recruitment Training, Refresher Training, Promotional Training and Specialised Training (vi) Surprise inspections during the night time.

[Translation]

#### Consumer Information Centre

731. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up Consumer Information Centres in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise; and
- (c) the time by which these Centres are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the scheme, a Consumer Information Centre will be run by a reputed consumer organisation and will function as a library, a guidance Centre, a resource centre and a testing centre. All consumer related information in possession of the National Informatic Centre would be made available to the Centre.

(c) No time limit has been fixed for setting up of the Consumer Information Centres. It is dependent upon the response from reputed Voluntary Consumer Organisations, which fulfil the eligibility criteria to take up the task of setting up the Centres.

#### Survey for Hazipur-Vaishali-Sugauli Rail Line

733. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the action taken on the survey report of Hazipur-Vaishali-Sugauli rail line; and
- (b) the time by which the construction work of above line is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The survey

report revealed that the cost of the 67 km long line would be Rs. 106 cr. with rate of return of (-) 2.75%. Due to grossly unremunerative nature of the line and acute constraint of resources, it was not found possible to consider taking up the project for the present. However, based on persistent demands of the public representatives of the area, fresh survey has been ordered. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[English]

#### Selection of Villages by NIRD

734. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad has selected any Villages for the training of people in the Rural Development sector;
- (b) if so, the names of these villages, District-wise and State-wise and since when; and
- (c) the achievements made thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) has not adopted any villages for the training of people in the Rural Development Sector.

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

#### Provision of Funds under Poverty Alleviation Programmes

735. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the poverty alleviation programmes are being adversely affected for want of adequate funds;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have agreed to provide adequate funds for alleviating poverty in the country; and
- (c) if so, the funds allocated during the last three years so far in this regard; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Poverty Alleviation Programmes have top priority in allocation of funds.

(c) A Statement showing State-wise allocation of funds during the last three years under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), Jawahar Rozar Yojana (JRY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Million Wells Scheme (MWS) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) is enclosed.

**Statement**  
**Programme-wise and State-wise Allocation during 1996-97 to 1998-99**

S.No.	States/UTs	IRDP				DWCRA			
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4168.21	4306.11	3867.15	359.38	362.25	414.29		
2.	Anunachal Pradesh	311.72	322.03	201.91	22.38	22.55	21.42		
3.	Assam	1371.75	1417.12	5246.36	141.88	143.01	561.20		
4.	Bihar	8109.12	8377.40	12668.33	380.25	383.29	1357.52		
5.	Goa	70.94	73.29	8.91	4.50	4.54	1.01		
6.	Gujarat	1529.61	1580.22	1455.67	129.13	130.16	155.99		
7.	Haryana	367.67	379.83	856.39	73.25	73.84	91.73		
8.	Himachal Pradesh	119.89	123.86	360.66	38.00	38.30	38.56		
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	499.55	516.08	446.37	110.00	110.88	47.88		
10.	Karnataka	2797.45	2890.00	2920.24	193.50	195.05	312.98		
11.	Kerala	1018.07	1051.75	1310.30	90.00	90.72	140.36		
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5282.69	5457.47	6421.25	349.38	352.17	688.21		
13.	Maharashtra	4543.87	4694.20	5772.61	286.00	288.29	618.41		
14.	Manipur	224.80	232.24	351.71	30.63	30.87	37.55		
15.	Meghalaya	238.78	246.68	394.05	55.00	55.44	42.08		
16.	Mizoram	100.91	104.25	91.18	8.50	8.57	9.58		
17.	Nagaland	167.85	173.40	270.30	15.25	15.37	28.98		
18.	Orissa	3381.92	3493.81	4423.22	202.88	204.50	473.76		
19.	Punjab	260.76	269.39	416.20	82.88	83.54	44.60		
20.	Rajasthan	2194.00	2266.59	2217.44	154.75	155.99	237.64		
21.	Sikkim	27.97	28.90	100.95	21.75	21.92	10.84		
22.	Tamil Nadu	3768.57	3893.25	3419.41	243.88	245.83	366.41		
23.	Tripura	320.71	331.32	635.03	11.25	11.34	68.04		
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10158.25	10494.33	13941.61	508.50	512.57	1493.35		
25.	West Bengal	3736.10	3859.71	4915.53	225.75	227.56	526.68		
26.	A & N Island	70.94	73.29	69.58	7.25	7.31	2.52		
27.	D & N Haveli	14.99	15.49	41.53	4.00	4.03	2.02		
28.	Daman & Diu	27.97	28.90	27.43	3.50	3.53	0.50		
29.	Lakshadweep	6.99	7.22	6.85	4.00	4.03	0.50		
30.	Pondicherry	57.95	59.87	56.83	4.00	4.03	2.52		
	All India	54950.00	56768.00	72915.00	3761.42	3791.48	7797.13		

**Statement (Contd.)**  
**Programme-wise and State-wise Allocation during 1996-97 to 1998-99**

S.No.	States/UTs	TRYSEM					SITRA			
		1996-97		1998-99		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	13	14
		9	10	11	12					
1	2	9	10	11	12	13	14			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	342.46	342.46	237.98	313.14	274.00	313.14		313.14	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.61	25.61	12.46	43.20	37.80	16.33		16.33	
3.	Assam	112.70	112.70	323.71	94.68	82.85	424.42		424.42	
4.	Bihar	637.24	637.24	779.64	564.12	493.61	1025.87		1025.87	
5.	Goa	5.83	5.83	0.55	7.20	6.30	0.72		0.72	
6.	Gujarat	125.67	125.67	89.58	98.00	85.75	117.87		117.87	
7.	Haryana	30.20	30.20	52.70	61.20	53.55	69.35		69.35	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9.90	9.90	22.20	43.20	37.80	29.20		29.20	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	70.00	70.00	27.47	50.40	44.10	36.14		36.14	
10.	Karnataka	229.92	229.92	179.71	193.14	169.00	236.47		236.47	
11.	Kerala	83.64	83.64	80.64	70.20	61.43	106.10		106.10	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	433.98	433.98	395.20	364.50	318.94	520.01		520.01	
13.	Maharashtra	373.32	373.32	355.28	313.56	274.37	467.49		467.49	
14.	Manipur	18.47	18.47	21.70	18.00	15.75	28.45		28.45	
15.	Meghalaya	19.62	19.62	24.31	25.20	22.05	31.88		31.88	
16.	Mizoram	8.29	8.29	5.63	10.80	9.45	7.38		7.38	
17.	Nagaland	13.79	13.79	16.68	25.20	22.05	21.87		21.87	
18.	Orissa	277.86	277.86	272.24	233.28	204.12	358.22		358.22	
19.	Punjab	21.50	21.50	25.61	61.20	53.55	33.70		33.70	
20.	Rajasthan	180.26	180.26	136.46	151.38	132.46	179.56		179.56	
21.	Sikkim	2.30	2.30	6.33	14.40	12.60	8.30		8.30	
22.	Tamil Nadu	309.62	309.62	210.43	259.92	227.40	276.88		276.88	
23.	Tripura	26.34	26.34	39.18	10.80	9.45	51.37		51.37	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	834.56	834.56	858.04	700.92	613.30	1129.02		1129.02	
25.	West Bengal	306.92	306.92	302.54	257.76	225.54	398.09		398.09	
26.	A & N Island	11.74	11.74	11.15	4.80	4.20	4.00		4.00	
27.	D & N Haveli	2.48	4.62	4.38	2.60	2.28	2.17		2.17	
28.	Daman & Diu	4.62	2.48	2.36	3.60	0.00	0.00		0.00	
29.	Lakshadweep	1.16	1.16	1.10	0.00	3.15	3.00		3.00	
30.	Pondicherry	5.00	5.00	4.74	3.60	3.15	3.00		3.00	
	All India	4525.00	4525.00	4500.00	4000.00	3500.00	5900.00		5900.00	

## Programme-wise and State-wise Allocation during 1996-97 to 1998-99

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	States/UTs	JRY			IAY			1998-99
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13897.91	15528.39	11703.94	8870.30	8970.34	8370.41	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	142.64	159.37	257.32	79.71	80.71	184.03	
3.	Assam	4574.54	5111.22	6686.18	2919.68	2952.83	4781.82	
4.	Bihar	27260.46	30458.60	38340.77	17398.92	17597.09	27420.52	
5.	Goa	154.12	172.20	172.20	86.12	87.63	19.20	
6.	Gujarat	5101.00	5699.44	4405.58	3255.70	3292.97	3150.78	
7.	Haryana	1225.45	1369.22	2591.88	782.14	790.96	1853.66	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	489.73	547.18	1091.54	273.65	276.72	780.64	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	995.14	1111.89	1350.93	556.07	562.66	966.16	
10.	Karnataka	9332.27	10427.12	8838.13	5956.29	6024.43	6320.85	
11.	Kerala	3395.33	3793.66	3965.64	2167.06	2191.85	2836.20	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	17611.61	19677.78	19433.93	11240.56	11368.58	13898.74	
13.	Maharashtra	15150.04	16927.42	17470.82	9669.47	9779.75	12494.77	
14.	Manipur	182.82	204.27	448.24	102.16	103.77	320.57	
15.	Meghalaya	213.92	239.02	502.19	119.54	121.07	359.16	
16.	Mizoram	90.12	100.69	116.21	50.36	50.73	83.11	
17.	Nagaland	229.31	256.21	344.48	128.13	129.14	246.36	
18.	Orissa	11274.49	12597.20	13386.90	7195.91	7277.74	9574.03	
19.	Punjab	871.51	973.75	1259.63	556.24	562.65	900.86	
20.	Rajasthan	7317.12	8175.55	6711.09	4670.13	4723.84	4799.63	
21.	Sikkim	83.49	93.28	128.66	46.65	47.27	92.02	
22.	Tamil Nadu	12563.97	14037.96	10348.85	8018.92	8110.20	7401.30	
23.	Tripura	237.46	265.32	809.31	132.82	134.90	578.80	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	33867.93	37841.25	42194.35	21616.11	21863.19	30176.52	
25.	West Bengal	12455.47	13916.74	14876.87	7949.67	8039.87	10639.62	
26.	A & N Island	84.41	94.31	117.89	47.17	47.27	44.40	
27.	D & N Haveli	45.81	51.18	77.81	25.61	25.37	43.80	
28.	Daman & Diu	26.99	30.16	37.70	15.13	14.99	1.82	
29.	Lakshadweep	42.32	47.28	59.10	23.65	24.21	3.65	
30.	Pondicherry	82.64	92.34	115.42	46.18	47.27	56.57	
	All India	179000.02	200000.00	207843.56	114000.00	115300.00	148400.00	

## Programme-wise and State-wise Allocation during 1996-97 to 1998-99

(Rs in Lakhs)

S.No.	States/UTs	MWS			EAS*		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3473.71	3474.00	2532.39	20110.00	16740.00	16740.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	35.66	36.00	55.68	1701.00	1890.00	2140.00
3.	Assam	1143.53	1144.00	1446.70	10820.00	8592.00	11018.00
4.	Bihar	6813.55	6814.00	8295.83	21245.00	18234.00	18596.00
5.	Goa	38.53	39.00	5.84	0.00	140.00	180.00
6.	Gujarat	1275.13	1275.00	953.24	5850.00	4320.00	4410.00
7.	Haryana	306.30	306.00	560.81	2680.00	2670.00	1660.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	122.43	122.00	236.18	1390.00	2550.00	2050.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	248.89	249.00	292.30	3860.00	4760.00	4760.00
10.	Karnataka	2332.44	2332.00	1912.32	11560.00	10600.00	10350.00
11.	Kerala	848.57	849.00	858.05	2850.00	3989.00	3861.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4401.69	4402.00	4204.94	22670.17	21507.85	22033.00
13.	Maharashtra	3786.82	3787.00	3780.18	6730.00	11334.51	8167.17
14.	Manipur	45.71	46.00	96.99	1080.00	810.00	890.00
15.	Meghalaya	53.48	53.00	108.66	490.00	220.00	610.00
16.	Mizoram	22.53	23.00	25.14	1200.00	800.00	800.00
17.	Nagaland	57.33	57.00	74.53	1996.00	2100.00	2100.00
18.	Orissa	2817.99	2818.00	2896.54	16427.00	14721.58	12752.00
19.	Punjab	217.82	218.00	272.55	0.00	1840.00	2720.00
20.	Rajasthan	1828.74	1829.00	1452.09	10390.00	9265.00	8935.00
21.	Sikkim	20.87	21.00	27.84	220.00	220.00	320.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	3140.18	3140.00	2239.19	14725.00	18720.00	18720.00
23.	Tripura	58.81	59.00	175.11	2160.00	1440.00	1440.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8465.31	8465.00	9129.64	21304.75	31448.06	35153.65
25.	West Bengal	3112.95	3113.00	3218.92	10170.00	7790.00	8270.00
26.	A & N Island	21.11	21.00	13.47	0.00	80.00	40.00
27.	D & N Haveli	11.46	11.00	13.47	60.00	30.00	30.00
28.	Daman & Diu	6.76	7.00	0.45	40.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Lakshadweep	10.58	11.00	0.90	140.00	0.00	100.00
30.	Pondicherry	20.66	21.00	17.06	0.00	60.00	0.00
	All India	44739.54	44742.00	44897.01	191868.92	196872.00	198845.82

**Additional Forces in Tripura**

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

(a) whether the Government of Tripura has requested the Union Government for deployment of additional forces in the State; and

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

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

(b) Additional battalions of para military forces are being sent to the State.

**Jurisdiction of Divisions**

737. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the New Jalpaiguri railway station previously under Katihar Division has not been transferred to Hajipur Sadar Division, thus having an adverse reflection on its development; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The jurisdiction of East Central Railway, Hajipur has been finalised which includes Katihar Division and New Jalpaiguri railway station is a part of Katihar Division.

**Dining Cars in Trains**

738. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for discontinuance of the Dining cars in various trains;

(b) whether Railways propose to review the decision to do away with Dining cars on short distance trains; and

(c) the steps proposed to reintroduce Dining cars in selected long-distance trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Dining cars were introduced on Indian Railways in order to provide personalised service on a few selected important trains. They have been replaced with pantry cars as it was not possible to cater to large number of passengers through dining cars.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

**Commercial Use of Railway Land**

739. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railways are preparing a master plan for the commercial use of the surplus railway land in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said master plan is likely to be formulated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Railway do not have any surplus land. However, approval for taking up Commercial Utilisation of railway land/air space has recently been accorded by the Cabinet and the National Development Council while approving the IX Five Year Plan Document. This document envisages raising of non-tariff resources by the Railways through the commercial utilisation of its land/air space.

Railway have accordingly decided to take up commercial usage of air space over identified station buildings. This will be a continuous activity.

[Translation]

**Drinking Water Projects**

740. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to submit proposals for drinking water projects to be implemented with the assistance from Japan;

(b) if so, whether any proposal has been received from Bihar Government; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard and time by which it is likely to be cleared for execution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The Government invited project proposals from various sectors including drinking water for assistance from Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan under the 1999-2000 OECF loan package.

(b) As per the information furnished by the Government of Bihar, they have not submitted any proposal for drinking water projects with Japanese assistance

(c) Does not arise.



**Encroachment of Railway Land**

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

- (a) the total railway land encroached, Zone-wise :
- (b) the details of the cases lying pending with the Court against the encroachers, Zone/State wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the encroachers from railway land;
- (d) the total area of land allotted by the Railways permanently or temporarily, State-wise;
- (e) the total area of land still lying unutilised with the Railways; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to utilise the unutilised railway land ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Details are given as under :

Railway Zone	Area under encroachment (in hectares)
Central	64
Eastern	85
Northern	900
North Eastern	115
Northeast Frontier	304
Southern	83
South Central	84
South Eastern	715
Western	107

(b) and (d) Railways do not maintain position of these cases State wise. However, zone wise information is being collected.

(c) New encroachments are removed as soon as these are noticed. Regarding others, action is taken for removal of encroachments under the Provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(e) and (f) 24845 hectares of Railway land is lying vacant with the Railways. This land, is required by Railways for their operational requirements as well as for future development works. Temporarily, however, this vacant land is being used for afforestation purposes.

[English]

**Construction of Angamaly-Sabarimala Rail Line**

742. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the present stage of construction work of Angamaly Sabarimala railway line;
- (b) whether the Office of Deputy Chief Engineer has been sanctioned and if so, the place thereof;
- (c) the details of other offices which are sanctioned/proposed in Kerala;
- (d) whether there are several requests to extend this line to Punalur and then to Trivandrum; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Final location survey has been taken up and 60 km of survey work has been completed.

(b) One Executive Engineer/Construction has been posted at Moovathupuzha for the above work, and also one Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction is posted at Ernakulam for this survey work in addition to other works in and around Ernakulam.

(c) For other construction activities in Kerala area, one Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction each is posted at Trivandrum, Palaghat, Calicut and Cannannore.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Between Erumeli and Punalur, a survey done in the recent past had revealed inadequate traffic prospects, as such it had not been found possible to consider taking up the project. A survey report for a new broad gauge line from Punalur to Trivandrum Central has recently been completed and is under examination.

**Development of Airports in North-Eastern States**

743. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of Airports in the North-Eastern States where modernisation and expansion works were undertaken during 1998 and 1999 as on August;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon Airport-wise;

(c) whether Guwahati Airport is being proposed to be upgraded as international airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The works relating to expansion and modification of terminal building at Agartala Airport, construction of Technical Block and perimeter road at Imphal airport and acquisition of land for extension of runway from 9000 ft. to 12000 ft. at Guwahati airport were taken up during the year 1998. Similarly, projects such as acquisition of land for extension of runway from 6000 ft. to 7500 ft. at Agartala airport, strengthening of existing runway at Guwahati airport and construction of boundary wall at Lilabari airport have been taken up during 1999. The expenditure incurred till August, 1999 is Rs. 7.78 crores in Agartala; Rs. 2.20 crores in Imphal; Rs. 11.43 crores in Guwahati and Rs. 10 lakhs in Lilabari airport.

(c) and (d) Presently, there are no requests for operation of international flights to and out of Guwahati.

#### **Ban on Inter-State Movement**

744. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have lifted the ban imposed on inter-State movement of wheat and wheat products under open sale scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to liberalise further the open sale scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir, unrestricted inter-State movement of wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) was permitted from 11.03.1999.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the availability of stocks of wheat and with a view to off-land the surplus stocks of wheat, the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) of wheat was liberalized from 9.8.1999. As per the instructions in vogue, now any party can purchase wheat under this scheme from anywhere in the country, subject to a minimum of 10 MTs, after depositing the cost of wheat with the concerned District Manager of Food Corporation of India. Presently, there is no proposal to liberalize the scheme any further.

#### **C.A.G. Report on Train Accidents**

745. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :  
SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG has in its report on Railways, tabled in Parliament in the last week of October, 1999 held the Railways responsible for neglect and responsible for the disastrous railway accidents;

(b) if so, the salient points brought out by the CAG in its report;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make the rail journeys safe;

(d) whether the CAG has commented adversely on bunglings in the railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India submitted his Report No. 9 of 1999 pertaining to Union Government (Railways) for the year March, 1999 to the Parliament on 29.10.1999. This Report includes a chapter on safety performance of Indian Railways which covers accidents and occurrences which affect the safety environment of Indian Railways, safety management, specifically on high density group A and B routes, measures that could be taken to improve safety performance, execution of safety work, etc.

(c) Important steps taken to prevent accidents are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) In chapter 4 of the Report, the C & AG has made certain observations on safety related items like import of high capacity diesel powered breakdown cranes, repeated award of contracts to firms known to have poor quality systems, procurement of high output tie tamping machines, supply of defective rails, procurement of CST-9 sleepers, procurement of Malleable Cast Iron (MCI) Inserts, procurement of High Tensile Steel Wire, etc.

#### **Statement**

##### *Important steps taken to prevent accident*

1. The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines
2. Modification of the signaling circuitry is being carried out to minimize chances of human errors in causing accidents.

3. Auxiliary warning system for giving advance warning about "signal at danger" to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections.
4. Railway Board has cleared a pilot project of AWS for Tughlaqabad-Mathura section of Central railway on a trial basis.
5. Walkie-Talkie sets have been supplied to Drivers and Guards of all Passenger carrying trains. The same is presently being supplied to Drivers and Guards of goods trains also and the same is likely to be completed by 31st March, 2000.
6. There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.
7. For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometer are being progressively used.
8. For detecting rail fractures and weld failure 96 more double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors are being procured.
9. In addition, 2 Self Propelled Ultra Sonic Rail Testing Cars are also being procured.
10. Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
11. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.
12. Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.
13. Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
14. Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
15. Periodic Safety Audit to different divisions by interdisciplinary teams from zonal headquarters has been introduced.
16. Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernized including use of simulators for training of drivers.
17. Refresher courses are regularly organized at specified intervals.
18. Performance of the staff connected with train operations is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.
19. Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

### Non Utilisation of Housing Funds in States

746. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the World Bank has stated that economic reforms have not helped to tackle poverty in India;
- (b) whether large amounts of funds for important schemes, such as rural housing have not been utilised by the States and they have not submitted regular reports on use of Central funds;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) whether the goal to reduce the rural poverty and homelessness should be accorded highest priority on the agenda; and
- (e) if so the steps Government propose to take to see that funds are utilised by the States properly so that reforms could help the poor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) Information is being collected.

(b) and (c) No Sir. The percentage utilisation of the total available funds of major schemes of the Ministry such as rural housing during 1998-99 has been satisfactory and States have submitted regular progress reports on use of central funds.

(d) The Government have already accorded highest priority to the goal of reducing rural poverty and homelessness.

(e) The Government regularly review the financial performance of the States under all the Programmes of the Ministry and impress upon the States the need for utilising the funds in full so that reforms could help the poor.

### Indian Army deployed on Peace Keeping Missions Abroad

747. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

- (a) the number of peace keeping operations undertaken by Indian Army in different countries so far under the auspices of United Nations;
- (b) the total strength of troops involved in these operations;
- (c) the number of Defence personnel killed therein;

(d) whether the United Nations owes any sum to Indian Army on this account;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for non-payment; and

(f) the number of peace keeping operation in hand at present and the total Indian defence personnel deployed therein ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Indian Army has participated in 29 United Nations Peace Keeping Missions since independence.

(b) Over 50,000 troops have served in these Missions.

(c) Till date, 91 personnel have died while serving in these Missions.

(d) and (e) An amount of US \$ 20.66 million has been accepted for payment by UN on account of contingent owned equipment, troops costs and miscellaneous claims. The payment is awaited. The claims preferred by India are processed by UN based on standard guidelines, provisions of memorandum of understanding and practices adopted by UN in settling similar reimbursement claims from other contributing member-nations.

(f) India is presently participating in four UN Peace Keeping Missions/Observer Missions in Kuwait, Lebanon, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The total number of personnel deployed in these Missions is 662 including 87 Officers, 37 JCOs and 538 ORs.

[Translation]

#### **Trial of Pilotless Aircraft**

748. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently conducted a test flight of indigenously built pilotless aircraft 'Nishant';

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its specifications; and

(c) the results of the test flight ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted a series of tests of 'Nishant' unmanned air vehicle. The last flight test was conducted in March, 1999 at Kolar.

(b) 'Nishant' is designed to be a battlefield surveillance unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) with a flight endurance

of 4½ hours at speed of about 150 km/hr. The flight can either be commanded from ground or be programmed in an autonomous mode. The system is designed to carry electro-optic imaging sensors, photographic film camera and other electronic mission equipment. The information gathered can be transmitted to ground station in real time.

(c) Five test flights of Nishant made in the last test campaign, successfully demonstrated different aspects of the design.

#### **Shifting of Army Recruitment Office from Ajmer to Jaipur**

749. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the main reasons for shifting the Army Recruitment Office from Ajmer to Jaipur;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the resentment prevailing among the people of Ajmer district on this account;

(c) whether the Government are also aware of the breakdown of law and order situation and the firing which took place in Jaipur and Bharatpur some months back during Army recruitment;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future; and

(e) whether the Government after reviewing the Army Recruitment Policy, would carry out recruitment drive at District Headquarters as was being done earlier ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The Zonal Recruiting Office (ZRO) was shifted to Jaipur keeping in view administrative convenience and for better liaison with the State Government authorities located in the capital of Rajasthan.

(b) The Government have no such report. With the introduction of new recruiting policy w.e.f. 1.4.98, all recruitments are made through open rallies and as such, the location of Recruiting Office is not very material.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Recruiting Offices have been advised to approach the State Government authorities for necessary assistance at the time of recruitment rallies to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

(e) Under the new recruitment policy, the entire areas of the State is covered by recruitment rallies

*[English]***Doubling of Bhigvan-Gulbarga Section**

750. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the survey for doubling of Bhigvan-Gulbarga rail line via Solapur and Pakni has since been completed;
- (b) if not, the progress made so far in this regard; and
- (c) the time by which the survey is likely to be completed and the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Survey from Bhigvan to Jeur and Solapur to Hotgi (64 km) has been completed.

(c) The survey is likely to be completed by 31.12.2000 and there is no delay.

**Construction of Airport at Pakyong (Sikkim)**

751. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received a project from the Government of Sikkim for construction of an airport at Pakyong;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) As per intimation received from the Gov-

ernment of Sikkim they have decided to construct a helipad, since construction of an airport at Pakyong was not found feasible after a Techno-Economic Study.

**Production of Non-Conventional Energy**

752. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the NCES are able to give a helping hand to the growing demand of power in the country;
- (b) if so, the total energy produced during each of the last three years in the country;
- (c) whether the Government propose to give more concessions to the people to adopt solar power and wind power in rural areas as energy sources;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken for making optimum use and extraction of solar energy and wind energy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNA-PAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Non-conventional Energy Sources are a supplementary sources of energy and are able to contribute to the growing demands of power in the country. The total energy produced from Non-Conventional Energy Sources during the last three years in the country i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98 & 1998-99, is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) to (e) To encourage the use of various non-conventional energy sources systems devices in the area of wind and solar energy sector, the Government has been providing various financial concessions and fiscal incentives as per the details given in the enclosed statement-II.

**Statement-I**

*Details of energy produced through various non-conventional energy sources in the Country during the last three years i.e. from 1996-97 to 1998-99*

Sl.No.	Sources	Unit	Estimated Energy Generation		
			1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Wind Power	Million units	878	988	1065
2.	Small Hydro Power	Million units	300	330	410
3.	Biomass Co-generation	Million units	116	166	174
4.	Energy from Urban & Industrial Wastes	Million units	3.95	16.32	20.40
5.	Biomass Gasifier	Million units	2.57	4.78	5.92

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Solar Photovoltaic Power	Lakh KWh	1.00	9.00	9.00
7.	Solar Photovoltaic	Lakh KWh	8.20	9.91	11.87
8.	Solar Thermal Water Heating System	Million Kwh (Thermal)	300	330	360
9.	Energy Saved through SPV Pumps & Wind Pumps	Million units	4.10	6.02	7.93

**Statement-II**

*Details of Financial Concessions and Fiscal Incentives provided under Solar & Wind Energy Programmes of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources*

Sl.No.	Programmes	Incentives
1.	<b>Solar Photovoltaic Programme</b>	
i.	Solar Lanterns	Rs. 1500 (fixed)
ii.	Solar Home Lighting System	Rs. 6,000 or 50% of ex-works cost, which ever is less.
iii.	Solar Street Lighting System	Rs. 12,000 or 50% of ex-works cost, which ever is less.
iv.	Solar Power Plants & Other Systems	Rs. 200000/kWp of PV array Capacity or 50% of ex-works cost, which ever is less.
v.	Solar Photovoltaic Pumps	Rs. 125 per watt of PV Array subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,50,000. In addition user can avail soft loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) at 5% annual interest rate on the 90% amount of the remaining unsubsidized portion of the pump cost.
vi.	SPV Power Projects	Financial support upto 2/3 of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.00 crores per 100 kW grid interactive SPV Power Projects.
vii.	Solar Thermal Energy Programme	Soft loan scheme through IREDA and commercial banks for Solar Water Heaters, Solar Cookers and other Solar devices.
2.	<b>Wind Energy Programme</b>	
i.	Wind Pump	Rs. 20,000 - Rs. 45,000 per pump depending upon the type of pump.
ii.	Aero-generators/Hybrid Systems	80% of the ex-work cost (Maximum Rs. 2.00 lakh kW) for community application and 50% of the ex-work cost (Maximum Rs. 1.25 lakh per kW) for other applications.
iii.	Wind Power Projects	<p>Fiscal and Promotional Incentives :</p> <p>(1) 100% accelerated depreciation.</p> <p>(2) Concesssional Customs Duty.</p> <p>(3) Excise Duty/Sales Tax Exemption.</p> <p>(4) 5 years Tax Holiday for Power Projects.</p> <p>(5) Industry status, Capital subsidy and Sales Tax benefits by States.</p> <p>(6) Facilities by SEB's for Grid Connection.</p> <p>(7) Financial Assistance for Demonstration Projects to State Governments /State Nodal Agencies upto 60% of the full cost of wind electric generator including spare and erection /commissioning. A bench mark of Rs. 3.20 crore per MW has been fixed. Full cost of wind turbine equipment for Wind-Diesel Projects.</p>

**Cost of Kargil Conflict**

753. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total loss, categorically, suffered in Kargil conflict alongwith the number of lives lost; and
- (b) the total liability likely to be borne by India due to the death and injuries to soldiers during this period ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The total number of Armed Forces personnel killed in the Kargil conflict is 524. The total loss and liability to the nation in this conflict has not been estimated.

**Loss Suffered by Railways Due to Cyclone**

755. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA :  
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the loss suffered by the Railways due to the recent cyclone in Orissa has been assessed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the damaged tracks have been repaired; and
- (d) if not, the time by which the same are likely to be repaired ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Loss has been assessed approximately.

(b) More than 500 KM of Railway Track spreading over more than 60 Railway stations in Khurda Road Division of S.E. Railway has been affected during the Super Cyclone on 29.10.1999. Railway signals, Telecommunications, Power supply, Water Supply systems have been badly damaged by fast moving winds. Railway embankment in a length of 20 KM between Rahama and Paradeep was heavily damaged by sea water surge. Railway embankment were also damaged between Haldipara and Balasore, Soro and Morkona, Bhadrak and Baudpur and between Manjuri and Baitarani Road on Kharagpur Jn. - Cuttack section. Widespread damage to AC sheet roofing of platform shelters, service buildings and residential quarters has been caused.

Loss of Civil Engineering works amounts to Rs. 1680.95 lakh, to Signal & Telecommunication Rs. 763 lakh and to Electrical installations Rs. 600 lakh.

(c) Yes, Sir. Damaged tracks of Howrah-Madras main line have been temporarily restored and opened to traffic. Temporary repair of Cuttack-Paradeep branch has also been metted out. works of Permanent restoration are also going on.

(d) Temporary repairs carried out and track opened to traffic. Permanent repairs will take 9 to 12 months.

[Translation]

**Production of Sugar in Maharashtra**

756. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to promote public, private and Cooperative sector sugar mills in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and funds allotted to each State during the last three years;
- (c) the places in Maharashtra where the sugar mills are set up; and
- (d) the total production of sugar by sugar mills in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Government have not formulated any specific scheme to promote public, private and co-operative sector sugar mills in the country. However, various incentive schemes have been formulated from time to time to provide incentives to set up sugar mills in these sectors with a view to augmenting indigenous production of sugar. At present incentives are given in the form of higher freesale quota of sugar over and above the normal freesale quota for a definite number of years and with a definite percentage of production depending upon the location of the factories, High Recovery Area or Other Recovery Area. There is no provision in the incentive scheme(s) for providing funds to the sugar mills. Loans from the Sugar Development Fund at concessional rates of interest are however, given for expansion projects of existing sugar mills.

(c) A statement showing the names of the sugar mills of the State of Maharashtra with their locations is enclosed.

(d) The total production of sugar of the sugar mills in Maharashtra during 1998-99 sugar season was 53.43 lakh tonnes (Provisional).

<b>Statement</b>							
<i>The Names of Sugar Mills of the State of Maharashtra with their locations</i>							
S.No.	Name & Location of the Sugar Mill	Sector	Cane Crushing capacity per day (in tonnes)	1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4				
1.	Shree Pandurang SSK Ltd. P.O. Shreepur, Distt. Solapur	Coop.	2500	14.	Girna SSK Ltd. P.O. Bhausaheb nagar Distt. Nasik	Coop.	1500
2.	The Saswadmali Sugar Factory Ltd. P.O. Malingar Distt. Sholapur	Pvt.	1750	15.	Karamveer Kakasaheb Wagh SSK Ltd. Ranwad, Taluk Niphad. Distt. Nasik	Coop.	1250
3.	Sahakar Maharishi Shankarao Mohite Patil SSK Ltd. Aklui, Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	4500	16.	Kadwa SSK Ltd. Materewadi Taluka Dindori Distt. Nasik	Coop.	1250
4.	Shri Shankar SSK Ltd. Sadashivnagar, Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	2500	17.	Niphad SSK Ltd. P.O. Bhausaheb nagar Distt. Nasik	Coop.	3500
5.	Shree Sidheshwar SSK Ltd. Kumathe, P.O. Tikewarwadi Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	3000	18.	Nasik SSK Ltd. Palse. Distt. Nasik	Coop.	1250
6.	Vithal SSK Ltd. Taluk Pandharpur Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	3500	19.	Vasantrao Dada Patil SSK Ltd., Vithewadi (Lohaner) Distt. Nasik	Coop.	2500
7.	Bhima SSK Ltd. Sikandar Takli, The. Mahol Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	1250	20.	Shri Changdeo Sugar Mills Ltd., Changdeongar Distt. Ahmednagar	Pvt.	813
8.	Bhogawati SSK Ltd. Irie Vairag, Taluka Barsi Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	1250	21.	The Keeragaon SSK Ltd. Kolpewadi Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	2200
9.	Shri Sant Damaji SSK Ltd. Shivanadagi, TK Karmala Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	2500	22.	The Pravara SSK Ltd. Pravaranagar, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	4000
10.	Indira SSK Ltd. Mirajagim, TK. Akalkot Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	2500	23.	Ashok SSK Ltd. Ashoknagar P.O. Shrirampur, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	2600
11.	Adinath SSK Ltd. Dave Bhalwani, Teh. Karmala Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	2500	24.	Shri Ganesh SSK Ltd. Ganeshnagar P.O. Raniangaon Khurd Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	1750
12.	Ghandrabhaga SSK Ltd. Bhalwani, TK Pandharpur Distt. Sholapur	Coop.	2000	25.	The Sanjivani (Takli) SSK Ltd. Tal. Kopargaon Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	2100
13.	The Ravalgaon Sugar Farm Ltd. Ravalgaon. Distt. Nasik	Pvt.	2000	26.	The Rahuri SSK Ltd. P.O. Rahuri Factory Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	3250
				27.	The Shrigonda SSK Ltd. P.O. Shrigonda Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	2000
				28.	Sangamnar Bhaq SSK Ltd. Amritnagar, Tal. Sangamner Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	3500



1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
29.	Dnvaneshwar SSK Ltd. Taluka Newasa. Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	3000	43.	Shri Datta SSK Ltd. Shirol, Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	5000
30.	Shri Jagdamba SSK Ltd. Rashin. Teh. Kariat. Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	800	44.	Daulat Shetakari SSK Ltd. P.O. Halkarni, Tal. Chandgad Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	2000
31.	Shri Vrideshwar SSK Ltd. P.O. Virdheshwar Sakhar Karkhana, Taluka Pathardi Distt. Ahmednagar (Pimpalgaon)	Coop.	2500	45.	Gadhinglaj Taluka SSK Ltd. Gadhinglaj Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	1250
32.	The Mula SSK Ltd. Sonai. Taluka Newasa Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	2500	46.	Chhatrapatti Shahu SSK Ltd. Kagal, Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	2500
33.	Parner Taluka SSK Ltd. Parner, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	1250	47.	Jawahar Shetkari SSK Ltd. Hupari, Tal. Hatkangale Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	2500
34.	Bhausahab Mahadeo Hande Agasti SSK Ltd. Jamgaon Teh. Akola, Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	2500	48.	Ajara Shetakari SSK Ltd. Gavse, Tk, Ajara Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	2500
35.	Kedareshwar SSK Ltd. Bodhegaon Teh. Shegaon Distt. Ahmednagar	Coop.	2500	49.	Indapur SSK Ltd. Bijawadi Taluka, Indapur, Distt. Pune	Coop.	1778
36.	Bhogwati SSK Ltd. Shahungar, Post Parite Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	2000	50.	Shri Chhatrapatti SSK Ltd. Bhavaninagar Tal. Indapur Distt. Pune	Coop.	1800
37.	The Kolhapur Cane Sugar Works Ltd., Kasaba Bhavada Distt. Kolhapur	Pvt.	2200	51.	The Malegaon SSK Ltd. Malegaon, B.K. Distt. Pune	Coop.	2000
38.	Shree Panchganga SSK Ltd. Ganganagar, Ichalkarani. Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	5000	52.	Shree Someshwar SSK Ltd. P.O. Someshwarnagar Distt. Pune	Coop.	2500
39.	Shree Warna SSK Ltd. P.O. Warnanagar, Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	4000	53.	Yeshwant SSK Ltd. Chintamaninagar P.O. Theur. Distt Pune	Coop.	2000
40.	Kumbhi Keshri SSK Ltd. Kuditre, Tal. Karvir Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	3000	54.	Bhima SSK Ltd. Patas Taluka Daund, Distt. Pune	Coop.	2500
41.	Shree Dudhganga Vedganga SSK Ltd. Bidri, P.O. Mouninagar, Tal. Kagal Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	3500	55.	Vighnanar SSK Ltd. Junnar Distt. Pune	Coop.	2500
42.	Shri Datta SSK Ltd. Asrule, Tal. Panhala Distt. Kolhapur	Coop.	2500	56.	Rajgad SSK Ltd. Nigade Tal. Bhor. Distt. Pune	Coop.	1016
				57.	Ghodganga SSK Ltd., Nhavare Teh. Shirur, Distt. Pune	Coop.	2500
				58.	Shri Sant Tukaram SSK Ltd. Kasarsai Tk. Mulsi Distt. Pune	Coop.	2500
				59.	Gangapur SSK Ltd., P.O. Raghunathnagar Distt. Aurangabad	Coop.	2000

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
60.	Sidheshwar SSK Ltd. Sillod Distt. Arunagabad	Coop.	2000	76.	Shankar SSK Ltd. Phulenagar, Teh. Bhokar Distt. Nanded	Coop.	1250
61.	The Kannad SSK Ltd. Kannad, Distt. Aurangabad	Coop.	2500	77.	Jai Ambika SSK Ltd. Mohan Nagar Kuntur T.K. Biloli, Distt. Nanded	Coop.	2500
62.	Th Vinayak SSK Ltd. Parsoda Taluka Vaijapur Distt. Aurangabad	Coop.	1250	78.	Shree Panzarakan SSK Ltd. Bhadne, Tal. Sakri, Distt. Dhulia	Coop.	1250
63.	Shri Santh Ek-Nath SSK Ltd. Paithan. Distt. Aurangabad	Coop.	2500	79.	Sindkheda SSK Ltd. At Degaon Teh. Sindkheda Distt. Dhulia	Coop.	2500
64.	Shri Namdev Rao B. Gakekar Deogiri SSK Ltd. Phulambri Tal. & Distt. Aurangabad	Coop.	2500	80.	Shree Satpuda Tapi Parisar SSK Ltd. Sahada, P.O. Purshottamnagar Distt. Dhulia	Coop.	3500
65.	Krishna SSK Ltd. Rathare Budruk P.O. Shivanagar Distt. Satara	Coop.	5000	81.	Pushpadanteshwar SSK Ltd. Samshepur Tk. Nadurbar Distt. Dhulia	Coop.	2500
66.	Shriram SSK Ltd. Phaltan Distt. Satara	Coop.	1300	82.	Sanjay SSK Dhule Sindkheda Amalner Ltd. Vijay Nagar, Tal. & Distt. Dhule	Coop.	1250
67.	New Phalthan Sugar Works Ltd. Taluka Phalthan P.O. Shakkharwadi Distt. Satara	Pvt.	1500	83.	Shirpur Shetkari SSK Ltd. Dahiwad, Tal. Shirpur Distt. Dhule	Coop.	2500
68.	Kisanveer Satara SSK Ltd. Bhuinj Taluka Wai, Distt. Satara	Coop.	2000	84.	Jijamata SSK Ltd. Dusarbid, Tal. Mahkar Distt. Buldana	Coop.	1250
69.	Balasaheb Desai SSK Ltd. Daulatnagar, Marali, Taluka Patan, Distt. Satara	Coop.	1250	85.	Vasant SSK Ltd. Pusad Distt. Yavatmal	Coop.	1250
70.	Sahvadri SSK Ltd., Yeshwantnagar, Taluka Karad Distt. Satara	Coop.	5000	86.	Jai Kisan SSK Ltd. Bodegaon Teh. Darwaha Distt. Yavatmal	Coop.	2500
71.	Aiinkvatra SSK Ltd. Shendre, Distt. Satara	Coop.	2500	87.	Shri Shankar Shetkari SSK Ltd. Village Mangrul Distt. Yavatmal	Coop.	1250
72.	Jarandeshwar SSK Ltd. Chimangaon, TK. Koregaon Distt. Satara	Coop.	2500	88.	Pushpawati SSK Ltd. At Chikhali, Tal. Pusad Distt. Yavatmal	Coop.	2500
73.	Godavari Manar SSK Ltd. Shankarnagar P.O. Ramtirth Distt. Nanded	Coop.	2500	89.	Rajaram Babu Patil SSK Ltd. Rajarnnagar Post Sakharale, Taluka Walwa Distt. Sangli	Coop.	4000
74.	Kalambar Vibhag SSK Ltd. Kalambar Post Gandhinagar Distt. Nanded	Coop.	1250				
75.	Shri Bhaurao Chavan SSK Ltd. At Degaon, Teh. & Distt. Nanded	Coop.	2500				

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
90.	Vasantdada Shetkari SSK Ltd. P.O. & Distt. Sangli	Coop.	5000	106.	Vasant SSK Ltd. Kasoda Distt. Jalgaon	Coop.	1250
91.	Jath Taluka Shetkari SSK Ltd., At Tippehalli Jath Taluka Jath. Distt. Sangli	Coop.	2500	107.	Belganga SSK Ltd. Taluka Chalisgaon Distt. Jalgaon (Bhoras)	Coop.	2500
92.	Vishwas SSK Ltd. Yeshwantnagar Post. Chikhali Taluka Shirala, Distt. Sangli	Coop.	1250	108.	Shri Chopada SSK Ltd. Machale, Teh. Chopada Distt. Jalgaon	Coop.	2500
93.	Hutatma Kisan Ahir SSK Ltd., Walve, Distt. Sangli	Coop.	1250	109.	Shri Sant Muktabai SSK Ltd., Ghodanja, Teh. Edlabad Distt. Jalgaon	Coop.	2500
94.	Yeshwart SSK Ltd. Nagewadi, Taluka Khanapur Distt. Sangli	Coop.	1250	110.	Marathwada SSK Ltd. P.O. Dongarkheda, Taluka Pathari, Distt. Parbhani	Coop.	1250
95.	Mahankali SSK Ltd. Kavathe Mahankal Distt. Sangli	Coop.	1250	111.	The Godavari Dudhana SSK Ltd. Bashundra Taluka Pathari Distt. Parbhani	Coop.	1250
96.	Tasgaon Taluka SSK Ltd. Tasgaon (Turchi Phata) Post Turchi Tal. Tasgaon Distt. Sangli	Coop.	2750	112.	Purna SSK Ltd. Basmathnagar Distt. Parbhani	Coop.	2500
97.	Manganga SSK Ltd. Sonarsidhnagar Distt. Sangli	Coop.	1250	113.	Nirsinha SSK Ltd. At Lohgaon, Distt. Parbhani	Coop.	2500
98.	Terna Shetkari SSK Ltd. Ternanagar, Taluka Dhoki Distt. Osmanabad	Coop.	2200	114.	Barashiv Hanuman SSK Ltd. Jawala Bajar, TK Basamathnagar Distt. Parbhani	Coop.	2500
99.	Tulia Bhawani Shetkari SSK Ltd. Naldurg Tal. Tuliapur Distt. Osmanabad	Coop.	1250	115.	Samarth SSK Ltd. Mahalala Tal. Ambad, Distt. Jalna	Coop.	2500
100.	The Ambajogai SSK Ltd. P.O. Ambasakhar Tal. Ambajogai, Distt. Beed	Coop.	1250	116.	Jalna SSK Ltd., Village Ramnagar Teh. & Distt Jalna	Coop.	1250
101.	Jai Bhavani SSK Ltd. Georai, Distt. Beed	Coop.	2500	117.	Shri Bageshwari SSK Ltd. Warphal, Tal. Partur Distt. Jalna	Coop.	2500
102.	Kada SSK Ltd. Tak. Ashti Distt. Beed	Coop.	1250	118.	Jai Jawan Jai Kisan SSK Ltd. Ahmedpur, Distt. Latur	Coop.	1250
103.	Gajanan Coop. Sugar Factory Ltd., At Taluka & Distt. Beed	Coop.	1250	119.	Shetkari SSK Ltd. Killari Distt. Latur	Coop.	1250
104.	Majalgaon SSK Ltd., Nithrud Teh. Majalgaon Distt. Beed	Coop.	2500	120.	Maniara Shetkari SSK Ltd. Tal. Chincholirao Distt. Latur	Coop.	1250
105.	Madhukar SSK Ltd. P.O. Faizpur, Distt. Jalgaon	Coop.	1250	121.	Shivajirao Patil Nilangakar SSK Ltd. Ambulga (B.K.) Tk. Nilanga, Distt. Latur	Coop.	2500

1	2	3	4
122.	Shetkari SSK Ltd. Dhamangaon, Tal. Chandur Rly. Stn. Distt. Amravati	Coop.	1250
123.	Shri Kodeshwar SSK Ltd. Ramnagar, Tk. Phubgaon Distt. Amravati	Coop.	2500
124.	Shri SSK Ltd. Babdee Teh. Munda Distt. Nagpur	Coop.	1250
125.	Mahatma SSK Ltd. Jamani Tal. Calo, Distt. Wardha	Coop.	1250
126.	The Wainganga SSK Ltd. Teh. Maholi Road Distt. Bhandara	Coop.	1250
127.	Balaji SSK Ltd. Masalagaon Tal. Risod Distt. Akokla	Coop.	1250
128.	Akola Zilla SSK Ltd. Vizare, Distt. Akola	Coop.	2500

[English]

#### Achievement in Rural Development Schemes

1757. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the achievements made in Drinking Water Supply, Sewage, drainage and sanitation in rural areas during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of rural unemployed in the country at present, State-wise; and

(c) the strategies, micro level planning and programmes worked out to increase income/purchasing power of rural people ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) The details of physical achievements made in Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Rural Sanitation Programme (RSP) during the last three years, State-wise are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The State-wise number of rural unemployed persons in the country as per the latest estimates available from the 50th Round Survey (1993-94) of NSSO on Employment and Unemployment are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) The self employment programme of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) has been conceived as a holistic programme of micro-enterprises covering all aspect of self employment namely organisation of rural poor into self-help groups and their capacity building, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure build up, technology, credit ad marketing. In addition, wage employment programmes of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) are also implemented in rural areas.

#### Statement-I

#### Physical Achievements under ARWSP & RSP during 1996-97 to 1998-99

Sl.No.	States/UTs	ARWSP						RSP		
		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
		No. of Habitation Covered	Population Covered (lakh)	No. of Habitation Covered	Population Covered (lakh)	No. of Habitation Covered	Population Covered (lakh)	No. of Sanitary latrines constructed		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1600	27.8	2897.00	32.26	3400	27.57	91454.00	136552.00	307250.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	248	0.58	317.00	0.49	101	0.18	608.00	216.00	181.00
3.	Assam	990	3.66	1752.00	4.85	2707	8.33	3811.00	1961.00	1825.00
4.	Bihar	1812	6.43	11371.00	30.33	8485	14.71	195.00	1033.00	6541.00
5.	Goa	2	0.36	6.00	0.03	20	0.23	2544.00	4005.00	5702.00
6.	Gujarat	1157	7.06	1393.00	10.14	1806	19.89	29541.00	26758.00	68249.00
7.	Haryana	281	7.06	650.00	16.94	733	12.82	12971.00	35228.00	44301.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	675	1.08	1407.00	1.52	1295	1.45	13481.00	16455.00	16764.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	0.003	145.00	0.00	374	1.70	0.00	1613.00	5265.00
10.	Karnataka	5057	22.74	9507.00	30.70	8451	21.24	292120.00	157504.00	155148.00
11.	Kerala	34	2.38	530.00	4.26	522	5.78	19438.00	26424.00	34792.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5546	21.29	12903.00	44.49	16351	36.68	19102.00	39697.00	45251.00
13.	Maharashtra	689	36.41	6421.00	33.95	10348	56.86	31926.00	104962.00	425981.00
14.	Manipur	100	0.5	338.00	1.32	95	0.00	435.00	1311.00	320.00
15.	Meghalaya	188	0.68	482.00	0.55	481	0.57	568.00	1910.00	1020.00
16.	Mizoram	84	0.15	185.00	0.32	190	1.04	271.00	529.00	822.00
17.	Nagaland	0	0	24.00	0.04	62	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Orissa	4733	10.68	7350.00	8.24	7318	6.97	1788.00	4715.00	8029.00
19.	Punjab	170	2.34	268.00	2.03	155	1.24	1054.00	10326.00	726.00
20.	Rajasthan	4589	6.63	5436.00	7.11	5540	3.71	62459.00	121020.00	77491.00
21.	Sikkim	40	0.1	121.00	0.09	130	0.23	0.00	1084.00	7540.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	622	20.97	4531.00	29.69	7974	41.71	20726.00	44808.00	53188.00
23.	Tripura	69	2.61	442.00	0.95	764	1.07	236.00	1316.00	1513.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10373	26.24	37288.00	94.11	28117	54.89	93184.00	136218.00	159810.00
25.	West Bengal	2212	11.65	4194.00	12.40	6916	20.33	71357.00	147072.00	196387.00
26.	A & N Island	0	0.04	11.00	0.07	15	0.02	3720.00	1962.00	222.00
27.	D & N Haveli	0	0	45.00	0.04	63	0.06	27.00	31.00	8.00
28.	Daman & Diu	0	0	1.00	0.00	0	0.00	7.00	105.00	9.00
29.	Delhi	0	0	0.00	0.00	62	1.24	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Lakshadweep	0	0	1.00	0.03	3	0.00	202.00	40.00	27.00
31.	Pondicherry	3	0.35	10.00	0.09	14	0.15	407.00	357.00	211
All India		41276	219.793	110026	367.04	112492	341.27	773632	1025212	1624573

**Statement-II***Number of Unemployed persons \* in Rural Areas*

S.No.	State	No. of Unemployed persons (In thousands)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	196
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4
3.	Assam	502
4.	Bihar	511
5.	Goa	33
6.	Gujarat	134
7.	Haryana	97
8.	Himachal Pradesh	110
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	27
10.	Karnataka	157
11.	Kerala	47
12.	Madhya Pradesh	132
13.	Maharashtra	287
14.	Manipur	8
15.	Meghalaya	2
16.	Mizoram	2

1	2	3
17.	Nagaland	5
18.	Orissa	260
19.	Punjab	82
20.	Rajasthan	48
21.	Sikkim	2
22.	Tamil Nadu	405
23.	Tripura	22
24.	Uttar Pradesh	410
25.	West Bengal	517
All India		4712

\* Usual Principal Status Basis, Based on NSSO 50th Round survey (1993-94)

**Purchase of Bofors Spares**

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

(a) whether the Government have since given clearance for purchase of Bofors Gun and its spare parts from the Swedish Company despite the earlier Government's ban on the firm; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Subsequent to lifting of the embargo, placed on transactions with the then, M/s AB Bofors (now Celsius), Sweden, without prejudice to the on-going investigations, actions due, measures that may be entailed and reserving to Government, the right to be reimbursed, amounts, illegitimately, paid, certain contracts for procurement of spare parts for the Bofors Gun systems have been signed with M/s Celsius Sweden. No similar decision, however, has been taken in regard to the Bofors Guns, so far.

#### Level Crossings

759. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of manned and unmanned level crossings in the country separately;
- (b) whether all the manned level crossings have the communication system;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor ;
- (d) whether the Government are contemplating to involve both private and public sector companies to help the upgradation of the communication system of the manned level crossings; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Manned - 16132

Unmanned - 24313

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Due to constraint of funds.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Guidelines for Employment Assurance Scheme and JRY

760. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of guidelines for implementation of Employment assurance scheme and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana;
- (b) whether the said guidelines are being followed in Palamu and Gadava district of Bihar;
- (c) if so, the funds spent by the District Administration of the above districts during the last three years;

(d) if not, whether the Union Government propose to take action against the District officers who are not observing the guidelines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) is the only wage employment programme implemented universally in all the Panchayat Samities of the country from the current financial year. The funds are allocated to the States on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State to the total rural poor in the country. Under this scheme allocation of funds to the districts is based on an index of backwardness. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has been revamped and it is called Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with effect from 1.4.1999 with the primary objective of creation of demand driven village infrastructure, while providing employment to the rural poor.

(b) and (c) There is no report of guidelines not being followed in Palamu and Gadava districts of Bihar. The funds spent by the district administration during the last three years is given below :

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)			
	EAS		JRY	
	Palamu	Gadava	Palamu	Gadava
1996-97	697.85	511.84	1029.47	876.78
1997-98	839.40	349.21	1068.34	917.88
1998-99	833.63	322.58	1629.27	1030.94

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### Increase in Air Services

761. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have fixed any criteria such as population, number of passengers, attractive tour packages etc. to improve Air services in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the details of the Airports proposed to be construed during the next five years;
- (d) whether Dapoli and Rewas Mandwa areas near Mumbai are proposed to be developed as airports; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Development of Civil Aviation Infrastructure and operation of air services are decided mainly on the techno-economic feasibility of the projects. However,

Route Dispersal guidelines have been issued with a view to cater to the needs for air transport services of different regions in the country, including routes which may not be viable.

(c) to (e) There is no concrete proposal to present for the construction of any new airport by the Government during the next five years.

[English]

#### **Cold Storage and Cargo facilities at Airports**

762. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKNANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether cold storage and cargo handling facilities for perishable set up at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad has been completed;
- (b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be ready for operational purposes;
- (c) the total amount so far spent on this project;
- (d) whether there is a proposal to set up such more cold storages at other airports in the country in view of the demands; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) The facility is likely to be commissioned by 31.1.2000.
- (c) An amount of Rs. 207.33 lakhs have been spent on this project excluding the cost of land provided by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- (d) and (e) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under Ministry of Commerce is responsible for sitting up each centres for perishable cargo. APEDA reviews the demand for such centres regularly.

#### **Installation of Radars at Airports**

763. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government had taken a decision in October, 1998 to install radars at airports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Airport Authority of India has not placed orders for installing the radars;

- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which radars are likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India has placed an order for supply of Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars (MSSR), to be installed at Nagpur, Varanasi, Berhampur and Mangalore at a cost of Rs. 81.83 crores.

- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) All the radars will be commissioned by March, 2001.

[Translation]

#### **Railway Network in Rajasthan**

764. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the action plan of the Government to deal with the backwardness of Rajasthan in the field of railways and for connecting new areas with it;
- (b) the percentage of railway network within Rajasthan out of the total network in the country;
- (c) the percentage of train facilities available in Rajasthan out of the total trains running throughout the country;
- (d) whether representations have been received for connecting Rajasthan with other places in the country through railway network from East to West;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the scheme of the Government thereon; and
- (f) the details of the new railway lines under construction in Rajasthan and the time by which these lines are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Railways do not maintain information State wise. However, the Government has already taken up large scale gauge conversion in Rajasthan as a result of which Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bikaner and many other important towns in the State have been linked directly to the national BG network. Gauge conversion of Luni-Munabao, Samdari-Bhildi, Ajmer-Chittarugarh-Udaipur and Agra Fort-Bandikui are in progress. Gauge conversion of Sri Ganganagar-Sarupsar and Rewari-Sadulpur is included in the Railway Budget and will be taken up after the requisite clearance have been received.

- (b) The percentage of railway network within Rajasthan out of the total network is 9.42%.

(c) Indian Railways do not maintain this data State-wise.

(d) and (e) Some representations including linking Jodhpur and Ajmer with Guwahati, Chennai, Bangalore etc. have been received. These were examined but not found feasible. However 9775/9776 Jaipur-Bangalore Express (bi-weekly) via Secunderabad has been introduced from 30.8.99 and 4311/4312 Bareilly-Ajmer Express has been extended upto Gandhidham from 1.9.99.

(f) New line from Dausa to Gangapur City in the State of Rajasthan is sanctioned. Land acquisition for the first block section has been taken up. The work would be started once the land becomes available and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

[English]

#### **Doubling of Dound-Bhigvan Section**

765. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress has so far been made in the work on bridge and formations in relation to the project for doubling of Dound-Bhigvan section of the Central Railway;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon and the total cost of the projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The progress of bridges so far is 100% and progress for formation in 95%.

(b) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 3242.68 lakhs. Expenditure incurred thereon is Rs. 2800 lakhs.

(c) The target date for completion of the project is March, 2000.

#### **Innovative Stream for Rural Housing**

766. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have sought innovative cost-effective replicable projects for rural housing under its Innovative Stream for Rural Housing and Habitat Development as part of the National Rural Housing and Habitat Mission;

(b) if so, whether a high-level Central Screening Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Rural Development has been set up to oversee the Innovative Stream;

(c) if so, the main functions of this Committee; and

(d) the extent to which the projects meant for rural areas have been implemented so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) With effect from 1.4.99, a new Scheme namely Innovative Stream for Rural Housing & Habitat Development has been launched by this Ministry with the objectives to promote/propagate innovative and proven construction technologies, designs and materials in the rural areas for construction of cost effective houses and habitat development. This is among the new initiatives launched for Rural Housing.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The main objective of the Committee is to screen and approve the proposals received from various recognised Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) with proven track record and experience in the rural housing construction and habitat development, recognised educational/technical institutions, corporate bodies and autonomous societies with experience in the technology promotion and application, State Governments and development institutions etc.

(d) Since the Scheme has been recently launched, proposals from various recognized institutes, NGOs, State Governments etc. are being received and scrutinized.

[Translation]

#### **Women Sainik School in Maharashtra**

767. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :  
DR. ASHOK PATEL :  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open Sainik Schools for girls in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra to open a Women Sainik School in Pandarpur in Maharashtra ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-  
NANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.



## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

12.01 hrs.

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy of the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 229 in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 1999, under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-218/99]

- (2) A copy of the Railway (Warehousing and Wharfage) Amendment Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 672 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 1999, under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-219/99]

- (3) A copy of the Railway Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Amendment Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 719(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 1999, under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-220/99]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi, for the year Systems, 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 Railway Information Systems, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-221/99]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-222/99]

- (7) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of the section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-223/99]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-224/99]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-225/99]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-226/99]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Earth Movers Lim-

ited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-227/99]

- (?) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Dynamics Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-228/99]

- (4) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cantonment Boards for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-229/99]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table –

A copy of the Food Corporation (Amendment) Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 732(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 1999 under sub-section (3) of section 45 of the Food Corporation Act, 1964.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-230/99]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table –

- (1) A copy of the Aircraft (Amendment) Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 251 in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 1999, under section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934 together with an Explanatory Note.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-231/99]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-232/99]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding review by the Government of the working of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-233/99]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Raebareli, for the year 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Raebareli, for the year 1997-98.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-234/99]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA  
AND  
BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA – LAID

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha –

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st December, 1999, agreed without any amendment to the Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th November, 1999."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st December, 1999, agreed without any amendment to the Securities Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th November, 1999."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the

Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Indian Majority (Amendment) Bill, 1999, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st December, 1999.\*

(iv) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st December, 1999."

(v) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Administrators-General (Amendment) Bill, 1999, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st December, 1999."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Indian Majority (Amendment) Bill, 1999; the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999; and the Administrators-General (Amendment) Bill, 1999, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 1999.

12.04 hrs.

#### NOMINATIONS TO PANEL OF CHAIRMAN

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that under Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I have nominated the following members as members of Panel of Chairman :-

1. Shri Basu Deb Acharia
2. Shrimati Margret Alva
3. Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey
4. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh
5. Shri Beni Prasad Verma
6. Shri K. Yerrannaidu

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : Sir, I have to raise a important issue on the import of wheat. Why was wheat imported recklessly into the country all these months and why is this delay in levying import duty when our godowns are full and when our farmers are suffering because of it? .....(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI) : Sir, I have given notice for a privilege motion. I am

independent Member and you are my custodian. I want the support of the House also in this regard .....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand the procedure first.

.....(Interruptions)

[Tanslation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir a police officer has given derogatory remarks against me.... (Interruptions).... injustice has been done with me. Such has been done with an M.P. whom should I report ?.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go into the record.

.....(Interruptions)\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the procedure. Please understand. There is a procedure to move a privilege motion.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please go to your seat.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. This is too much.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, this is not the way. Please take your seat.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

.....(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Delkar, please understand the procedure first. Nothing can be raised in the House without following the procedure.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Delkar, this is not the way. Please take your seat.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I appeal to the leaders to tell the hon. Member to take his seat.

.....(Interruptions)

\* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

....(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, this is not the way to raise it. Please take your seat.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Otherwise I will take action against you.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is a procedure to be followed. How can you raise it without following the procedure ?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Even though it is a serious matter, there is a procedure to raise it. You must know the procedure. I know that you have given a notice. It is under my consideration. Before you raise the matter in the House, you must take permission from the Chair. How can you speak without my permission ?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is under my consideration. Please take your seat.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very serious matter. The reckless import of wheat from the month of May right upto September has caused very serious suspicions on the motives of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Scindia, please hear me. Yesterday, there was an agreement that immediately after the Question Hour today, the hon. Finance Minister will reply to the debate on the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill. Yesterday, the House also sat upto 8.30 p.m. to complete the debate.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Then, I will raise it after his reply.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. Now, the Finance Minister will reply.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should be given a chance to speak. ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you can ask clarifications from the Minister.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention that very serious and gruesome murders have been taking place in Kerala. ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, please take your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, it is a case of workers of one political party murdering the workers of the other political party. So, I may be given an opportunity to raise this matter sometime later in the day.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our leader, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the great woman of India, has been voted as the greatest woman of the millennium in the international poll conducted in the Internet by the B.B.C. The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi has also been named 'Asian of the Century'. These two things are a great pride, not for any party, for the entire nation. So, I would appeal that the entire House should applaud this feat and I would request you to make a remark, from the Chair, so that we pay our respects appropriately to the departed souls.

12.10 hrs.

#### INSURANCE REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL – Contd.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to reply to the discussion which was started in this House day before yesterday on the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999. I should begin by saying that I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members of this House who participated in this debate and made valuable suggestions. Some of the speeches that I have heard in this House in the course of this debate are some of the best speeches that have been made in this House over a long time.

I may not agree with the substance and content of the speech, for instance, that Shri Rupchand Pal has made. But I must admit that he did an excellent job - made a brilliant speech - with all the facts and figures at his command.

I am also grateful to the hon. Members of the Congress Party - the main Opposition - who not only participated in the debate in a very constructive manner but have made suggestions which are eminently reasonable.

I am grateful to Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav for having participated in the debate. I would only like to tell him that he has a long way to go and the kind of opposition that was demonstrated here was perhaps not necessary. It is an important point. It was made across party lines in this House. It was in regard to be able to move with the times. This is the essence of change. If any individual, any society, any nation or any political formation does not take into account the changes which are taking place all around us within the country and outside, the chances are that we shall be left behind in this race.

\* Not Recorded.

I am prepared to accept without hesitation that when the life insurance business was nationalised in 1956 or the general insurance business was nationalised in 1970, there was perhaps a case for the same. But the entire situation has undergone a complete change today. Therefore, what was valid yesterday is not valid today. It was this perception which perhaps persuaded the then Government of the Congress Party to appoint a Committee under the chairmanship of former Governor of the Reserve Bank, late Shri R.N. Malhotra, to go into the whole question of insurance sector reforms. This question was gone into by that Committee. That Committee submitted its report and made a number of very important and valuable suggestions. They have been examined by three successive Governments over a period of time very carefully and very deeply.

What I have brought before this House today and what I brought before this House last year was based on that very careful examination of the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee. So, it is not something which has happened suddenly. There is a great deal of thought and examination which has gone into this and it is on the basis of that examination that we stand here today; the discussions have been held and I am here to reply to those discussions.

It has been suggested that there has been change in the position of the Bhartiya Janata Party since 1996 when this Bill was brought in another form by the then Government. I have had the occasion in this House to stand up and clarify that the Bill which was brought by the United Front Government and the Bill that we have brought are substantially different from each other.

The Bill which was brought by the then Government was a Bill which proposed the setting up of an Insurance Regulatory Authority only. It did not talk about the amendment of the LIC, GIC Act. It did not talk about the opening of the insurance sector to private sector Indian firms. It did not clarify how we shall define the Indian private company. There was a certain vagueness about that Bill. I cannot say whether it was deliberate or it was inadvertent but when those issues were raised in this House, there was no satisfactory reply forthcoming. We have taken care of those problems in the present legislation.

We have been quite candid in our approach. I would like to say that the intention of the Government was clearly set forth in the Budget Speech which I made in this House on the 1st of June 1998, where I said that the insurance sector shall be opened for competition by private Indian companies. That was clearly stated by me in that Budget Speech – a Budget, which was adopted by the Twelfth Lok Sabha in all its entirety.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Without any discussion.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : It was this year, it was not last year. Last year, we had a full discussion. Last year, the 1998-99 Budget was fully debated in this House and approved. Therefore, it is not that when we came with this Bill,

we were springing a surprise. The intention of the Government, as I have said, was clearly stated in my Budget Speech.

Now, having said that we will open it for competition by the private Indian companies. We had to clearly define what we meant by private Indian companies. But before I come to that, I would like to hasten to add that this Bill is not about, because there appears to be a great deal of misunderstanding in this hon. House, and based on this misunderstanding a great deal of misunderstanding outside about the nature and content of this Bill.

This Bill is not about the privatisation of LIC and GIC. Let me make it absolutely clear. The Government has no intention to privatise LIC and GIC. We are not even going to dilute the Government's holding in the LIC, GIC. If the Government is holding 100 per cent of the equity of the GIC and the LIC, which is a statutory body, Government, I am making bold to say, has no intention of diluting that equity or that statutory nature of the LIC.....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Only five crores of rupees ....(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I did not interrupt you.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a point was made here about the size of LIC and GIC, about the danger that it posed to the workers in LIC and GIC. I would hasten to add that all these are entirely misplaced. First of all, as I said, over a period of time, ever since Malhotra Committee recommendations were made public, LIC and GIC have been preparing for competition. Why should LIC and GIC shrink from competition? I see no reason of that because LIC and GIC are operating in most countries of the world. They have the subsidiaries of LIC and GIC are they are operating in many countries of the world. They are facing international competition in those countries. LIC and GIC are fully prepared and absolutely well-equipped to meet the threat of any competition.

I have talked personally to the Chairman of both the Corporations. I can say without fear of contradiction that LIC and GIC are not only fully prepared but will be able to meet any kind of competition from any quarter successfully and there is no danger of their business going down. Therefore, the question of the workers in LIC and GIC losing their jobs is again misplaced. As a result of this competition, there is not going to be any displacement of the workers of LIC and GIC. I have the fullest sympathy with them.

I think that certain amount of misapprehension, certain amount of misunderstanding has sought to be created. I have gone out and met them; I have gone out and talked to them; I have gone out and explained the whole position to them; and it will be the effort of the Government to continue to do so so that any misapprehension, any misunderstanding in their mind is fully taken care of but there is no danger of any LIC worker, any GIC worker losing his job as a result of this competition.

What has been the experience elsewhere ? The banking sector was opened up for the private sector in this country. Have the public sector banks lost their share of the market ? Has there been retrenchment on that account ? My answer is, 'no'.

12.23 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

What has happened to the mutual funds ? There was a time when UTI was the only mutual fund which was operating. What has been the result ? The result has been that over the years, up to 1987, their business went up from Rs. 4,000 crore to Rs. 16,000 crore. When we opened the market for the private mutual funds, then what has happened ? It has gone up to Rs. 80,000 crore. When the cake becomes larger, there is more for every one. Now that is exactly what we are trying to do. The cake in the banking sector has become bigger. The cake in the mutual fund industry has become bigger. It has been possible both for the private sector and the public sector to flourish in those situations. Therefore, for any one to fear that LIC and GIC will lose their business, that their workers will have to face retrenchment, that they will run into any kind of problem, that their business will go down, I will say, will all the emphasis at my command, that this is not correct because the total size of the market will be going up substantially.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is other thing. Figures have been quoted here. I do not have to go into them as to how despite very good performance on the part of GIC and LIC, they have not covered not even a fraction of the population. I am not standing here and denigrating LIC's and GIC's performance in any manner. They have done extremely well. Their contribution to national development has been very significant. All those facts are fully accepted. But, on the other hand, the facts which have been brought before this House that the total premium collected by LIC and GIC together is just a little over two per cent of the GDP; that while their business has been going up, unfortunately, they have not covered the entire coverable population, not even a fraction of it. That also remains a fact. I am not going into small complaints that my claim was not settled by LIC and GIC in time or somebody misbehaved somewhere. I am not going into those smaller issues. I am saying clearly that LIC and GIC have done very well. They have a record. We can all be proud of but in a country of India's size and dimension, to expect only one company in life insurance and only one company with four subsidiaries in general insurance to be able to cover the entire emerging business is, perhaps, not correct. Therefore, there is a need for more players in this market.

We have, therefore, decided to open it for competition. Now, why should anyone shrink from competition ? The whole essence of democracy is competition. Don't we face competition when we go and contest elections ? I cannot understand why anyone in this country should shrink from competition. It is unfortunate that we, as a nation, have not adopted a competition policy for all these 50 years. And, that is why,

in this year's Budget speech, I have talked about a national competition policy, a policy which will come before Parliament and we will discuss the competition, the various elements of the competition policy and will decide what kind of competition policy we should follow. But whether we like it or not. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the fact remains that competition has come to stay. Other kinds of competitions are knocking at our doors and it will not be possible for us, as a nation, to keep competition away. Therefore, we should not shrink from competition.

I believe that when I said, private Indian companies, there is a much greater consensus in this House in that regard. Now some people have an objection in regard to foreign equity in Indian private companies. Now, like the previous Bill which was brought by the United Front Government. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if we had left it vague, then what would have been the result ? Under the Indian Companies Act, today any company which is registered in India is an Indian company. A hundred per cent subsidiary of a foreign company registered in India under the Indian Companies Act is an Indian company. Therefore, it became essential for us to define what exactly we meant by an Indian company and that is what we have proceeded to do. We have suggested originally when I introduced this Bill last year in the Twelfth Lok Sabha that there should be a cap of 26 per cent on foreign equity and there should be another 14 per cent for NRIs and OCBs. OCBs are entities which have more than 60 per cent holdings of the NRIs. That is how, the OCBs are defined.

This Bill went to the Standing Committee on Finance. All the Parties in Parliament were represented. It was considered by the Standing Committee on Finance and they suggested that we should delete this 14 per cent and NRIs and OCBs, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, should also be included within this 26 per cent. We did not hesitate to accept that recommendation because it was based on consensus. That is why, today, the present Bill caps it at 26 per cent including NRIs and OCBs. We have gone a step further. We have defined it. In one of the provisions of the Bill we are saying that neither through their subsidiaries nor through their nominees will it be possible for any foreign company to increase their shareholding through the back-door. We are taking even that care so that foreign equity is capped at 26 per cent and remains at 26 per cent. We have not made it compulsory. It is very important, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the House to take note of this. It is only an enabling provision. We are not forcing Indian companies that you must have 26 per cent foreign equity. We are merely saying that if you wish to have foreign equity, you want to have a foreign collaboration, then you can go up to 26 per cent. I am quite sure there will be Indian companies who will be hundred per cent Indian companies and who will not like to share the equity with anyone else.

Those hundred per cent Indian companies will also be doing business under the new dispensation. So, it is not unlike in some other sectors that we are saying that there must be a compulsory 26 per cent foreign equity. It is open to the Indian partner to decide whether they want to have 26 per cent or they want to have 10 per cent, or they want to have

14 per cent. It is entirely up to them. Twenty-six per cent is the cap. It is an enabling provision. Why have we kept it? We have kept it because we want technology to come into this country in this sector. Now, for any one to say it is a very simple area - life insurance and general insurance; and there is no need for technology, then, I am afraid I will have to respectfully differ.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the world has progressed. There are all kinds of insurance products which are being marketed in various countries of the world, which are unfortunately not yet available in India. It is our belief that with this opening up, it will be possible for those insurance products to come up in this country and provide both depth and weight to the market.

Now there is another angle. We are all aware of the fact that in many countries in the world, health insurance is not provided directly by the Government. Health insurance is provided through insurance companies. We all are aware of how woefully short health care is in this country. We have set targets which we have not been able to achieve. Now, through a larger coverage in the insurance sector, it is possible to cover a larger segment of the population through health insurance. For instance, there are pension schemes. There are sections of employees, sections in the unorganized sector, particularly, who have no pension cover. Now, there could be insurance companies which will provide them pension facility. They can make small contribution. That will come in handy when they retire. Now this is the kind of social security which will become possible once the insurance sector is opened up, and that is why we are putting social service, social sector obligations even on the newer companies. We have said that there will be an absolute level-playing field, that we shall impose no obligation on the public sector which we shall not impose on the private Indian companies. There is no way in which they can get away with something which LIC and GIC will have to bear as social sector obligation. So, let there be absolutely no doubt. This law is going to apply equally to the public sector as well as to the private sector and all the obligations under this law shall be imposed on the public sector.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Can I have a clarification ?

In the Explanation, it is mentioned here that the foreign company shall have the meaning assigned to it under clause 23a of section 2 of the income-tax act, 1961. As per my understanding, the Income-tax Act is not as elaborate as to cover all foreign sources of funding. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. In that you have had a very wide description of what will be treated as a foreign source. And, you have said that this includes the Government of any foreign country or territory, any international agency, not being the UN, a foreign company within the meaning of Section 5(9) (1) of the Companies Act, a company which is a subsidiary of a foreign company, a multinational corporation, Government of a foreign company, citizens of a foreign company, corpo-

rations; and then you go on also to include trusts, societies or other associations of individuals.

This is a very long list. Could we not have a very elaborate description of what exactly you mean by a foreign company rather than merely restricted to Section 23-A of the Income tax Act so that all possible bypasses are totally plugged in. The objectives of the Act and of all those of us are to ensure that the cap of 26 per cent is really an effective cap and that there is no such bypass.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, the question of such a bypass will not arise. We have taken care of it when we have talked of the Income Tax Act. That particular section of the Income tax Act defines a foreign company as a company which is not a domestic company. Then, we go back to the domestic company's definition and a domestic company is a company...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Which is not a foreign company !

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : It is a little better than that. It says that a company which makes its operations in India, distributes its dividend in India and pays tax on those dividends.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It should be registered under the Income Tax Act.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : And yes, registered under the Income Tax Act. Therefore, the definition of the domestic company is very clear and with that definition incorporated in this Act plus the cap of 26 per cent, there is, to my mind, absolutely no fear of any confusion between what is in the Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Act and what is defined here. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Would this cover things like a foreign trust or a foreign citizen? You are talking here about a foreign company or a foreign trust, for instance, a foreign society or foreign group of individuals. There are many categories. I would like to have an assurance from you. I have no doubt about the motives of the objective. But I would just like you to examine this and if you feel that there is some necessity for tightening up that, you would try and ensure that takes place so that the 26 per cent cap fulfils the total objectives that are there in our mind.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I have absolutely no problem in accepting the suggestion of Shri Madhavrao Scindia in saying that we will certainly examine it. But I would say that as the Act stands, at present, there is absolutely no scope for any confusion. We are clear about the nature.... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Open hospitality. This will be hidden hospitality. Foreign contribution is for hospitality. .... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Therefore, Sir, as was saying, there should be absolutely no apprehension on the part of the Members of this august House in regard to the basic objectives of this Act, in regard to its spread, in regard to the kind of situation which will develop as a result of this Act coming into force. I can only assure the Members that the cake will become bigger, that insurance business will expand and we will have far larger sums of money from within the country for investment. Now, this is an issue on which I would like to take a little bit time of this House.

We permit foreign investment in the infrastructure sector. Now, all of us are aware that infrastructure sector fund investments are largely investments from the insurance companies and the pension funds. These are long-term funds and that is why they are invested in areas which have a larger and longer gestation period. We are openly welcoming investment in infrastructure, even the CPI (M), I am quite sure, as my friends from the Left, have no objection to this.

Shri P.R. Dasmunsi yesterday was referring to the overbridge in Calcutta—the Baakreshwar power plant.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee had very correctly gone abroad on behalf of the West Bengal IDC in order to invite foreign capital. So has the Chief Minister of West Bengal, as Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi mentioned. Now they are moving with the time and I welcome it. Just as Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi welcomes it, I also welcome it. We have to get foreign investment in certain sectors and infrastructure is the most important. If we want to achieve a growth rate of eight per cent or nine per cent in this country in order to tackle the problem of poverty and unemployment, then it is absolutely essential that we invest more funds, more money in infrastructure sector. Now, what is it that we are trying to do through this amendment of the legislation? What we are trying to do is to garner our own resources. Our own resources can go up manifold. There are estimates that the total insurance funds will rise by 300 per cent, 400 per cent in the next few years and there will be more money available from within the country for investment in infrastructure. Therefore, in order not to depend so much on foreign funds, it is important that we develop this sector. So, these are the intentions of the Government, these are the objectives of the legislation with which we have come before this House. As I said, it was examined by the Standing Committee on Finance in the Twelfth Lok Sabha and I was saying it when I was moving this Bill for consideration that this perhaps would be an exceptional situation where the Government thought it fit to accept all the recommendations of the Standing Committee. We have accepted all their suggestions and incorporated them in the revised Bill. If ever there was a tribute to the Standing Committee system in Parliament, it is this legislation.

My hon. friends from the Congress party have moved a number of amendments. They have made a number of suggestions. I have circulated in the House the amendments that we propose to move officially from the Government side in this regard and incorporate them in the Bill.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : These have not been circulated, Sir.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : These are being circulated.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The process has not started.

MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER : These are being circulated.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : Sir, there is a tradition of the House.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Order please. It is being circulated. It is getting ready.

SHRI PRAKASH PRANJPE : How can we study them and how can we express our views if we are receiving them now only? At least we should get some time to study the amendments that the Government is suggesting.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please to not interrupt the Minister.

SHRI PRAKASH PRANJPE (THANE) : This is not interruption, Sir, but this is not the way.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, as I was saying, because the objective were the same, it was with the same objectives that we had drafted this legislation and, therefore, we found absolutely no problem.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, as per the rules, we are entitled to get them 48 hours before. You may go ahead without that, that is another matter.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : There will be too much of foreign money coming, *baba*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, I know you are always rules-bound. You are a former Speaker of Kerala, I know that. But there are some exemptions also.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Exemptions not at the cost of the Member's right.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Chair can allow everything.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The Chair can allow even without discussion also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, that cannot be allowed by the Chair, Shri Radhakrishnan.

.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as I was saying, because there is no difference of opinion in regard to the objectives, in regard to the purposes that we



want this Bill to serve, therefore, responding to the sentiments expressed in this House by some of the Members, specially from the Congress Party, the Government felt absolutely no difficulty in accepting some of their suggestions and I would like to say that some of those amendments....

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR) : When you are accepting our proposals, why do you not accept them as our proposals ? Why are you bucking in saying they are your proposals. .... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : It is because you have not given me time to finish what I wanted to say. .... (Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : You be gracious. When you are gracious, be very large-hearted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, he is coming to that.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Therefore, Sir, those amendments, put in the proper legal language and in the proper place in the Bill, are being moved and will be moved by me as official amendments when we come to those clauses. But I would like to make one last point here before I am done with the reply to this debate.

And that is that, in Government, in Opposition, we all have our roles and responsibilities. One point which I would like to make with all the humility at my command is that whether we are here or there or from whichever section of the House we are sitting in, I think we should not start levelling unfounded charges at each other. .... (Interruptions) That is what denigrates the entire functioning of this House and democracy.

SHRI SOMANTH CHATTERJEE : It should be on all sides. .... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am not referring to you. .... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : The wisdom has dawned upon you quite late. .... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOGLY) : Sir, he has assured about level-playing field. .... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Shri Rupchand Pal, did I interrupt you even once ? You said the harshest things against me. But I have interrupted you.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, ....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Jos, he is not yielding to you.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, the entire political class has suffered as a result of this. I am saying this with all the

sense of responsibility. We level unfounded allegations. I heard a word here. .... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, please to not interrupt.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, one of the hon. Members of this House called me a criminal for having brought this legislation. .... (Interruptions) I am expressing my anguish and pain at that. Just because I have brought this legislation, do I become a criminal ? .... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : Then, why are you describing Shri Rajiv Gandhi as criminally accused ? .... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, please do not interrupt.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, do you have a personal score to settle with me ? .... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Sir, everytime he is bringing in the name of Rajiv Gandhi. .... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rudy, please do not interrupt.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, words have been banded around saying that this legislation is anti-national. I am expressing my anguish and pain at that. Is it anti-national ? Just because we are sitting in the Treasury Benches, it does not mean that we are sacrificing all our interests. It has been said that we have brought forward this legislation under some pressure.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes, it is a fact. .... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, let me hasten to add that it is absolutely unfounded. We are not acting under any pressure. This is a decision which we have taken according to our own volition, according to our own will. There is no pressure whatsoever. I am telling you that there is no pressure. The Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji is under no pressure from within or from outside. .... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It goes against the interest of the State.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : It does not go against the interest of the State. That is what I am challenging. .... (Interruptions) The problem is that some people and some parties have refused to move with the time. They have refused to grow up. This is the problem. They have refused to grow up mentally. They have refused to grow up intellectually. That is why, this problem is there. .... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Have you grown up intellectually with time ? Have you grown up ? .... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Yes, I have. .... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Brar, please take your seat.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has got a clarification.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Who ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I will give him a chance. Let me complete first and then, he can seek a clarification.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas, you will get a chance.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, we all may have differences of opinion, we all may have our own ideologies. We all went to the people with our respective programmes and ideologies. This is what democracy is all about. Then, our friends here .... (Interruptions)

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (TRIPURA WEST) : How are you available in all the Ministries of the Government ? .... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This interruption is welcome.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The point I was making is that this Bill is in national interest and this Bill is timely. India cannot enter the 21st Century with the mindset of the 16th Century. We have to have a modern, progressive, technological India. We have to promote the growth of India in that direction. Therefore, it is essential that this Bill is passed by this House.

I would appeal to the Members, who have opposed this Bill and suggested to me that I should withdraw the Bill, that they should withdraw their objections because the Bill is in the best national interest. Therefore, they should withdraw their objections. If they do not, then I would like to tell my friends sitting here from the Left Parties, what Trotsky had said long ago, that it has happened to them in many other countries of the world and it will happen to them even in India. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, they will go where they belong to, to the dust-heap of history.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, may I seek a clarification ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, I have given the floor to him.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : How can he say that we will go to the dust-heap of history ....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They will be thrown to dustbin. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Can I seek a clarification now ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes. You can seek a clarification now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members can seek clarifications one by one. I have one more clarification from Shri Ramdas Athawale.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Will the hon. Minister show the courtesy of listening to what I am saying ?

We have been hearing of huge investments coming into this sector primarily through Indian companies and also through the equity participation to the extent of 26 per cent by foreign companies. Has any exercise been made in this regard or can the Finance Minister tell this House how much investment he is expecting ? Now, companies with Rs. 100 crore equity will be formed for the business of insurance.

The foreign participation will be to the extent of 26 per cent. Now, how many companies with foreign participation are you expecting ? How many hundreds and thousands of cores of foreign money are going to come through this 26 per cent participation ?

With regard to the foreign banks, we know that they are operating here for many years. Their minimum deposit money is such that ordinary Indian cannot keep any accounts or maintain any accounts in these foreign banks. What is the assurance and the provision that you have made in the Bill where these insurance companies with foreign participation will look after primarily the rural areas and the vulnerable sections of the community for whom you are saying so many things ? What is the assurance that these companies will not look after the big businesses alone in this country ? What is the assurance for widening the scope of health insurance and crop insurance through these foreign companies with foreign participation ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : That is why, this amendment has been brought.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Your amendment is the vaguest possible, Shri Rajesh Pilot. How do you ensure it? I am very sorry to say that you have brought amendments which are only precatory. It means goods wishes and nothing else.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT . They will ensure it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You are believing them to ensure this. Let him answer. Why are you trying to answer for him? How much money are you expecting and how many companies are going to come ?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has introduced the Insurance Bill in the House and has also given his reply on it. He has also sought the support of the Members to pass it. I would like to raise a very important question that privatization of the insurance sector would cast a very adverse effect on the job reservation of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Have the Government looked into it? More privatisation would mean less jobs for the SCs/STs. Therefore, I would request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to make an amendment in this Bill providing reservation for the SCs/STs. I would seek a clarification from the Government in this regard.

The Minister has stated that this Bill would not harm the interests of the employees of the LIC and the GIC but I would like to tell the Government that this Bill will be harmful to the employees in the long run.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that the hon. Finance Minister has given a firm commitment on the floor of the House that GIC and LIC will not be diluted in any form, and that none of their shares will be disinvested in any form. Therefore, to maintain the structure, I will request the hon. Finance Minister, after this Bill is passed, to bring a further guarantee clause, if possible, within the ambit of the Schedule to ensure the growth and expansion of GIC and LIC, as well as to extend their capital base. There is logic in what Shri Somnath Chatterjee said. LIC and GIC, with a capital base of Rs. 5 crore and Rs. 21.5 crores respectively, might look sick at the end of the day. Therefore, their capital base should be expanded. I gave the information in my speech yesterday. Unless their capital base is further expanded, making it as a giant company, it will not be possible for them to compete with other players in the level playing field.

These are the two aspects, and the hon. Minister has given a commitment in the House to honour them by bringing appropriate amendments to the clauses of this Insurance

Regulatory and Development Authority Bill or the Insurance Act, which he proposes to bring later on.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : May I seek clarification on three specific points from the hon. Minister ?

13.00 hrs.

Sir, first, the hon. Finance Minister has assured about a level playing field. But now is he ready to remove the apprehension that undercutting in a big way would be resorted to by the foreign companies to ultimately weaken the LIC and GIC leading finally to their destruction ?

Second, he has said that he does not agree with my views on technology. I had said that no high technology is involved. May I know from the hon. Minister as to how many of our professionals, high-tech professionals, in the insurance industry have already been lured away ? To my knowledge, it is more than 250. I am just adding to it. I have been told by a very high official of the top management of these companies that he had been offered rupees two crore if he would join a foreign insurance company.

Third, how could he stop this poaching which has already taken place ? More than 250, if not more, of our very top professionals, excellent global standard professionals, have been taken away.

Sir, finally, insurance is a unique industry. It is different from other industries and services and so it has been kept out of the WTO. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that insurance market is a very very protected market in the developed countries ? Is there any possibility of having some reciprocity in this area for the LIC & GIC ?

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE) : Sir, it has been said that stakes would be higher if the financial sector, especially the insurance sector is opened up. It has been kept open for the foreign companies to compete and mobilise resources.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Topdar, you are seeking a clarification and not making a speech.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, I am seeking clarification only. Is it the idea of the Ruling Party that Indians are not capable enough to mobilise resources and do good for the country ? Now, Indian money would be collected by the foreigners and would be invested here. They would not bring in any money from their countries for investment here. This is what has been explained here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Topdar, you are making a speech. You seek your clarification.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a similar type of competition would be allowed for the Indian companies in foreign market, and whether the Government of India could give an assu-

ance that no money and no resources would be taken away by these foreign companies. I would also like to know whether there exists a foolproof mechanism for this or not.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDA :** Sir, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Finance Minister. I would also like to repeat that I have received an informal legal opinion in this regard and that is why, I am bringing to draw your attention.

Sir, the definition of foreign companies, under clause 23(A) under section 2 (A) of the Income Tax Act, does not include all potential foreign sources. For instance, 26 per cent of foreign equity does not cover, for example, all categories of contributions which could be sourced into India from foreign sources. This is, of course, an informal, legal opinion and I would like you to check on this.

Sir, for example, if you follow the definition strictly, then equity holdings by even NRIs beyond 26 per cent would not be barred under the present Bill. Similarly, several other persons or entities, like a foreign national, a foreign citizen, a foreign trust, a foreign trade union or a foreign association of persons including a foreign off-shore entity, so long as it is not a foreign company or its subsidiary, would be entitled to hold equity in excess of 26 per cent in the Indian insurance company. I would like the hon. Finance Minister to be doubly sure about this. I am just cautioning him on this. If this is truly the case, he should take steps to ensure that this loophole is totally be plugged. Otherwise it will not be a loophole, it will be a wide gaping hole into which anyone can ride.

[Translation]

**SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH-EAST) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has said that it has been declared that the present structure of LIC and GIC employees would remain the same. But there is one misunderstanding that there are 3 lakh agents in LIC at present and 'IRDA' has framed a new guideline for them. There is a provision in the rules that the sub-agents should not be more than 55 or 58 years of age, a certain age has been prescribed in it that the agent should not be more than that age. Another condition that the agent should be 10th or 12th class pass, is also laid down. My request is that although these are very good rules but these may be applied on the new agents only. These rules should not be applied in the case of women agents particularly house-wives who are in large number but he applied on those who would become its agent during the coming years. The present three lakh agents may be exempted from these rules.

My second submission was that there is a Investor-Protection Fund under Investor-Protection Act for the insurers and shareholders of the insurance companies in UK and USA. Hon'ble Minister should clarify if the Government propose to constitute such fund.

[English]

**DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM) :** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether, under the

health insurance scheme, the private insurance companies would come forward to set up accident-cum-emergency wards along with fullfledged blood banks along the national highways to save the victims of road accidents

[Translation]

**SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (NAINITAL) :** Sir I want a clarification from the Finance Minister on two points. He has made remarks on LIC and GIC only that slightly more than two per cent population has been brought under insurance scheme so far and large area of India, or large population of India is still deprived of the benefits of Insurance Sector. Even after three years of submission of Malhotra Committee the State Governments or the Union Government have been expressing their concern in this regard and today you are calling it Bill that will bring revolution in the insurance sector. What is the real strategy of the Government for making provision so as to reach the benefit of this Bill to the majority of the population in the country? How the benefit of the insurance would reach to the poor people?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been said about LIC and GIC that new techniques have not been adopted by organisations and it has been indicated that by when the new techniques would be adopted. Sir, it is a matter of sorrow that LIC and GIC, which are under the Ministry of Finance, have not been equipped with the new techniques, despite the fact that these are under the control of the Government. What would be the strategy of the Government, after getting this Bill passed, to get acquainted encourage these companies for bringing in new technical revolution, which hit the Insurance Sector through out the world. Would the Minister be pleased to clarify these two points.

**SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir as the Life Insurance and General Insurance Companies have invested money in the public sector industries in various States, the provisions would be made to invest money in various States by the foreign companies after the Bill is passed so that they could not take our money outside the country and it remained here itself in our country? Whether the Government would make any policy in this regard?

[English]

**SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :** Sir, now the 50 per cent of the business done by the LIC and the GIC is from the rural sector which is not profitable. And, because of cross-subsidization, the LIC and the GIC both the public sector undertakings are doing well for years together since their nationalisation. Now, when the foreign companies are invited, insurance sector will be opened up to the foreign countries. Is there any safeguard in this Bill that the foreign companies will enter into the non-profitable areas instead of profitable areas?

**SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) :** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to have clarifications from the hon. Min-

ister on two things. Yesterday, I made a reference that foreign firms are standing in the queue to engage Indian partners in the Insurance sector. For example, Allianz AG Company of Germany is looking for the Indian partners. Similarly, the Alpic Finance, Prudential Life Insurance of U.K. ICICI, American International Group of U.S., Tata Group, Hindustan Times Group, General Accidents of U.K., Bombay Dying are also there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri P.H. Pandiyan, all these names were referred to in your speech also. You seek clarification now.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir the hon. Minister while replying has stated that 'it is not open for foreign companies at all.' Why did he not refer to these companies who are looking for the Indian partners ? The Indian partners have been specified and it has been reported in the Press also.

At this juncture, I would like to say that the same principle will apply to the nationalisation of banks. What was the public interest in 1969 while nationalising the banks ? Is it private interest today ?

Sir, it has appeared in the Press and through the Government also that they are going to initiate a deal to denationalise all the banks. So, what is the purpose behind this denationalisation ? The Minister has said that he has been described as anti-national. When you are denationalising any sector, it is anti-national. You nationalised banks in 1969 and you are appreciated. If you are denationalising those banks, what is the actual meaning ?.... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.S. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, in his speech, the hon. Minister has said that there is no pressure from anywhere, but in the Agreement of W.T.O., the Service sector is included. Once, the Service sector is included, we are dutybound, and therefore we cannot say that we need not open up. So, I think, there is a pressure by way of contract which we have entered into.

So, I would like to seek a clarification as to whether the Government will take action in the Seattle meeting which is going to take place two or three days later to see that in the case of developing countries, we may not have to hasten to go in for the privatisation of have contracts in this nature. We would like to take some more time, if necessary.

My second point, which has already been made, is with regard to the insurance which may be made by the people as against some insurance companies which may be fake insurance companies and come in the name of foreign companies.

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (NANDURBAR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say to the Hon'ble Minister that as our brother Shri Ramdas Athawale has said that there is reservation for the Scheduled Castes

and Scheduled Tribes in the LIC and GIC as per Central Government orders. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether there would be reservation in the foreign companies too ?

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL (SANGLI) : Through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister that deposits worth more than 2000 crore rupees are likely to be mobilized from outside. The country alongwith the provision for shareholdings made by the company. I would like to know whether these companies would function within the country or outside the country ?

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (AKOLA) : The foreign equity has been kept at 26 per cent. May I know from the hon. Minister whether this will be limited to one company or, if there is one company which is in other part of the world and if there are many tiers in this country and if they tie up with the Indian companies, are you going to allow them ? That is also going to be in a different manner in which the Indian companies will be taken over by the other countries.

The second point is, when the nationalisation has taken place, there was an issue that was raised about the premium which was used for different purposes. What for was it meant? Will the hon. Minister clarify that this time he is going to take precaution to see that the premium which was meant for some purposes will not be used again this time for some other purposes ?

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM) : I think because of this, there could be some shrinkage in employment. There should not be any shrinkage in employment because some top officers or some more officers may likely to leave the LIC and GIC and join other companies. These posts have to be filled in by new blood so that employment is assured to the people of India is the existing companies.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion which have taken place on the merits of this bill is in itself an important issue. GIC and LIC are doing their business in foreign countries and foreign exchange being earned by them comes back to this country. I would like to ask only one thing from the hon'ble Minister as to what will be the fate of the amount deposited by citizens of foreign origin abroad as premium of the Insurance done by all the foreign companies ? How this money will come into India ?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether Government are sure that the thing which is happening in Seatel, will not take place or may not be repeated in Delhi. You must have seen it on Doordarshan. Entire Government is present here and whatever is happening in WTO, is very much clear on Doordarshan it is not so clear in newspapers I would like to ask the Government as to

whether they are sure that it would not take place in case of the Insurance bill keeping in view the manner in which they are getting the Insurance Bill passed.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA) : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any guarantee after the sector is opened that the premium will not go up as the private companies will be interested in their own profit. Is there any guarantee for that? So far as I understand, there is not. Is it not go?

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (ELURU) : In the case of Andhra Pradesh, the State Government is putting a premium on huts of the weaker sections of the people. Will the Finance Minister put a clause that a part of the premium will be used for social obligations?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (PADRAUNA) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is being said that the foreign insurance companies will enter in our insurance sector and invest the entire money, earned from this country here itself. I think that nobody is that much fool. My Question is that whether we pay interest against the loans taken from the foreign countries? My apprehension is that those foreign companies which will earn the profits from the business being run here, would certainly take that money to their country. What is your opinion in this regard? ....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Order please. This is a very important measure. Everyday who wants to seek a clarification must get an opportunity.

SHRI ADHI SHANKAR (CUDDALORE) : Sir, I would like to know whether there is any reservation for the cooperative sector.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that LIC and GIC will not be privatized. What is the safeguard for this? When the private players are allowed to play in the field, there will be a war between the dwarf and the giants. How will the LIC and the GIC be protected. They will go sick. They will not be able to contest that war. I want a suitable clarification from the hon. Minister.

Secondly, as privatization is taking place gradually, how will the reservation for the SCs, the STs and the OBCs be protected? That object will be totally frustrated. I want a clarification on this also.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERAHAMPURE, WEST BENGAL) : Sir, in 1956, the then Finance Minister Shri C.D. Deshmukh was quoted as saying that insurance in developing countries must be seen as an essential service ....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are only to seek a clarification and not to give a speech.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : The private sector is habitually reluctant in meeting social obligations. So, I just want to know what measures the Government is taking so that siphoning off the money could be stopped.

[Translation]

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA (SALUMBER) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Scams do take place in undertakings or companies too. Inquiry is conducted in this regard. Government conduct inquiry in all respects. I don't know how many scams would come to the fore after the privatisation. I would like to know about the mechanism to check such situation.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has said that before introducing he met the Chairmen of the LIC and the GIC. But we are also concerned about the employees of the LIC and the GIC who are huge in numbers. Has the Government any plan to convene a meeting between the Government, the management and the trade unions? I would like to propose that by holding such a meeting you can send a message and direction to the employees of the LIC and the GIC. If you fail to do so, the Left Parties and particularly the CPI(M) will exploit the unions and the employees and will mislead them. You should please take care and try to hold a tripartite meeting between the management, the unions and the Government.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, in the light of the clarification sought and fear expressed by my friend, is it not prudent to withdraw the provision with regard to privatization?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I would like to add to the apprehension expressed by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee over the investment clauses. It would be inappropriate if the insurance companies are permitted to invest outside India the funds collected by way of premium. I think, it is generally more open but the section that is sought to be inserted -- I think, it is 27 (c) -- is ambiguous and does not specifically mention that 'premium' collected from Indian policy holders shall not be invested outside India. I think, it would be desirable that the word 'premium' is specifically incorporated in section 27 (c). I think, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee will also voice this apprehension.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (NAWADA) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, high-level officers in GIC and LIC are watching the situation with greedy eyes that private companies will enter in this field and big assignments will be offered to them.

I want to ask the hon'ble Minister as to whether we can not make an arrangement to prevent GIC and LIC officers to do any work in these companies for five years? This arrangement will not only be in favour of company but also in favour of society.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The reply to the clarification asked by the hon. Members will be given by the hon. Minister after the lunch break. Now, the House stands adjourned to meet at 2.30 p.m.

13.26 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.31 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty-one Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

INSURANCE REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY BILL - contd.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir a number of issues have been raised and a number of clarifications have been sought by various hon. Members of this House. I would endeavour in my brief reply to cover as many of them as possible.

I will begin by once again putting at rest any speculation, any apprehension and any fear in regard to the status of the LIC and the GIC and in regard to the workers losing their jobs.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Sir, I do not understand this assurance. How can the Government assure as to how many jobs they would have and as to how many employees they would have?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I am giving this assurance on the basis of my understanding that the LIC and the GIC are not going to lose business in the new situation and that they are only going to expand their business. Therefore, the question of their workers being threatened with loss of job opportunities does not arise. I welcome the suggestion made by Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay that just as we have talked to the management we should talk to the workers also. I would like to assure him that I personally have talked not only to the management but also to the workers and we would keep up the dialogue with the workers so that any fear or apprehension in their mind is fully addressed, taken care of and removed. So, there is no difficulty in regard to that.

Now, in regard to the equity cap of the 26 per cent, Shri Madhavrao Scindia and some other friends have raised this issue as to whether we are fully protected by the provisions of this Bill. I would like to read the definition that we have given for the Indian Insurance companies. We are clearly saying that it is the company registered under the Companies Act of 1956 in which the aggregate holdings of equity shares by a foreign company, either by itself or through its subsidiary companies to its nominees, do not exceed 26 per cent of the paid up capital of such Indian companies. I would like to clarify here that there is no danger of this cap being crossed.

I have given the definition of the Indian company in the IRDA Bill. Now the meaning of the word 'nominee' is fairly wide. I have also consulted legal experts and I have been assured that the meaning of the word 'nominee' is fairly wide.

Some hon. Members have also raised the issue of non-corporate persons like NRI, trusts, etc. finding their way to make investments which may not be covered by the existing provisions. Sir, I am informed that the existing guidelines under FIPP will adequately take care of this problem also. I would like to assure this august House that the Government has been alive to the possibility of misuse of the provision of the Bill and breaching the limit by adopting dubious method. Adequate care has been taken in drafting these provisions and in due course the authority will publish necessary guidelines to be followed in this regard which will be applicable to all those who apply for the licence. The Authority will keep a close watch on the companies and ensure that the provisions are fully adhered to.

While on this point I would like to say that what we are creating is a statutory and a strong Authority. So, all those fears that pre-1956 situation will be created or whatever has happened in some other countries abroad will be created are not well-founded. It is because we have a strong Authority which is going to take care of this problem. The Authority has the powers to impose fines which through the amendment that I am circulating as suggested by the hon. Members of the Congress Party is being raised to Rs. 25 lakh with threat to cancel the licence. The authority can suspend or cancel the registration in case of failure; the authority can appoint Additional Directors and call for any document; can inspect a document and provide such directions as necessary in the interest of the policyholders. The authority is an autonomous, experienced and expert body. I am absolutely confident and I have no hesitation in assuring this House that the Authority will be able to discharge the responsibilities which are being cast upon it.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I am sorry I came in, while you were half way through. So, I may have missed some very central points. What I intended to say here is that the word 'nominee' is wide enough to cover many categories. But a nominee means, he becomes a nominee when he is nominee of somebody else. But if somebody invests on his own volition whether he be an NRI or a foreign citizen or foreign cooperative society or foreign group of persons or

foreign trust, he need not necessarily be a nominee of any one, he does not come under the cover of the word 'nominee'. It is because he never becomes a nominee. Therefore, if that is the case, which you have checked with your legal opinion, I would suggest you to tighten it up.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, after all it is a law which is being made. How can guidelines or any direction by the Regulatory Authority change the law ? The law itself permits here. Once this Bill is approved and passed, it becomes a law of the land which restricts 26 per cent only to foreign company either by itself that is, by company itself or through its subsidiary companies with a known concept or its nominees which means company's nominee. An individual need not be a company's nominee. Therefore, foreigners can invest here. So, Shri Scindia's objection is right. Merely saying that the Authority will ultimately look after the interest of the country is no solution. It is because the law operates over any guidelines.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : There are categories which are covered under the Foreign Contributions Act. You cover everything. So, why do you not just incorporate that into the body of the Bill ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, the intention of the law and the intention of the Government is to limit foreign participation to 26 per cent.

In any interpretation of any law, as is the general practice, whenever a court is seized of the matter, the discussions in the Houses of Parliament, the assurances given by the Government are all taken care of, they are all taken into account while interpreting the law. Now I am making it very clear that the intention of the Government is to restrict it to 26 per cent. This is the intention that we have conveyed to those who drafted the legislation and I have been assured that these words sufficiently cover the concerns that we have in this regard.

The other point that I would like to make is, India is not yet such an open country where any individual, anybody can come and make investment anywhere. We have not reached that stage. There are restrictions. We are considering this law within the overall framework of the entire legal system which operates in this country. Nobody is free to come and invest anywhere. That is why I hastened to add that the Regulatory Authority will clarify this. In any case, Indian companies will have to apply to the Regulatory Authority for registration. No company can start business without the permission of the Regulatory Authority. This is the time when we will have to look at it. The functioning of the company is something which will be watched closely by the Regulatory Authority for which there is adequate provision in this Bill. Therefore, to think that it will be a free for all and anybody can take advantage of any perceived loophole is something I do not think is correct.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Ultimately, a few years down the line, all the commas, full-stops and what is in print

will be read. The gentlemen who are advising you have explained it to you on the basis of nominee.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The hon. Finance Minister cannot give a meaning which he wants. Words have their own meanings. A nominee cannot be anybody and everybody. The hon. Member is right.

14.42 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Please examine it and bring it again after an hour or so. By the time you complete, you can bring in another amendment. Your objective has to be fulfilled. It is very dangerous. Because you may find that foreign sources come in who have much above 26 per cent, who can go even up to 51 per cent. If not more and take control of the whole situation. I would request you to pay serious attention to this.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : There is absolutely no danger of that. Nobody can misinterpret this law and the provisions of this law. After all, I also have taken legal opinion. What I am saying in this House is based on expert legal opinion which is available to the Government. I have been assured that this is covered adequately in the way the whole clause has been drafted. It is on that basis that I am here to assure the House that there is danger of the 26 per cent being breached. I will stand by this. I am saying that the Regulatory Authority is there to take care of any problem which might arise. If, at a future date, there is some interpretation, something happens, there have been occasions when we have revised our laws. Whenever something has gone wrong and the Legislature's intention has not been properly understood by courts, we have come back to the House and revised. That option is always open to the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Now, please come to point.

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Yes, I know you have to leave early.

The other issue which has been raised especially by my friend Shri Kirit Somaiya who has expressed some concern in that regard is about the existing agents. I am aware that, over five lakh agents are working for procuring life insurance business. I gather that the interim Regulatory Authority has already discussed the issues concerning qualifications, training etc., that the representatives of the associations of the agents and adequate protection and care have been ensured for the present agents. Therefore, let me assure this House that any model regulation issued by the Regulatory Authority in regard to agents will protect and safeguard the interest of the existing agents. Their interests will not be compromised in any manner.



**SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (THANE) :** *The present rule says that within three years they must get through 12th standard and a training. This should be omitted. I have given an amendment to that effect. The present rule does not provide for that. They are asking them to complete 12th standard within three years.*

**SHRI YASHWANT SINHA :** *I made a distinction between existing agents and new agents who might come into the field. As far as the existing agents are concerned, I am giving this assurance that their interest will not be compromised and it will be fully protected.*

*Now, some Members have asked about investor protection fund. We do not need an Investor Protection Fund. In this particular case, every new entrant and a new company are required to deposit Rs. 10 crore with the Reserve Bank as a security deposit. This will be the nucleus of a future protection fund and after the sector is opened, we can consider creation of an investor protection fund which has to be made creative out of the levies received from the companies. So, on that score, let there be no doubt.*

*Some Members have expressed apprehensions about capital flight by opening up of the insurance sector. Their contention is that the foreign promoters will take away the Indian policy holders' funds. This is an unfounded fear. Under Section 27(c) of the Bill, no insurer can directly or indirectly invest the funds of the policyholders outside India. The law is very clear. Only dividends can be taken abroad by policy investors subject to normal regulations. In this connection, I may also mention that such dividends will accrue only after seven to eight years, from the date on which the company begins its operations. Further, as business expands, there will be growing requirements of solvency margins and therefore, more and more capital will come in rather than go out of the country.... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** *Section 27(c) should be totally water tight. I am giving you a constructive suggestion.... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI YASHWANT SINHA :** *The only assurance that I would like to give to the Members is that we are making some amendments. Let us go ahead and see how the Act operates. Nobody can say the last word on any subject at any point of time. I remember the quotation of Shri Chandrashekhar that everybody is a semicolon; there is no full stop in history. So, there are no full stops. We will look at the situation and see how it can be developed.*

*The point which raised by Shri Somnath Chatterjee is about how the business will expand. A rough assessment has been made. The insurance business which has been discussed in this House was about the total insurance premium as percentage of GDP. I would like to inform Shri N.D. Tiwari that it is not two per cent of the coverage of the population, it is two per cent of the GDP in terms of the insurance policy. It was 2 per cent in 1997-98. Some rough calculations have been made. By 2000-2003, this figure is expected to go*

*upto 4.5 per cent of the GDP considering that in this span of five years, there would be a considerable and significant expansion of insurance business. So, let there be no doubt about that.*

*In terms of the LIC, GIC and level-playing field, the GIC and LIC operate in 27 countries. They already have 52 branches, subsidiaries, representatives and associate companies in 27 countries. Therefore, as I said in the beginning, we should not be scared. If GIC can operate in Singapore, the UK, Thailand, Philippines and Saudi Arabia, compete and hold on their own, then there is no reason why they cannot hold on their own on our own soil? Therefore, if we talk in terms of level-playing field, the level-playing field demands that we should not be scared of the future prospects of LIC and GIC.*

*With this, I suppose that I have covered most of the issues which have been raised by Members.*

**SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY) :** *What about under-cutting?*

**SHRI YASHWANT SINHA :** *There is no danger of any under-cutting. If you sit here and imagine that there is ghost behind every pillar, I cannot help you.*

*But let us remember that India is a strong and powerful country and no country in the world, no company of any foreign country can take this country for a ride. Let us have confidence in ourselves. Why are we so lacking in confidence that they will come and take away everything? Nobody can do it. They have not been able to do it in the banking sector. They will not be able to do it in the insurance sector. Therefore, I suggest that let this Bill be passed with acclaim by the House. I would request the hon. Members in the middle to kindly withdraw their objections to the passage of this Bill.*

**MR. SPEAKER :** *Now, we shall take up the Motion for consideration of the Bill. There are some amendments moved to the Motion*

*I shall not put Amendment No.1 moved by Shri Ajoy Chakraborty to the vote of the House.*

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

**MR. SPEAKER :** *I shall now put Amendment No. 3 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to the vote of the House.*

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

**MR. SPEAKER :** *I shall now put Amendment No. 4 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to the vote of the House.*

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

**MR. SPEAKER :** *I shall now put Amendment No. 14 moved by Shri Rupchand Pal to the vote of the House.*

The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 and the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, be referred to a Joint Committee of the House consisting of 15 Members, 10 from this House, namely :

- (1) Shri Basu Deb Acharia
- (2) Shri Moinul Hassan
- (3) Smt. Geeta Mukherjee
- (4) Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
- (5) Shri Amar Roy Pradhan
- (6) Shri P.H. Pandiyan
- (7) Shri Yashwant Sinha
- (8) Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh
- (9) Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav
- (10) Shri Rupchand Pal

and 5 from Rajya Sabha :

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of Members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the Budget Session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House to recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 5 Members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee." (14)

Those in favour will please say 'Aye'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : 'Aye'.

MR. SPEAKER : Those against will please say 'No'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : 'No'.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the 'Noes' have it. The 'Noes' have it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : No, Sir, The 'Ayes' have it. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker: Sir, why should we give up our right if the Government wants to go posthaste in this matter ? They are not prepared to listen to very important suggestions made by everybody. Patriotism is nobody's monopoly; wisdom is nobody's monopoly. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, it is a very simple amendment referring the Bill to Joint Committee.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I have a right to press for the division. So, I am pressing for the division.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, some of the Members are pressing for a division in the matter. According to the voices raised against the amendment, I feel that the division is being unnecessary claimed.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : No, it is not so. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, it is the right of the Member to press for the division. (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, it is our right. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me complete the observation first. Please take your seat.

Therefore, as per the proviso to Rule 367-3(c), I request those Members who are in favour of the amendment to rise in their seats.

As per rules, the names of the voters shall not be recorded in the proceedings.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I want to express my opposition. ....(Interruptions) I want to press for division. You put it on record. This is my right as a Member.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

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- (5) Shri Amar Roy Pradhan  
 (6) Shri P.H. Pandiyan  
 (7) Shri Yashwant Sinha  
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 (9) Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav  
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that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 5 Members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee." (14)

Those in favour will please say 'Aye'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : 'Aye'.

MR. SPEAKER : Those against will please say 'No'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : 'No'.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, those who are in favour of 'Ayes' will please rise in their places.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : If voting is to be there, there should be a proper voting. This is not the way for the Parliament. ....(Interruptions)

You are setting up a new precedent today. ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What can you do ? The Members are insisting upon it.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Very well, Sir. If speed is the only consideration, we shall stand up.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, please go through Rule 367-(3) (c) :

"Provided that, if in the opinion of the Speaker, the Division is unnecessarily claimed, he may ask the members who are for 'Aye' and those for 'No' respectively to rise in their places...."

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is humiliating.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; there is a provision.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I cannot question your ruling. I know about it. But what are the considerations for deciding whether it is an 'unnecessary demand' or not.

MR. SPEAKER : It is there in the provisions.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It cannot be. ....(Interruptions) Every rule cannot be applied. ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Otherwise, they can take the slips from the respective Members. So, please take your seats.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If there is no strong objection to this Bill, then, it is all right.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. They will distribute the slips.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The slips will be distributed to 'Ayes' only.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, are the slips being selectively issued ?

MR. SPEAKER : No, they are being distributed to all.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) : Sir, the Treasury Benches are not participating in the voting .... (Interruptions) That has also to be recorded .... (Interruptions) The democracy is by majority's participation.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, let the Lobbies be cleared –

Shri Pandiyan, please take your seat. Once the Lobbies are cleared, then you will have the full division.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the procedure that you are following now ? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are distributing the slips to all the Members.

Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

Hon. Members, I have to inform the Members that as the Division Numbers have not so far been allotted to the Hon. Members, it is not possible to hold the Division by the Automatic Vote Recording Machine. The Division will now take place under rule 367AA by distribution of slips. The Members will be supplied at their seats with 'Aye' 'No' printed

slips for recording their votes. 'Aye' slips are printed on one side in green, both in English and in Hindi, and 'No' in red on its reverse.

On the slips, Members may kindly record votes of their choice by signing and writing legibly their names, identify Constituency numbers, constituency and State/Union Territory and date at the place specified on the slip. Members who desire to record 'Absention' may ask for the 'Absention' (Yellow colour) slip. Immediately after recording his vote, each Member should pass on his slip to the Division Clerk who will come to his seat to collect the same for handling over the officers at the Table. Members are requested to fill in only one slip for Division.

Members are also requested not to leave their seats till the slips are collected by the Division Clerks.

Now the question is :

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*The Lok Sabha divided :*

Division No. 1	AYES	Time : 15.30 hrs.
1.	Abdullakutty, Shri A.P.	
2.	Acharia, Shri Basu Deb	
3.	Ajaya Kumar, Shri S.	
4.	Ambedkar, Shri Prakash Yashwant	
5.	Athawale, Shri Ramdas	
6.	Babbar, Shri Raj	
7.	Baghel, Prof. S.P. Singh	
8.	Barman, Shri Ranen	
9.	Basu, Shri Anil	
10.	Bauri, Shrimati Sandhya	
11.	Baxla, Shri Joachim	
12.	Bhaura, Shri Bhan Singh	
13.	Chakaraborty, Shri Ajoy	
14.	Chakaraborty, Shri Swadesh	
15.	Chandra Shekhar, Shri	
16.	Chatterjee, Shri Somnath	
17.	Choudhary, Shrimati Reena	
18.	Choudhury, Shri Samar	
19.	Chowdhury, Shri Bikash	
20.	Deepak Kumar, Shri	
21.	Dhinakaran, Shri T.T.V.	
22.	George, Shri K. Francis	
23.	Govindan, Shri T.	
24.	Hassan, Shri Moinul	
25.	Jaiswal, Shri Jawahar Lal	
26.	Kaliappan, Shri K.K.	
27.	Khan, Shri Abul Hasnat	
28.	Khan, Shri Sunil	
29.	Krishnadas, Shri N.M.	
30.	Kumarasamy, Shri P.	
31.	Kurup, Shri Suresh	

32. Lahiri, Shri Samik
33. Mahale, Shri Haribhau Shankar
34. Mahato, Shri Bir Singh
35. Malaisamy, Shri K.
36. Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar
37. Mohan, Shri P.
38. Mollah, Shari Hannan
39. Mukherjee, Shrimati Geeta
40. Murmu, Shri Rupchand
41. Murugesan, Shri S.
42. Pal, Shri Rupchand
43. Pandiyan, Shri P.H.
44. Paswan, Shri Sukdeo
45. Patel, Shri Dharam Raj Singh
46. Pramanik, Prof. R.R.
47. Premajam, Prof. A.K.
48. Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala
49. Rajendran, Shri P.
50. Rawat, Shri Ramsagar
51. Riyan, Shri Baju Ban
52. Rizwan Zahir, Shri
53. Rongpi, Dr. Jayant
54. Roy, Shri Subodh
55. Roy Pradhan, Shri Amar
56. Sar, Shri Nikhilananda
57. Saroj, Shri Tufani
58. Saroj, Shrimati Sushila
59. Saroja, Dr. V.
60. Salvaganpathi, Shri T.M.
61. Sen, Shrimati Minati
62. Seth, Shri Lakshman
63. Shahabuddin, Mohd.
64. Shakya, Shri Raghuraj Singh
65. Shervani, Shri Saleem I.
66. Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad
67. Singh, Kunwar Akhilesh

68. Singh, Kunwar Sarv Raj
69. Singh, Shri C.N.
70. Singh, Shri Chandra Bhushan
71. Singh, Shri Ram Prasad
72. Singh, Shrimati Kanti
73. Suman, Shri Ramji Lal
74. Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran
75. Verma, Shri Beni Prasad
76. Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash
77. Yadav, Shri Balram Singh
78. Yadav, Shri Bhal Chandra
79. Yadav, Shri Devendra Singh
80. Yadav, Shri Mulayam Singh
81. Yadav, Shri Ramakant
82. Zahedi, Shri Mahboob

**NOES**

1. A. Narendra, Shri
2. Adhi Sankar, Shri
3. Aditya Nath, Yogi
4. Adsul, Shri Anandrao Vithoba
5. Advani, Shri L.K.
6. Ahmad, Shri Daud
7. Alva, Shrimati Margaret
8. Alvi, Shri Rashid
9. Ananth Kumar, Shri
10. Argal, Shri Ashok
11. Arya, Dr. (Shrimati) Anita
12. Atkinson, Shri Denzil B. (Nominated)
13. 'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat
14. Badnore, Shri V.P. Singh
15. Baimda, Shri Ramchander
16. Bais, Shri Ramesh
17. Baitha, Shri Mahendra
18. Bandyopadhyay, Shri Sudip

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 19. Banerjee, Kumari Mamata                 | 55. Chowdhary, Shri Adhir                     |
| 20. Banerjee, Shrimati Jayashree            | 56. Chowdhary, Shrimati Santosh               |
| 21. Bangarappa, Shri S.                     | 57. Chowdhury, Shrimati Renuka                |
| 22. Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar                | 58. 'D' Souza, Dr. (Smt.) Beatrix (Nominated) |
| 23. Barwala, Shri Surendra Singh            | 59. Daggubati, Shri Ramanaidu                 |
| 24. Basavaraj, Shri G.S.                    | 60. Dahal, Shri Bhim                          |
| 25. Begum Noor Bano                         | 61. Das, Shri Nepal Chandra                   |
| 26. Behera, Shri Padmanvava                 | 62. Dasmunsi, Shri Priya Ranjan               |
| 27. Bhagat, Prof. Dukha                     | 63. Dattatreya, Shri Bandaru                  |
| 28. Bhatia, Shri R.L.                       | 64. Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan                   |
| 29. Bishnoi, Shri Jaswant Singh             | 65. Devi, Shrimati Kailasho                   |
| 30. Biswas, Shri Ananda Mohan               | 66. Dhikale, Shri Uttamrao                    |
| 31. Bose, Shrimati Krishna                  | 67. Diler, Shri Kishan Lal                    |
| 32. Brahmanaiah, Shri A.                    | 68. Diwathe, Shri Namdeo Harbaji              |
| 33. Brar, Shri J.S.                         | 69. Dudi, Shri Rameshwar                      |
| 34. Bundela, Shri Sujan Singh               | 70. Durai, Shri M.                            |
| 35. Bwiswmuthiary, Shri Sansuma Khunggur    | 71. Eden, Shri George                         |
| 36. C. Suguna Kumari, Dr. (Shrimati)        | 72. Elangovan, Shri P.D.                      |
| 37. Chakravarty, Shrimati Bijoya            | 73. Farook, Shri M.O.H.                       |
| 38. Chandel, Shri Suresh                    | 74. Fernandes, Shri George                    |
| 39. Chaturvedi, Shri Satyavrat              | 75. Gadde, Shri Ram Mohan                     |
| 40. Chaubey, Shri Lal Muni                  | 76. Gadhavi, Shri P.S.                        |
| 41. Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai                | 77. Gamang, Shrimati Hema                     |
| 42. Chaudhary, Shri Ram Raghunath           | 78. Gandhi, Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal        |
| 43. Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal               | 79. Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia                    |
| 44. Chaudhri, Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai       | 80. Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar               |
| 45. Chauhan, Shri Bal Krishna               | 81. Gautam, Shrimati Sheela                   |
| 46. Chauhan, Shri Nandkumar Singh           | 82. Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya               |
| 47. Chauhan, Shri Shriram                   | 83. Gavit, Shri Ramdas Rupala                 |
| 48. Chennithala, Shri Ramesh                | 84. Gawali, Kumari Bhavana Pundlikrao         |
| 49. Chikhale, Shrimati Bhavnaben Devrajohai | 85. Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram                |
| 50. Choudhary, Shri Nikhil Kumar            | 86. Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand                 |
| 51. Choudhry, Shri Padam Sen                | 87. Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh                |
| 52. Choudhury, Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan       | 88. Giluwa, Shri Laxman                       |
| 53. Chouhan, Shri Nihal Chand               | 89. Goel, Shri Vijay                          |
| 54. Chouhan, Shri Shivraj Singh             | 90. Gudhe, Shri Anant                         |

- |      |                                  |      |                                   |
|------|----------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|
| 91.  | Hamid, Shri Abdul                | 127. | Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh        |
| 92.  | Handique, Shri Bijoy             | 128. | Kumar, Shri V. Dhananjaya         |
| 93.  | Hussain, Shri Syed Shahnawaz     | 129. | Kumaramangalam, Shri P.R.         |
| 94.  | Indora, Dr. Sushil Kumar         | 130. | Kuppusami, Shri C.                |
| 95.  | Jadhav, Shri Suresh Ramrao       | 131. | Kusmaria, Dr. Ramkrishna          |
| 96.  | Jagannath, Dr. Manda             | 132. | M. Master Mathan, Shri            |
| 97.  | Jagathrakshakan, Dr. S.          | 133. | Mahajan, Shri Y.G.                |
| 98.  | Jain, Shri Pusp                  | 134. | Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra         |
| 99.  | Jaiswal, Dr. M.P.                | 135. | Mahant, Dr. Charan Das            |
| 100. | Jaiswal, Shri Shankar Prasad     | 136. | Maharia, Shri Subhash             |
| 101. | Jaiswal, Shri Shriprakash        | 137. | Mahtab, Shri Bhartruhari          |
| 102. | Jalappa, Shri R.L.               | 138. | Mahato, Shrimati Abha             |
| 103. | Jayaseelan, Dr. A.D.K.           | 139. | Manjhi, Shri Parsuram             |
| 104. | Jha, Shri Raghunath              | 140. | Malhotra, Dr. Vijay Kumar         |
| 105. | Jos, Shri A.C.                   | 141. | Mallik, Shri Jagannath            |
| 106. | Joshi, Dr. Murli Manohar         | 142. | Malyala, Shri Rajaiah             |
| 107. | Kannappan, Shri M.               | 143. | Mandal, Shri Brahma Nand          |
| 108. | Karunakaran, Shri K.             | 144. | Manjay Lal, Shri                  |
| 109. | Kaswan, Shri Ram Singh           | 145. | Manjhi, Shri Ramjee               |
| 110. | Kataria, Shri Rattan Lal         | 146. | Mayawati, Kumari                  |
| 111. | Katiyar, Shri Vinay              | 147. | Meena, Shri Bherulal              |
| 112. | Kaur, Shrimati Preneet           | 148. | Meena, Shrimati Jas Kaur          |
| 113. | Kaushal, Shri Raghuvir Singh     | 149. | Mishra, Shri Shyam Bihari         |
| 114. | Khabri, Shri Brijlal             | 150. | Mohale, Shri Punnu Lal            |
| 115. | Khaire, Shri Chandrakant         | 151. | Mohite, Shri Subodh               |
| 116. | Khan, Shri Hassan                | 152. | Mohol, Shri Ashok N.              |
| 117. | Khan, Shri Mansoor Ali           | 153. | Mookherjee, Shri S.B.             |
| 118. | Khandoker, Shri Akbar Ali        | 154. | Moorthy, Shri A.K.                |
| 119. | Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. | 155. | Munda, Shri Kariya                |
| 120. | Khanna, Shri Vinod               | 156. | Muni Lall, Shri                   |
| 121. | Khunte, Shri P.R.                | 157. | Muniyappa, Shri K.H.              |
| 122. | Kriplani, Shri Shrichand         | 158. | Muraleedharan, Shri K.            |
| 123. | Krishnamaraju, Shri              | 159. | Murmu, Shri Salkhan               |
| 124. | Krishnamurthy, Shri K. Balarama  | 160. | Murthi, Shri M.V.V.S.             |
| 125. | Krishnan, Dr. C.                 | 161. | Murthy, Shri M.V. Chandrashekhara |
| 126. | Krishnaswamy, Shri A.            | 162. | Muttemwar, Shri Vilas             |

163.	Naik, Shri A. Venkatesh	199.	Pawaiya, Shri Jaibhan Singh
164.	Naik, Shri Ram	200.	Pawar, Shri Sharad
165.	Naik, Shri Shripad Yasso	201.	Pilot, Shri Rajesh
166.	Nayak, Shri Ananta	202.	Ponnuswamy, Shri E.
167.	Nishad, Capt. Jai Narain Prasad	203.	Potai, Shri Sohan
168.	Nitish Kumar, Shri	204.	Prabhu, Shri Suresh
169.	Oram, Shri Jual	205.	Pradhan, Dr. Debendra
170.	Padmanabham, Shri Mudragada	206.	Pradhan, Shri Ashok
171.	Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.	207.	Prasad, Shri V. Sreenivasa
172.	Pandeya, Dr. Laxminaryan	208.	Prasada, Shri Jitendra
173.	Panja, Shri Ajit Kumar	209.	Radhakrishnan, Shri C.P.
174.	Paranjpe, Shri Prakash	210.	Radhakrishnan, Shri Pon
175.	Parthasarathi, Shri B.K.	211.	Raja, Shri A.
176.	Pasi, Shri Suresh	212.	Rajbangshi, Shir Madhab
177.	Passi, Shri Raj Narain	213.	Raje, Shrimati Vasundhara
178.	Paswan, Dr. Sanjay	214.	Rajukhedi, Shri Gajendra Singh
179.	Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas	215.	Ram, Shri Braj Mohan
180.	Paswan, Shri Ramchandra	216.	Ramaiah, Dr. B.B.
181.	Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar	217.	Ramaiah, Shri Ganipati
182.	Patel, Dr. Ashok	218.	Raman, Dr.
183.	Patel, Shri Atmaram Bhai	219.	Ramchandran, Shri Gingee N.
184.	Patel, Shri Chandresh	220.	Ramshakal, Shri
185.	Patel, Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhbbhai	221.	Rana, Shri Kashiram
186.	Patel, Shri Deepak	222.	Rao, Shri Ch. Vidyasagar
187.	Patel, Shri Dinsha	223.	Rao, Shri D.V.G. Shankar
188.	Patel, Shri Mansinh	224.	Rao, Shri Ganta Sreenivasa
189.	Patel, Shri Prahlad Singh	225.	Rao, Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana
190.	Pathak, Shri Harin	226.	Rao, Shri Y.V.
191.	Patil, Shri Amarsinh Vasantrao	227.	Rashtrapal, Shri Pravin
192.	Patil, Shri Annasaheb M.K.	228.	Rathwa, Shri Ramsinh
193.	Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe	229.	Rau, Shrimati Prabha
194.	Patil (Yatnal), Shri Basangouda R.	230.	Ravi, Shri Sheesh Ram Singh
195.	Patil, Shri R.S.	231.	Rawale, Shri Mohan
196.	Patil, Shri Shrinivas	232.	Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh
197.	Patil, Shri Uttamrao	233.	Rawat, Shri Pradeep
198.	Patnaik, Shri Naveen	234.	Ray, Shri Bishnu Pada



235. Reddy, Shri A.P. Jithender  
236. Reddy, Shri Chada Suresh  
237. Reddy, Shri G. Ganga  
238. Reddy, Shri Gutha Sukender  
239. Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal  
240. Reddy, Shri Y.S. Vivekananda  
241. Renu Kumari, Shrimati  
242. Rudy, Shri Rajiv Pratap  
243. Sahu, Shri Anadi  
244. Sahu, Shri Tarachand  
245. Sai, Shri Vishnudeo  
246. Saiduzzama, Shri  
247. Samantray, Shri Prabhat  
248. Sanadi, Prof. I.G.  
249. Sanghani, Shri Dileep  
250. Sangtam, Shri K.A.  
251. Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh  
252. Sankeshwar, Shri Vijay  
253. Sankhwar, Shri Pyare Lal  
254. Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmad  
255. Sathi, Shri Harpal Singh  
256. Sayeed, Shri P.M.  
257. Scindia, Shri Madhavrao  
258. Sethi, Shri Arjun  
259. Shah, Shri Manabendra  
260. Shaheen, Shri Abdul Rashid  
261. Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dr. Dhani Ram  
262. Shanmugam, Shri M.T.  
263. Shanta Kumar, Shri  
264. Sharma, Capt. Satish  
265. Singh Deo, Shri K.P.  
266. Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari  
267. Singh, Capt. (Retd.) Inder  
268. Singh, Ch. Tejveer  
269. Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhan  
270. Singh, Shri Bahadur  
271. Singh, Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan  
272. Singh, Shri Chandra Vijay  
273. Singh, Shri Charanjit  
274. Singh, Shri Digvijay  
275. Singh, Shri Khel Sai  
276. Singh, Shri Maheshwar  
277. Singh, Shri Prabhunath  
278. Singh, Shri Radha Mohan  
279. Singh, Shri Rajo  
280. Singh, Shri Ramanand  
281. Singh, Shri Ramjivan  
282. Singh, Shri Sahib  
283. Singh, Shri Tilakdhari Prasad  
284. Singh, Shrimati Shyama  
285. Singh, Shri Manoj  
286. Sinha, Shri Yashwant  
287. Sivakumar, Shri V.S.  
288. Soianki, Shri Bhupendrasinh  
289. Somaiya, Shri Kirit  
290. Sorake, Shri Vinay Kumar  
291. Srikantappa, Shri D.C.  
292. Srinivasulu, Shri Kalava  
293. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Shri E.M.  
294. Suresh, Shri Kodikunnil  
295. Swain, Shri Kharabela  
296. Thakkar, Shrimati Jayaben B.  
297. Thakur, Dr. C.P.  
298. Thakur, Shri Chunni Lal Bhai  
299. Tiwari, Shri Lal Bihari  
300. Tiwari, Shri Narayan Datt  
301. Tiwari, Shri Sunder Lal  
302. Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand  
303. Tripathi, Shri Prakash Mani  
304. Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore  
305. Uma Bharati, Kumari  
306. Vaiko, Shri

307. Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari
308. Varma, Shri Ratilal Kalidas
309. Vasava, Shri Manuskhbhai D.
310. Veerappa, Shri Ramchandra
311. Venkataswamy, Dr. N.
312. Venkateswarlu, Shri B.
313. Venkateswarlu, Prof. Ummareddy
314. Venugopal, Dr. S.
315. Venugopal, Shri D.
316. Verma, Prof. Rita
317. Vetriseivan, Shri V.
318. Vijaya Kumari, Shrimati D.M.
319. Vijayan, Shri A.K.S.
320. Virendra Kumar, Shri
321. Vukkala, Dr. Rajeswaramma
322. Vyas, Dr. Girija
323. Wanaga, Shri Chintaman
324. Wangcha, Shri Rajkumar
325. Yadav, Dr. (Shrimati) Sudha
326. Yadav, Dr. Jaswant Singh
327. Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad
328. Yadav, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan
329. Yadav, Shri Jagdambi Prasad
330. Yadav, Shri Sharad
331. Zawma, Shri Vanlal

policies, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 and the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, be taken into consideration."

*The Motion was adopted.*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I have one more amendment, amendment number 31. I want to move it.

MR. SPEAKER : It will not be taken up now. It will be taken up later.

The House will not take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

#### **Clauses 2 and 3**

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

#### **Clause 4**

MR. SPEAKER : There is an amendment number 7 to clause 4 to be moved by Shri Vilas Muttemwar. Shri Vilas Muttemwar, are you moving your amendment ?

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : No.

MR. SPEAKER : There are amendments number 22 and 23 to clause 4 to be moved by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. Shri Dasmunsi, are you moving your amendments ?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : No.

MR. SPEAKER : There are amendments number 40 and 41 to clause 4 to be moved by Shri A.P. Abdullakutty, Shri Samar Choudhury, Shri Subodh Roy, Shri Hannan Mollah, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Bikash Chowdhury, Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri Tarit Baran Topdar. Shri A.P. Abdullakutty, are you moving your amendments ?

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (CANNANORE) : Yes, Sir, I beg to move :

Page 3, line 6,-

for "or" substitute "and"

(40)

Page 3, line 11-

for "or experience in life insurance, general insurance or actuarial science, respectively."

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, the time taken for the discussion is six hours and twenty eight minutes. Now, the time to be taken for voting is at least three hours. Please be patient.

Subject to correction, the result of the division is :

Ayes : 82

Noes : 331

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance

*substitute "and experience in life insurance, general insurance and actuarial science, respectively." (41)*

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put Amendments Nos. 40 and 41 moved by Shri A.P. Abdullakutty to vote of the House.

*The amendments were put and negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 4 was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 5

MR. SPEAKER : There are amendments numbers 8, 9 and 10 to clause 5 to be moved by Shri Vilas Muttemwar. Shri Vilas Muttemwar, are you moving your amendments ?

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : No.

MR. SPEAKER : There is an amendment number 15 to clause 5 to be moved by Shri Anadi Sahu. Shri Anadi Sahu, are you moving your amendment ?

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA) : No.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 5 was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 6

MR. SPEAKER : There are amendments numbers 11 and 12 to clause 6 to be moved by Shri Vilas Muttemwar. Shri Vilas Muttemwar, are you moving your amendments ?

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : No.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 6 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 7 was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 8

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vilas Muttemwar, are you moving amendment No. 13 ?

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anadi Sahu, are you moving amendment No. 16 ?

SHRI ANADI SAHU : No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 8 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 9 to 10 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 11

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 4, line 21, -

*omit "in, or any defect in the constitution of, the Authority; or" (42)*

MR. SPEAKER : I shall put amendment No. 42 moved by Shri A.P. Abdullakutty to clause 11, to the vote of the House.

*The amendment No. 42 was put and negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 11 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 11 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 12 and 13 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 14

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, are you moving amendment No. 21 ?

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) : Sir, since my amendment has been accepted by the Government, I am not moving it.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 5, line 16,-

*add at the end —*

*"and to check that there is no undercutting of premiums and unreasonable incentives to capture the markets" (43)*

Page 5, line 24-

add at the end -

"etc." (44)

Page 5, line 28-

add at the end-

"and transparency" (45)

Page 5, line 38-

add at the end-

"for life and General Insurance sectors" (46)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall put amendment Nos. 43, 44, 45 and 46 moved Shri A.P. Abdullakutty to clause 14, to the vote of the House.

*The amendments were put and negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 14 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 14 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 15 to 21 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 22

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 8, line 18, -

omit "or the rules or regulations made thereunder" (47)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall put amendment No. 47 moved by Shri A.P. Abdullakutty to clause 22, to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 22 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 22 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 23 and 24 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 25

MR. SPEAKER : Amendment number 17. Shri Anadi Charan Sahu, are you moving your amendment ?

SHRI ANADI SAHU : No.

MR. SPEAKER : Amendment number 27. Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri Subodh Roy, are you moving your amendments?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I move my amendment number 27.

I beg to move :

Page 9, line 14, -27

for "association"

substitute "associations" (27)

MR. SPEAKER : Now I shall put amendment number 27 moved by Shri Rupchand Pal to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 25 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 25 was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 26

MR. SPEAKER : Amendment number 24. Shri Rajesh Pilot are you moving your amendments ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, I have to confirm one thing. The paper I am carrying there the word, 'social' has been hand written.... (*Interruptions*) Has it been accepted ? Has it been officially recorded ? Sir, you just say one word. ....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no you cannot do that.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Okay, then would you give me another chance to speak during the third reading ? ....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : The only option that you have here is either to move or not to move your amendment.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I am only expressing my doubt. At the time of drafting TRI Bill it was decided that social sector would be kept in mind. The Minister of Communications is here. I want to tell him that rural connectivity is being ignored... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, are you moving your amendment or not ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, he has accepted my amendment, I am not moving.

MR. SPEAKER . All right.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR) : Sir, I am not a great leader but at least my name should have been called

MR. SPEAKER : I called your name. Anyway, are you moving your amendment ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : No, I am not moving.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay. Amendment number 28. Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri Subodh Roy, are you moving your amendment ?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am moving the amendment.

I beg to move :

Page 9, -

*after line 35, insert -*

"(dd) the terms and conditions of agents other intermediaries and surveyors." (28)

MR. SPEAKER : Now I shall put amendment number 28 moved by Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri Subodh Roy to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 26 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 26 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 27 to 32 were added to the Bill.*

#### First Schedule

MR. SPEAKER : Amendment number 5 & 6. Shri Prakash Paranjpe, are you moving your amendments ?

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (THANE) : Sir, since the Government has protected the interests of the existing units, I am not moving my amendments.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. Now, amendments number 18, 19 and 20. Shri Rupchand Pal, Shri Hannan Mollah and Shri Basudeb Acharia, are you moving your amendments ?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Yes, Sir, we are moving the amendments.

I beg to move :

Page 11,-

*Omit lines 32 to 34* (18)

Page 14,-

*Omit lines 31 to 47* (19)

Page 16, lines 6 and 7, -

*Omit "the funds of the policy-holders"* (20)

MR. SPEAKER : Now I shall put amendment numbers 18, 19 and 20 move by Shri Rupchand Pal to the vote of the House.

*The amendments were put and negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, amendments numbers 25 and 26. Shri Rajesh Pilot and Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, are you moving your amendments ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would just like to confirm whether he has accepted my amendment. You please check your copy also. The words, 'social sector' are written there or not. You have a copy with you. Is the word 'social sector' written ? ....(Interruptions) I have got a copy of the amendment where it is written in hand. If the Government has accepted it then I am not moving my amendment.

[Translation]

It is there in your copy.

[English]

You can check from your copy.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, amendment numbers 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 by Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri Subodh Roy. Do you move your amendments ?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I move my amendments No. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 and press for them.

I beg to move :

Page 13, line 11, -

*after "sub-section" insert*

*"to cancel"* (29)

Page 16, lines 6 and 7,—

omit "the funds of the policy-holders." (30)

Page 16, line 33 to 36,

for "such percentage of life insurance business and general insurance business in the rural or social sector, as may be specified, in the Official Gazette by the Authority, in this behalf."

substitute "not less than 25 per cent of the life insurance business and general insurance business in the rural or social sector." (31)

Page 19, —

omit lines 15 to 26. (32)

Page 20, —

omit lines 39 to 43. (33)

Page 25, —

after lines 47, insert —

"as also forfeiture of such poroperties and or assests." (34)

Sir, I wish to say a few words on my amendment No. 31.

MR. SPEAKER : No speech is allowed at this stage.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : When somebody who did not move his amendment has been allowed to speak, why should he not be allowed ?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pilot did not speak. He sought a clarification from the Minister.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I would like to read the text of my amendment No. 31... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, would you iike to move your amendment No. 35 ?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I move my amendment and press for it.

I beg to move :

Page 26, line 29,

add at the end, —

"including cancellation as insurer(s)" (35)

Sir, I want to speak on my amendment No. 31.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal and Shri Subodh Roy, would you like to move your amendments No. 36, 37 and 38 ?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I move my amendments No. 36, 37 and 38.

I beg to move :

Page 26,—

omit lines 38 to 41. (36)

Page 27, —

omit lines 13 and 14 (37)

Page 27, line 32,—

omit "qualifications and" (38)

MR. SPEAKER : Amendment No. 39 Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, are you moving your amendment ?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, since all our amendments have been accepted by the Government I am not moving my amendment.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I press for division on my amendment No. 31. Let me read it out, Sir. It says, "not less than 25 per cent of the life insurance business and general insurance..." ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now I shall put all the amendments together.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How can you put all of them together ?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I press for division on my amendment No. 31.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, kindly allow him two minutes to speak and let the Government respond. Otherwise, if this is the attitude of the Government, we have to press for division. I am trying to find a *via media*. Let the hon. Member speak for one minute and let the hon. Minister respond.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, if you want you can seek clarification from the Government. You cannot give a speech at this stage. If you are allowed to do so, it would become a precedent. Please understand.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I wanted to say that the provision "not less than 25 per cent of life insurance business and general insurance business in the rural or social sector" should be made. Let them agree to 25 per cent in

concrete terms. That is what my amendment says. ....(Interruptions) The Congress say that they propose 75 per cent and the Government say that they are agreeing for 75 per cent. .... (Interruptions) I wanted 25 per cent. For 75 per cent they are agreeing. .... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, my colleague did not listen to me. .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, if you want division, we can do it by circulating slips.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I press for division on amendment No. 31. It is my right to ask for division.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put amendments No. 18, 19, 20 and 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 to the vote of the House.

*The amendments were put and negatived.*

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : About the ratio, they may not agree .... (Interruptions) In a competition I cannot do that.... (Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : That is why 75 per cent has been asked. Now, it is found that 25 per cent also is not accepted.... (Interruptions) The Congress party has been befooled.... (Interruptions) You are living in a fool's paradise. .... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Let it go in everybody's mind.... (Interruptions) I will take just one minute. The House will agree with me.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am doubtful because when Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRA) was set up, it was stated that the rural connectivity would be undertaken by the private operators as well as government agencies. But the private operators have opposed it and moved the court. So, I have a doubt that there should be such thing in this bill though we are satisfied that you have accepted our point.

[English]

but they started saying that the LIC cannot afford to invest in the social sector, and because of the competition, they cannot earn much.

[Translation]

You should provide safeguard for the bill and implement it strictly.

[English]

That is what we want to say. We should spend at least minimum in the social sector so that the social sector does not suffer.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Amendment Nos. 48, 49, 50 and 51.

Amendments made :

Page 12, after line 33, insert –

(ba) after sub-section (2A), insert –

“(2AA) The Authority shall give preference to register the applicant and grant him a certificate of registration if such applicant agrees, in the form and manner as may be specified by regulations made by the Authority, to carry on the life insurance business or general insurance business for providing health cover to individuals or group of individuals.” (48)

Page 16, after line 11, insert –

“(1A) The Authority may give specific directions for the time, manner and other conditions subject to which the funds of policy holders shall be invested in the infrastructure and social sector as may be specified by regulations made by the Authority and such regulations shall apply uniformly to all the insurers carrying on the business of life insurance, general insurance, or re-insurance in India on or after the commencement of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.” (49)

Page 16, after line 35, insert –

“Obligations of insurer in respect of rural or unorganised sector and backward classes.

32C. Every insurer shall, after the commencement of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, discharge the obligations specified under section 32B to provide life insurance business or general insurance policies to the persons residing in the rural sector, workers in the unorganised or informal sector or for economically vulnerable or backward classes of the society and other categories of persons as may be specified by regulations made by the Authority and such insurance policies shall include insurance for crops.” (50)

Page 26, after line 29, insert –

“Penalty for failure to comply with section 32C.

105C. If an insurer fails to comply with the provisions of section 32C, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty-five lakh rupees for each such failure and in the case of subsequent and continuing failure, the regis-

tration granted to such insurer under section 3 shall be cancelled by the Authority." (51)

(Shri Yashwant Sinha)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, the hon. Minister has not responded to the point raised by Shri Rupchand Pal..... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I stand here to confirm that the words 'and social' written in hand and what has been circulated to the hon. Members are part of the official Amendment, and I shall read it here. We are saying clearly that such regulations shall apply uniformly to all the insurance companies.

That covers his point.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What about percentage ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : You are asking only for 25 per cent, and we are agreeing to 50 per cent.... (Interruptions) What percentage are you talking about ? .... (Interruptions) It is 50 per cent. It is not 25 per cent .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the First Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.*

*The First Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill. The Second Schedule and the Third Schedule were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, please cooperate with the Chair. Please sit down. I am always cooperating with you but you are not cooperating with me.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Minister.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, with all humility, I request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly spare one minute.... (Interruptions) Mr. Prime Minister, I am also requesting you.... (Interruptions) It is not frivolous, Sir, if you see page 47 of the Bill, which is written and I quote :

"27A. (1) No insurer shall invest or keep invested any part of his controlled fund otherwise than in any of the

following approved investments, namely :-

(a) approved securities ;

(b) securities of, or guaranteed as to principal and interest by, the Government of the United Kingdom;"

Are you providing here securities as in U.K. ? The shaking of head by Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar will not do. They have not consulted you even. These are securities issued by the Government of U.K. and they are saying that these are approved investments. Is this the conscious decision of the Government ? Then why for no other country they have done it? British investments are acceptable to us. Therefore, I believe that this has happened because of some inadvertence. You have copied from some Bill and you have not checked it properly. Kindly accept this.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : You should consult legal experts on this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is very important. The hon. Minister has not replied.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you clarifying it ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : No.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I beg to move \*

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

.... (Interruptions)

15.57 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stage a walk out in protest of this Bill

\* Moved with the recommendation of the President



15.57½ hrs.

*Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh then left the House.*

15.59 hrs.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to provide adequate financial assistance to State Government of Rajasthan to tackle the drought situation in Western Rajasthan.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (CHURU) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to drought situation in Western Rajasthan particularly in Churu district, the situation has become very serious. For want to rain crops could not be sown in most of the villages and wherever crops were sown, they have been destroyed. There is acute shortage of fodder and drinking water. The State Government has not called for the 'Girdavari' report so far, following which the relief work has not yet been started. It is not known when the Government will start relief work but the cattle need fodder and drinking water daily. And the villagers are leaving their villages for some other places.

In the end, I would like to request the Union Government to immediately take effective steps for providing relief to the people of drought affected areas of Rajasthan so that loss of lives and property could be saved. The State Government should be provided adequate financial assistance in this regard.

16.00 hrs.

- (ii) **Need to declare Bansgaon in U.P. as industrially backward area and also formulate plan for its development.**

SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI (BANSGAON) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my parliamentary constituency Bansgaon which falls under Gorakhpur district in Uttar Pradesh is an extremely backward area. No industry has been set up there either under the public or private sector. This area depends on agriculture only. But due to devastating floods and serious drought situation the crops of the entire area get destroyed each year and people are forced to the brink of starvation. And the above area is not developed due to these reasons.

If some industries are set up there on priority basis under the public or private sector by declaring the area under Bansgaon as National Backward Area and an agriculture university is set up there and also an action plan is formulated for prevention of the devastating floods which occur each year, an all round development of the area could be possible.

Therefore, keeping in view in above situation, I request the Union Government to immediately formulate above schemes on priority basis and get them implemented for the development of the Bansgaon Parliamentary constituency.

- (iii) **Need to expedite setting up of LPG bottling plant at Chhapra, Bihar**

*[English]*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Sir, the Ministry of Petroleum has sanctioned an LPG bottling plant to be located at the district headquarters of Chhapra in Saran District of Bihar covering several districts under Saran and Tirhut Commissioneries. In this case, the proposal is in abeyance due to non-acquisition of land by the State Government. The Ministry of Petroleum must purchase/compensate for the land acquired to expedite the establishment of LPG bottling plant.

- (iv) **Need to introduce a train between Haridwar and Fazilka and provide computerised booking facility at Faridkot**

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT) : Sir, the people of Faridkot and Ferozepore districts have to face hardships to reach Haridwar. A train from Haridwar to Fazilka and vice-versa may kindly be introduced.

The railway stations such as MOGA, Muksar Kotkapura and Faridkot are in Faridkot constituency. All these stations have a great rush of passengers. Owing to considerable number of passengers, the above cited stations require to be computerised to provide the latest facilities to the public. There is no computerised station in my constituency, that is, Faridkot.

- (v) **Need to sanction a special package for development of Western Rajasthan**

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER) : Sir, this is with regard to development of infrastructure for education, drinking water, health, road communication, etc., in Western Rajasthan. As you are aware, Western Rajasthan, especially Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Bikaner and some parts of Jodhpur and Pali districts are most underdeveloped and drought prone for an average of eight out of every ten years. Jaisalmer and Barmer districts are reeling under severe drought for the last three years. In my Parliamentary constituency, there are about 3,500 villages, of which 3,200 have been declared 'Drought-prone villages' as per the Girdawari Report submitted to the Government.

Due to severe drought conditions, most of the drinking water supply schemes have become defunct. The existing water sources are drying. People of this area fetch water from a distance of ten of fifteen kilometres against the norms of 1.6 kilometres laid down by the Government of India. Since there are no employment opportunities in the area, most of the people migrate to adjoining States of Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Maharashtra in search of livelihood during the lean period.

I have been requesting the Government during the tenure of the Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabhas for a special package for Western Rajasthan on lines similar to those given to hilly areas and the North-Eastern States to

alleviate their problems. I had also raised this issue on the floor of the august House of Parliament on the 3rd June, 1998.

However, nothing tangible has been done so far to alleviate the sufferings of the people. If there is a delay in giving the special package, the people will come on the streets as they have already started demanding a separate 'MARU State' on the lines of Assam, Bihar and the UP hill people. Therefore, I request the hon. Prime Minister to sanction a special package to Western Rajasthan.

**(vi) Need to take up the issue of opening of 'Tetulia Corridor' with Bangladesh**

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (JALPAIGURI) : In the last Monsoon Session of Parliament, I had raised a question on the opening of 'Tetulia Corridor' through the territory of Bangladesh for the mutual benefit of both the countries. For India, the proposed corridor is an urgent necessity especially for economic developments of entire North-East. It has also been a long-standing demand of the people of Jalpaiguri.

For the time being, India is having a period of the best of relations with Bangladesh. In the backdrop of the historic agreement with Bangladesh on sharing of 'Ganga Waters' and opening of Tinbigha Corridor for Bangladesh through Indian territory wherein India has shown substantial magnanimity in its approach to Bangladesh. I find no reason why India should not propose the question of opening of Tetulia Corridor through the territory of Bangladesh for the mutual benefit of both the countries.

Through meaningful dialogue with Bangladesh, I think the Government of Bangladesh can be persuaded to show a good gesture to India and the proposed 'Tetulia Corridor' can be opened for vehicular traffic through the territory of Bangladesh. While it is going to be hardly 3-4 kilometre of corridor it is going to shorten distance in all vehicular traffic to the North-East by about 85 kilometres. Economically too, it is going to raise revenue for both the countries.

I earnestly request you to seriously consider the proposal and put the matter on your agenda for discussion with Bangladesh.

**(vii) Need to take concrete steps for revival of Hindustan Machine Tools, Hyderabad, A.P.**

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL) : The Hindustan Machine Tools industry was once the backbone of the entire industrial engineering sector. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru while inaugurating it four decades ago, referred to HMT as another jewel in the crown of India. But the position of HMT is deteriorating day by day. Although the company had its famous research and development facilities for new and upgraded products, it is now running in loss in view of various reasons. The LAMPS division located at Hyderabad has been almost idle because of no tangible orders and so dwindling of production. There are also Press Division, Machine

Tools Division and Watch Case Division. As there is not sufficient orders, almost all the divisions are on the verge of collapse and they are not doing well because of lack of orders as well as lack of budgetary support from the Government of India for purchase of raw material.

Although products of HMT are used in Defence and Railways, these Ministries are also not placing orders with HMT.

I, therefore, humbly submit through you, Sir, to the hon. Defence Minister and the hon. Railway Minister to place orders with HMT in regard to their production for survival of this premier public sector undertaking. I also appeal to the Finance Minister as well as to the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises to grant adequate budgetary support to HMT, Hyderabad for survival of the industry. The revival package of HMT is also pending with the Government of India.

**(viii) Need to provide stoppage of express trains passing through Arakkonam Railway Junction, Tamil Nadu.**

DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN (ARAKKONAM) : There is a long-standing demand from the people of my Constituency, Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu for stoppage of many Express Trains which pass through Arakkonam Junction. It is a very big junction and it serves as a satellite town to metro city of Chennai. Lot of commuters travel to and fro Arakkonam and Chennai. This apart, there are many long distance passengers who want to board the trains or alight the trains at Arakkonam from Express Trains like Brindavan Express, Lalbagh Express, Dadar Express, Trivandrum Mail.

I would, therefore, urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to kindly consider the genuine request of the people sympathetically and accordingly, issue instructions for halt of these trains at Arakkonam Junction for the convenience of thousands of passengers for boarding and alighting at Arakkonam.

**(ix) Need for exploration for Mahanadi in on-shore and off-shore basins**

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (JAGATSingHPUR) : Prognosticated hydrocarbon resources of Mahanadi in on-shore and off-shore areas being explored by Oil India Ltd., have been calculated as 515 MMT and 1200 MMT respectively and in view of the fact that after 265 unproductive well drilling in Assam, Naham-Katiya discovery catapulted this sleepy semi-town into fame and on the oil maps of the world. I strongly suggest the following programme of activities until the first discovery of oil and gas in the highly prospective Mahanadi on-shore and off-shore basins.

1. Exploratory wildcat drilling be resumed in onland Mahanadi Basin prognostically reserves 500 MMT at an optimally chosen location on the basis of the existing data base and leads by the end of March, 2000. Exploratory Wildcat Drilling at other location similarly chosen be continued until first discovery of hydrocarbons in the onland Mahanadi Basin.

2. Exploratory Wildcat Drilling be resumed in the Mahanadi Offshore prognostically reserves 1200 MMT by September, 2000 in those blocks for which no bids are received by May, 1999 as specified in the NIT of the Ministry of Petroleum.
  3. Exploratory Drilling and other activity like survey etc., be resumed by June, 2000 by materialising joint venture operation with bidders for offshore blocks or alone by OIL.
  4. Data Base be integrated, updated and upgraded by incorporating latest technology wherever needed, both in Mahanadi Onshore and Offshore on a continuing basis.
  5. In the meantime the drilling and chemical materials and equipment kept at Paradip godowns should not be moved out of Paradip. A senior technical head DGM/GM rank and executives of various Departments should be posted at BEP, Orissa immediately.
- (x) **Need for expeditious construction of a bye-pass on National Highway at Moradabad, U.P.**

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (MORADABAD) : Moradabad is a major foreign exchange earner in Uttar Pradesh and on the main highway to Lucknow, as well as strategically located defence areas like Ranikhet. The road passes through a congested town, causing great traffic jams and delay, besides putting off potential visitors to tourist sites like Corbett National Park and Naini Tal. In view of the pollution caused by this great volume of traffic passing through town, it is imperative that the construction of the bye-pass be expedited and another one be considered linking the Kashipur road with the Dehradun-Bijnor road and the Delhi road, NH-24, so that all major traffic skirts Moradabad.

[English]

- (xi) **Need to fill up backlog of SC and ST vacancies in Government jobs**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Sir, the vacancies reserved for the people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe have not been filled up in accordance with the reservation norms in the Ministries, Departments under Central Government and other Public Sector Undertakings so far. The Government have neither taken any step with regard to the five office Memorandums for amendment in the Constitution regarding continuance of reservation in the services and promotion of the employees belonging to this category, due to which there is great resentment in the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes.

My demand from the Government is to take immediate steps with regard to filling up of vacancies reserved for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes,

in accordance with reservation norms and to take effective steps against the people responsible for the lapses and to take immediate steps regarding the five memorandum by bringing a bill in the House for an amendment in the Constitution for continuing reservation in promotions.

16.15 hrs.

PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING BILL  
AND  
FOREIGN EXCHANGE MANAGEMENT BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Item Nos. 9 and 10 together. The time allotted is four hours. Shri Yashwant Sinha.

16.15 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the bill to prevent money-laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from, or involved in money-laundering and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.

That 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, be taken into consideration."

16.16 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 primarily made compensatory transactions (known as Havala) illegal. The basic aim was to ensure that no one contravenes the exchange control regulations through unofficial channels. The emphasis was, therefore, on violation of foreign exchange regulations rather than on "money-laundering". Money-laundering, that is the cleansing of proceeds of crimes such as extortion, treason, drug trafficking, gun running etc. poses a serious threat to the integrity and sovereignty of a country and also to its financial systems. This threat to the nation and its economy has been recognised the world over the several UN and other international conventions have called upon member countries to take legislative and other preventive measures to combat the menace of money-laundering. As India is a signatory to some of these conventions, a committee was set up to examine and suggest a draft legislation for this purpose. Based on their report, a separate legislation has been introduced with stringent penal provisions. At the same time, there is a need to consolidate and amend the law relating to foreign exchange consistent with the liberalisation

policies pursued during the last eight years. While the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Bill make foreign exchange contraventions civil wrongs, the offences under the prevention of Money-laundering Bill have been made criminal and will attract stringent punishment.

It may be recalled that the Prevention of Money-Laundering Bill, 1998 and the Foreign Exchange Management Bill, 1998 were introduced in the 12th Lok Sabha and thereafter referred to the Standing Committee on Finance. The Reports submitted by the Standing Committee on Finance have been examined and the current Bills incorporate many of the suggestions made by the Standing Committee.

Let me briefly speak about the Prevention of Money-Laundering Bill.

The offence of money-laundering relates to only proceeds of such crimes which have been mentioned in the Schedule to the Bill. These are heinous crimes which are certain offences under the Indian Penal Code, the Prevention of Corruption Act, the Narcotics Drug and Psychotropic Substances Act, the Arms Act and the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act.

The Bill seeks to make the offence of money-laundering punishable by way of rigorous imprisonment for three to seven years and fine upto Rs. 5 lakhs. In case of drug related offences, the punishment may extend upto ten years plus fine of Rs. 5 lakh.

The Bill also seeks to provide for attachment of property believed to be involved in money-laundering. The Bill also has provisions for granting powers, similar to those conferred under other economic legislations, of summons, survey, search and seizure. The Bill also seeks to cast certain reporting obligations on the financial institutions including banks. Special Courts are proposed to be set up to try the offence of money-laundering, and their orders will be appealable before the High Court. The Bill has provisions for having Treaties for Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition Proceedings with other countries so as to facilities the transfer of funds involved in money-laundering kept outside the country and extradition of the accused persons from abroad.

Sir, now allow me to say something very briefly about the Foreign Exchange Management Bill.

In the on-going process of economic liberalization, many changes in regard to foreign investment and foreign trade have been brought about since 1991 for closer interaction with the world economy. In this context, the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA) was reviewed in 1993 and it was felt that many of the restrictive provisions of this Act needed modifications. Further, certain Sections of this Act had lost their relevance and needed to be deleted from the Act. As a result of comprehensive review, the 1973 Act was amended in 1993.

At this stage the Ministry of Law had suggested that better course of action would be to repeal and introduce a new

legislation. Reserve Bank of India was accordingly asked to undertake a fresh exercise and suggest an altogether fresh legislation. A Task Force constituted for the purpose submitted its report in 1994 recommending substantial changes in the Act. Besides, there have been rapid developments in the external sector like better reserves position, substantial increase in India's foreign trade, progressive reduction in customs duties and India's decision to undertake the obligations of Article VIII of the IMF Articles of Agreement whereby all current account transactions are to be freely allowed.

Thus, this Bill aims to repeal and replace the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 and to further consolidate 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 commend these two Bills for consideration and passing by the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motions moved :

"That the Bill to prevent money-laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from, or involved in money-laundering and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

"That 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, be taken into consideration."

Before I call any Member to speak, there are amendments from Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. Let him move his amendments. I think he is not here.

Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to speak.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, these are two important pieces of legislation which have rather come a little late. We have over the years witnessed to our chagrin that illicit trafficking in drugs and arms has taken a heavy toll of the economies of various countries. According to one estimate, an amount as staggering as five billion dollars represents illegal trafficking in drugs per year the world over and an amount of seven hundred billion dollars represents the volume of illicit trade in arms.

We know the Golden Crescent, that is, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran and what we call the Golden Triangle comprising of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand as far as the trafficking in drugs is concerned. India, unfortunately, has been a transit country for drugs and has been the recipient of illicit arms as well. We know of the famous Purulia arms dropping case. Nothing much could be found out in that. But it certainly points to the gravity of the situation, the enormity of the problem which various countries, particularly the developing countries, face because of the illicit trafficking in drugs and

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

arms Therefore, it was quite imperative that a place of legislation like the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill should have been brought before Parliament. I unreservedly support this Bill because that has been our stand all through.

From time to time measures have been taken to protect the Indian economy from the onslaught of the inimical forces outside the country using crime, using the ill-gotten money from this activity to destabilise our country.

Coming from Punjab, one just cannot forget the turmoil, the uncertainty, and insecurity that stalked the State for a decade because of some association with or easy flow of money to the terrorists.

Another important aspect that immediately comes to one's mind when we take up a legislation like prevent of money laundering is the extent of ill-gotten money, money tainted with crime being used in various ways which may perhaps not be within our knowledge also. The hon. Minister has talked about and rather enumerated in the Bill in the form of Schedule certain offences which he rightly considers to be heinous ones and have to be addressed to on priority. I got a little late in moving my amendments which are not before the House as such. I have moved an amendment not because I have any problem or difficulty with his classification of offences but to bring to the notice of the honourable House that the matter just does not end there. The ramification of the problem, and the ways crime and money are interrelated are enormous. It is not just these few offences which have been mentioned there, there are various other offences committed for money. Of course, an argument can be well given that in case of any violation of Passports Act, it could attract a penalty or action under the Prevention of Corruption Act, etc. But in today's world, when the information technology is growing at an exponential rate, crime need not be committed by person actually visiting the place of crime. It is through the internet even that crime can be committed today. Therefore, we have got to be innovative. We have got to visualise all sorts of possibilities, ways and means which could be devised by the underworld, by various mafia groups to perpetrate crime and be benefited by the proceeds thereof. Since I do agree with the spirit of the Bill, I would not take much time in going into the details of the Bill or the principles behind that

I would very briefly refer to some of the provisions and I would request the hon. Minister to consider my amendments even though they have not been formally circulated as I got late in moving them today.

Firstly, personally speaking, I would like the reference to the scheduled offences to be deleted. I want the hon. Minister to consider that if we can incorporate the offence of murder in the Schedule, then I think there are other cases where even a lesser offence committed for pecuniary gains should attract a similar response from us.

And therefore, any crime which is committed and from which arises the monetary consideration should be included

in the scope of this Act and for that reason, I would, further, like to draw the hon. Minister's attention to the definition of money laundering itself. Here, Clause 5 (1) (a) of the Bill stipulates :

"any person is in possession of any proceeds of crime;

This is fine. Then, Clause 5(1) (c) further says :

"such person has been charged of having committed a scheduled offence;"

I think, this has to be omitted. Then, Clause 5 (1) (c) says :

"such proceeds of crime are likely to be concealed, transferred or dealt with in any manner which may result in frustrating any proceedings relating to confiscation of such proceeds of crime under this Chapter,"

If there is a reasonable apprehension or information with the concerned authority that a person is in possession of any proceeds of crime and also as mentioned in Clause 5 (1) (c) above, these two reasons should be good enough to take action.

Sir, the hon. Minister said that the law which he is proposing to this House is a stringent one. With respect, I would like to say that it is not stringent. The response is not commensurate with the problem that stares at our face menacingly. There could, very well, be a case where, for example, we know that there is a murder committed at a particular place. Some amount of money is related with that crime and recovered at some other place because an information is received by the concerned authority that such and such amount of money could be recovered from that place. So, now the murder turns out to be a blind one or you do not really, with an amount of certainty, trace the person who is the culprit in that crime. Not only this; let us take a case of narcotics, Money is recoverable there also, but not the actual offender. Unless we remove this Clause which says that unless such a person has been charged with that offence, the property cannot be attached, it will not serve the desired purpose. So, I think, this should be deleted to give more teeth to this piece of legislation.

Sir, when I say that certain more powers have to be given to the concerned authorities and their hands are not to be tied by the requirements like the one that particular person should also be charged with the offence, I, at the same time, feel that in Section 19 where, after the adjudicating authority has decided in a particular way that the property which has been attached need not be attached any further, a provision, somehow, has been made that despite that order of the adjudicating authority— which is a quasi-judicial authority comprising of senior officers — power has been given to the Director, to the Joint Director, to the Assistant Director etc., to still withhold release of that property. I think an amendment is required there also to say that in case the adjudicating authority feels that that property is relevant for the decision

of the appeal, it is the adjudicating authority which should permit the withholding of the release of the property.

I now come to the provision regarding the composition of the appellate authority which, again, is a little technical.

Today, when we have a plethora of cases accumulating in the courts and when we talk of judicial reforms being necessary because of piling up of cases in the High Courts and the Supreme Court, we have to – as far as the new legislations are concerned – ensure that the procedure prescribed is simple and effective.

I do agree that the appeal from the adjudicating authority goes to the Appellate Authority. But I further see, as the hon. Minister has provided for, the Chairman of the Appellate Authority can be a person who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court and the appeal from the Appellate Authority further goes to the High Court. I would like to suggest to him that as is the normal practice elsewhere in many other laws that we have, the appellate authority should be confined only to those people who have been or are qualified to be Judges of the High Courts.

I have a serious objection here. I would like the hon. Minister to consider this. This is the first piece of legislation where I find that this particular clause is missing "a person's qualification", that is, a Member of that appellate tribunal will be a person who has been or is a Judge of the High Court and, of course, thereafter the various officers. The words missing are :

"who is qualified to be a Judge of the High Court."

There is no other piece of legislation where this is provided for. You have a good number of competent jurists and lawyers who can very well perform this job. District Judges and Sessions Judges, who have done commendable jobs, are qualified to be Judges of the High Court, but because of this provision in the Act, they cannot be appointed Members of this appellate tribunal.

Thereafter, I have another suggestion to make, that is, for expeditious disposal of matters. I can understand at the initial stage where an appeal is sought to be filed against the decision of the adjudicating authority to the appellate authority. If the Government feels that the adjudicating authority has not taken notice of a particular provision of law or has somehow gone wrong in the decision of the case, they could very well appeal to the appellate authority. But I would humbly submit that the right of the Government to file a further appeal in the High Court should be restricted. The amendment that I have moved is an omnibus one that the State should not have the right to file an appeal. On a second thought, I find that on a question of law if an appeal were to be filed in the High Court, it is good enough. But if, on facts, the Government were to act like an ordinary litigant, filing appeals or revisions at every stage of the litigation, we will not come to an end of the matter. The point at issue would continue to linger on. We would end up with the same situa-

tion that is there in the courts today. The High Courts, as I just submitted to this hon. House, are already overburdened with work. So, we should spare the High Courts of additional work in this manner.

The cases could very well be decided by the adjudicating authorities and the appellate authorities. ....(Interruptions) I am talking of the powers given by the Act. What the Parliament cannot curtail is the right of the High Court under article 226 of the Constitution, that is, the writ jurisdiction. The other powers are all creation of the statutes. It is for any particular law to give any particular power to the High Courts or not or to decide upon any authority as the appellate authority. So, I think, the powers of the Government should be restricted, in filing appeals only, up to the level of the appellate authority.

Sir, when I began with my intervention in this matter, I very briefly referred to the money that is tainted by the blood of the people, by the poverty of the people. Rightly so, I find that an effort has been made to seek active assistance of the banks and other financial institutions in tracing certain offences or in trying to prevent money laundering. But I think, we have to give a little deeper thought to see as to how the banks can be made to ensure total transparency in their work. We know that crime arises at places where, what you could say, there is more of cash involved in the transactions.

What ways could be devised to see that there is regular flow of information to the Directorate from the banks, from the financial institutions and from the intermediaries? When I talk of intermediaries, I see that in the definitions of this word in the Bill, there is omission of – there may be a little deviation from the clause here as such but that is very relevant as far as the question of money laundering is concerned – the word Property Dealer.

We know that large amounts of ill-gotten money, money which is involved in crime is invested in real estate. A few years back, we saw a tremendous upsurge in the price of real estate. We have laws under the Income Tax Act to deal with the situation, but we at the same time, know with what impunity those laws are violated, and how the price of the real estate for registration purposes is undervalued. At the same time, because of the obstinacy of the Government to not really bring about reforms in laws relating to the transfer of property in metropolitan cities like Delhi and Chandigarh, large chunks of properties are being sold repeatedly on 'Power of Attorney'. That is again where huge amount of money, which could very well again be traced to crime, is utilised. It may work hardship on property dealers but ensuring that it does not, we have to also ensure that they also pass to that information to the Directorate which as stipulated under this Act is to be provided by the financial institutions, the banks and the intermediaries, etc.

Sir, another point which is very relevant here is that such money besides the hawala cases which is quite a normal practice for people living abroad, transferring their money in that form, another very ingenious way of using this money is by over-invoicing the general exports. There were two

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

instances in the recent past which exposed a practice like this. One was, basing my information on news items appeared in the newspapers, regarding the export of large amount of fountain pens from our country. Nothing really was there. The other case was of nail polish being exported to Russia.

Again it was over-invoicing. I do not know that could possibly be the route but certainly when the general exports are over-invoiced, that procedure, that system is used again to launder money which is connected with crime. Those are the things which need to be checked and the loopholes plugged. That is the reason why, to being with, I had said that the Schedule enumerating certain offences therein is just not enough to tackle the situation, the enormity of the situation that we face.

Sir, the two pieces of legislation which we are discussing are to an extent inter-related in so far as problem which we intend to tackle is concerned. While the changed economic scenario, the on-going process of liberalisation warrant a liberal law like the Foreign Exchange Management Bill in place of the earlier FERA, which today could be termed in retrospect harsh. It was enacted to deal with the situation that prevailed then in the country. In a changing, moving and a dynamic society such as ours, laws cannot really be static. Law is the manifestation of people's will expressed through their representatives in the Parliament.

16.47 hrs.

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*)

Therefore, today, in the new economic scenario, a law like the Foreign Exchange Management Bill, which is before us today, is needed. But here again, Sir, I rise to suggest only a few amendments if the hon. Minister considers them.

I think that institution of the Special Director (Appeals) should be totally done away with. I find here that if the adjudicating authority is of a status below a particular rank, the appeal would go to the Special Director (Appeals) and against the Order of the Special Director (Appeals), there would be an appeal to the Appellate Authority and as in the other Act, against the Order of the Appellate Authority, there would be an appeal to the High Court. So, there are three appeals. Thereafter, of course, there is Special Leave, etc. to the Supreme Court. To what extent you can protract, stretch the procedure. I think—this is my humble submission— it may be provided that the adjudicating authority shall not consist of Officers below a particular rank and thereafter the appeal should straightway go, in all cases, to the Appellate Authority and further, the same procedure be followed. Of course, by reiteration of my earlier suggestion that in the case of the Central Government, the right to appeal should come to an end with the decision of the Appellate Authority because up to that extent it is good enough for the Government and thereafter only if an individual feels aggrieved against the Order, he may file an appeal in the High Court. That will not only cut down the period of litigation but that will also mean less of expenditure on this. Today, when the Government is com-

mitted, when we are all committed, when we all want—that is the general feeling of the people — what is required is downsizing the Government. Through these measures, which are well intended measures, we are unwittingly expanding the system of Government.

Again, I find the word 'Authority' is not defined in the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill. Subsequently in sections 47, 48 and 52, we go to say that the Government can appoint authorities. Now, there is a long list of officers under different other laws who could be summoned to assist the authorities under this Act. That could, while working, lead to certain problems because you only say the police officers are hereby empowered. I think that is not the way of doing it. I again humbly submit that you may say, though it is a very small amendment otherwise, that these offices are empowered. Then, further, after providing all those things, finally you again say "whomsoever the Government may appoint." We do not know what would be the limit or the nature of duties assigned to different officers drawn from different Departments. When we are taking these two bills together for discussion, I think, it could have been worthwhile if the Government had adopted an integrated approach to the problem. It is because, as I said, there is a slight interrelation because certain crimes are committed across the borders. The money may flow in here. The money may be utilized here for abetting, for triggering off certain type of activities in our country. If there had been one integrated approach to the problem and we had one piece of legislation, this multiplicity of authorities could have also been, to an extent, checked. These powers of the adjudicating authority could have been given to the same two people and subsequently to the Appellate Authority also.

When I talk of the Appellate Authority, there is one very small amendment which I would again suggest. It says that the Appellate Authority shall consist of the Chairman and two other Members. I think it should be the Chairman and two or more Members because subsequently you talk of various Benches also. The Benches will be part and parcel of the Appellate Authority itself because the Chairman is empowered to transfer those people from one place to another or to fix the Benches to decide cases. In certain cases, he could even ask two Members of the Appellate Tribunal to decide the cases.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, you can conclude now.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : The Chairman could ask the other Members to take the matter singly or sitting in a Bench of two. I find from the financial memorandum that the Government proposes to set up such Benches at three places. That itself contradicts the earlier thing. So, I think if the Bill were to provide that the Appellate Authority shall consist of the Chairman and two or more Members, that could meet the situation like that.

Finally, bowing to your directions to conclude, I would support these two Bills. But at the same time, I would caution

the Government not to be complacent about it. The problem of money laundering is a very grave one which, as the Minister in his opening remarks as also in the Statement of Objects and Reasons has said, not only threatens your economy but it at times tends to destabilize the society itself. It impinges upon your political system. It threatens security, sovereignty and integrity of our country. As I said, India is only a conduit in this. For that reason, what scheme could be prepared when a particular drug starts its journey from say, South America or from the Golden Crescent or Golden Triangle that I have mentioned, before finding its way to Europe and America, what havoc it plays enroute with our economy here, are all points which we have to ponder over and be ever vigilant. Thank you very much.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Foreign Exchange Management Bill and grudgingly, of course, the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill.

By any stretch of imagination, I am not able to know as to how the FEMA Bill and the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill could go together except for a few provisions like Clauses 11, 13 and 14 where there could be presumption that money is laundered and is being used by foreign persons.

I will start with FEMA. Before starting with FEMA, I crave your indulgence to recite a Rubai from Omar Khayyam:

"Before the phantom of False morning died,  
Methought a Voice within the Tavern cried,  
"When all the Temple is prepared within,  
Why nods the drowsy Worshipper outside?"

We are bringing in a new dawn of millennium. The new millennium is a millennium which is ushering in liberalisation in attitude, in behaviour, in trade, in merchandise, etc. So, when you are thinking of the new dawn, the nodding person outside the tavern should not feel drowsy. He should come forward, be active and take part in new system of work that is being ushered in.

Sir, in 1947, the FERA was enacted because of difficulties in foreign exchange reserves and other things. That man I do not know who he is. Shri S.P. Jain's soul must be squirming in the ether because of the penalty of Rs. 55 lakh which was imposed on him for violation of keeping about Rs. 19,000 in the Deutsche Bank. That is because of the FERA. In 1973, after the Law Commission's advice and after taking into consideration the prevailing economic situation the FERA was enacted with very harsh provisions. At that time, it was necessary because of the difficulty in foreign exchange reserves and other things. Things have changed now and we are going in for liberalisation in a broad way. That is why, there is a necessity of the Foreign Exchange Management Act. Any regulatory function with a criminal tinge will prick the conscience of a person and regulatory functions create problems for human beings. It is said in Latin *Summon Jus Summa*

*Injuria* too much of legislation, too much of regulations create problems for a man.

Now, it is good that the Government has brought in a new Act where management will be done of foreign exchange and when you are managing things, there must be cooperation, there must be give-and-take basis and a belief and feeling that we go together.

My friend, who spoke earlier was speaking of different stages of appeal and all related matter. Since we are managing things, the management has to be in a broad manner. Now, that is why, the liberal Management, the FEMA has come. In the present scenario, we have very high foreign exchange reserves which the hon. Minister of Finance has told about it yesterday itself. There is a new investment regime. When there is a new investment regime, there must be liberal views. That is why, things have changed in the FEMA which has been taken up. He has dealt with them in detail. I am not going into the details. But in FEMA also some of the provisions of the FERA have been incorporated. But the harsh provisions have been softened, softened with a view to allow a better management of foreign exchange. The punitive provisions have been diluted. That is a very good thing which has been done because a person who was violating the FERA laws and all those things was being incarcerated and lots of the punishment was there. When there is some trade, there might be a little bit of criminal action or civil violation and all those things. But one should not be stringent in his attitude when there is a little bit of trade violations and all that. That is why, the punitive provisions have been deleted and there will be no criminal proceedings.

17.00 hrs.

It is a very important provision which has been incorporated in the FEMA. The most important is the process of adjudication before imposition of penalty. Since there is the process of adjudication, that is why it is management. And when there is the process of adjudication, the adjudication and the appellate matters could go together in a sense that at different stages, the adjudicating authority, the appellate authority and the special appellate authority can take different views to help the persons involved and to allow them to keep their money. But there are certain provisions which are too liberal. I invite the attention of the Finance Minister to certain provisions which are too liberal. The second proviso to Clause 19 reads :

"Provided further that where in any particular case, the Appellate Tribunal is of the opinion that the deposit of such penalty would cause undue hardship to such person, the Appellate Tribunal may dispense with such deposit subject to such conditions as it may deem fit to impose so as to safeguard the realisation of penalty."

I do not know how they would be able to safeguard the realisation of the penalty when they have allowed the money to be taken. There are certain other very liberal provisions which I think need to be thought of before giving a final shape to this Act.



[Shri Anadi Sahu]

In clause 40, a very liberal attitude has been taken. The Central Government has been given powers to render it necessary that any protection granted or restriction imposed by his Act should cease to be granted or imposed. That is a very liberal view which has been taken by the Central Government and by a notification, many of the provisions can be stopped for the time being. That is in keeping with the requirement of the time, the requirement of the trade, the requirement of the foreign trade and investments. As the scenario has been changing everyday, it would be necessary to keep such provision in the Act. It may look a little ridiculous now but it is absolutely necessary and may prove to be corrected later.

In view of these things, I would like to say that this is a very good Bill which has been brought. I am very precise on this FEMA Bill and I support it.

But so far as the Prevention of Money-Laundering Bill is concerned, it is a very peculiar legislation which is being enacted. The Civil Procedure Code, 1908 and the Criminal Procedure Code of 1973 (Act 2 of 1974) are being clubbed together. I do not know how the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code and the Criminal Procedure Code can be taken together and the Prevention of Money-Laundering Bill can have its teeth, or it would not become cumbersome. So far as I understand, in the Prevention of Money-Laundering Bill, the first thing is that a crime has been committed under the Schedule. Part I of the Schedule deals with offences under the Indian Penal Code, Part II deals with offences under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, Part III deals with offences under the Arms Act, and Part IV deals with offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and Part V deals into prevention corruptions Act. Now, the crime has to be committed and a charge-sheet has to be placed. That is the import of this Prevention of Money-laundering Bill. If you kindly see clause 16, it is stated there :

✿ "Provided that no search shall be conducted unless, in relation to an offence under –

(a) Part I, Part II, Part III or Part V of the Schedule, a report has been forwarded to a Magistrate under section 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973; or

(b) Part IV of the Schedule, a police report on a complaint has been filed for taking cognizance of an offence by the Special Court constituted under sub-section (1) of section 36 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985."

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act provides very harsh punishment and also requires lots of stipulations in the Act itself, but the investigation is almost very simple so far as other agencies are concerned. But so far as the police investigation under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act is concerned, it is very cumbersome. That is why many persons always try to get the offences under Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act to be charge-sheeted or the charges to be framed by persons other than the policemen.

A policeman always has to send a report first to the Magistrate and he cannot take the written the statement and all those things. The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act is better handled by other agencies than policemen. But the first thing is that a chargesheet has to be placed. Then only the authorities will swing into action. There are many other things in Clause 15. It also says :

"Where it has been indicated that the authorities will record that statement of any person present in the place which may be useful for or relevant to any proceedings under this Act."

It says 'record their statement'. At some places it is said seizure is to be done. At some places it has been said inventory is to be done. There are the things which would create problem at the time of taking steps in the Act. At the time of implementation, problems may arise.

Now, when a chargesheet has been placed under Section 173 of the Criminal Procedure Code, Clause 15 says that the authorities will make a survey and then give in writing for entry and search and seizure. Once a chargesheet has been placed under Section 173 Cr. P.C. all these search, seizure etc. have been completed. Under Section 170 of the Criminal Procedure Code, a person has been remanded to custody and in Section 173 Cr. P.C. the officer incharge of the Police station or the investigating officer, with the consent of the officer incharge of the police station, writes who are the persons who have been chargesheeted as in the case of Rajiv Gandhi's case where a lot of storm has been raised.

Once a chargesheet has been placed, records have been seized, how is it possible for the Authority himself to act under clause 15 to take steps which will create lots of confusion at a later stage. There might be double jeopardy. That is why I said about the clubbing of the Criminal Procedure Code and the Civil Procedure Code which would create problem.

Now, take the special courts. I do not know whether the special courts under the Prevention of Corruptions Act, under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act will be the same as the special court in this Prevention of Money-Laundering Bill. If there is a separate court for this purpose and a person has been tried in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act in the special court, even under the Immoral Traffic Act, there might be contradiction and there might be difficulties if somebody has been tried by a special court with special procedure and later on to try him in this Act. As my Hon'ble friend was saying, there might be some tooth in the initial stage but the tooth might have been uprooted because of caries. This is the most important thing which has to be taken into account.

The Standing Committee on Finance had given some suggestions. I do not know why, but the Government, in their wisdom, did not think it proper to incorporate many of the suggestions of the Standing Committee. In my humble opinion, what is the necessity of keeping the Immoral Traffic Act in Schedule II in this Bill ?

In the last Clause of the Immoral Traffic Act it says : "Seducing a person in custody". I do not know in what manner it will help in the case of money-laundering because I have no such experience in my 30 years of police service. I did not have any experience of seduction of a person in custody and money-laundering. May be there are some instances here and there. But it may be fraught with danger. An authority has been allowed to arrest. The law of the land always says that any person who is arrested, in most cases, will be produced at the police station or before the Magistrate, if the time is there and all those things. Instead of producing the person at the police station, it may so happen, as per this act, that the person arresting may keep him for some time. It will create a problem for the Government. There must be a provision that any person who is arrested must be sent to jail and if it is not possible, sent him to the police station temporarily. That is how the accountability will be there. Otherwise it may so happen that the money-launderer in his own way, may palm off some money to the authorities concerned and we may not be able to do anything in that matter and he may escape easily.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM) : You know it better.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : That is why from my experience I am telling all these things.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sahu, please conclude.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : I will take only two minutes. Once you have given the orders, I will sit down.

So, when we are thinking of the Prevention of Money-Laundering Bill, we have to think of all these preventions. We could have taken recourse to section 357 of the Cr. P.C. for compensation and taking money from the person who has laundered the money. Why should a special Bill be brought ? Yet, if a special Bill has come, let all these things be taken into account before the Prevention of Money-Laundering Bill is made into an Act.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (MURSHIDABAD) : Respected Chairman Sir, again I rise to oppose the two Bills which are now under discussion because I firmly believe that it is my duty towards my nation. While opposing the Bill, I would like to say something.

Firstly, what is the background of FEMA ? I suppose that the hon. Finance Minister has told at the time of introduction of the Bill, and other places also, that the position of the foreign exchange reserves is very sound. We know that there are foreign exchange reserves to the tune of more than 34 billion dollars in our country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we scrutinise the structure of Indian external account, what do we find ? I would like to detail the position. There are two aspects of foreign external account, I suppose, one is visible part and the second is invisible part. These are the two aspects in our external account. So far as

visible part is concerned, it consists of trade account. Trade account is export and import-related account, that is, export minus import or import minus export. Our hon. Finance Minister very well knows that so far as the position of trade account is concerned, it has been deteriorating throughout the last decade.

At the time of opposing the introduction of the Bill, I referred to one datum. Perhaps, due to that, the hon Finance Minister misunderstood me. That datum was that in 1996-97, the deficit in this account was nearly 12.5 billion dollars. That was 3.5 per cent of our GDP in 1996-97. Hon. Finance Minister has told that it is now on a very lower side at 1 per cent or 1.5 per cent. I believe it also. If we see it in absolute terms, what is the position now ? In 1996-97, it was 12.5 billion dollars in absolute terms and now also, I believe that it is near that figure. I would like to clarify my point. This account has been under pressure throughout the last decade, but India was saved. How ?

It is due to the glorious improvement, throughout the last decade, in the other aspect of external account, that is, the invisible account. What is this invisible account ? Everybody knows about it. It depends upon many headings. The largest component of this account, as you know, is from the net private transfer, dividend given by the industrialists, disinvestment, investment, insurance premium etc. The largest component is that of those who are living abroad, that is, the Non-Resident Indians, who remit the funds in our country. It is the net private transfer which is the largest component in this account. My point is this. One of the major reasons to remit this large amount is that there is a big difference between the currency value of dollar and rupee. I do not want to go into the details on this. But I firmly believe that this remittance is volatile in nature. We cannot depend on this volatile situation; on unreliable account, we cannot depend on this. We have seen the fate of the South-East Asian countries; we have seen the fate of the Asian tigers. In this background, I would like to say that India, our nation, is not in a position to shift from regulation to management. Why in a hurry ? Is it to promote the *hawala* culture in the country or is it to help foreign exchange racketeers ? Will our Finance Minister answer a simple question ? How much money-laundering is there in this foreign exchange sector ?

Respected Chairman, Sir, two Bills are being presented as complementary to each other. Misuse of foreign exchange is a simple civil offence; diversion or misuse is not a criminal offence at all. What does this mean ? I suppose, this is not in favour of our country.

From the Bill, I came to know that the position of the RBI has not been defined properly. They will not manage or exercise any control. The RBI would keep its eyes closed as the foreign exchange operators need not take any permission from the RBI. There is no control of the RBI, and no permission is required from the RBI.

Moreover, this National Democratic Alliance Government is taking decision one by one to open up our economy, ignor-

[Shri Moinul Hassan]

ing the public protests. They have been ignored a petition containing 15 million signatures. More foreign investors would come with funds, but there will be nobody to control the inflow or outflow of capital. This is main danger before the nation today

Respected Chairman, Sir, so far as the Money-Laundering Bill is concerned, I would like to confine myself to two or three points. Black money generation is virtually a threat before the Indian economy. There is a need for legal framework to stop this generation. I am sorry to say that there is no adequate provision in this Bill regarding this. The Government is trying to open up our economy to integrate ourselves with the global economy.

In fact, the Government is globalising money laundering, drug business and gun running etc. The finances are flowing into terrorist activities and smuggling of gold. Now, could this piece of legislation protect our nation from these things? I suppose, no.

Sir, many people are talking about globalisation. Permit me to say that there is a yearly conversion of 500 million dollars into white money through money laundering activities throughout the world. It is two per cent of global domestic product.

Sir, we are talking about globalisation. I would like to refer to the statements made by two gentlemen. The Director (Fiscal Affairs) of the IMF and the Advisor of the IMF's Monetary and Exchange Affairs, Mr. Vito Tanzi and Mr. Peter Quirk in the year 1996 placed a report before the IMF and I would like to quote that report. The report says :

"The globalisation of the world economy and the growing efficiency of capital markets allow individuals and firms to shift vast amount of money relatively freely between domestic financial market of one country to another which makes money laundering easier".

Sir, what are we doing and in what manner? The most remarkable grey area in the matter of money laundering is the manipulation of balance sheets. They are a part of the liberalisation process. This Bill is proposing to allow known offenders and known criminals to be freed from accusations. The people who are indulging in manipulation of balance sheets and money laundering would also go scot free by way of this piece of legislation. So, this Bill is not competent to save the interest of the country and I would like to oppose this Bill.

SHRIM.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is an era when we are moving from the regulation regime to the management regime. In several fields harsh terms are being changed to soft words. That is why, instead of regulation, we are having this Prevention of Money Laundering and Foreign Exchange Management Bills. These bills are being brought together.

Sir, there is no doubt about the fact that we have to change with the changing times. But are we sufficiently geared up to meet this sort of a situation? This is the question that has to be looked into. Ours is one of the developing nations where we are having a lot of corruption. We know many areas where black money is in circulation and we are unable to control the circulation of black money in these areas. These areas include, property dealing, real estate and even foreign exchange remittances.

Sir, we have to move with the moving times. We cannot have both the cake as well as the stick. The hon. Finance Minister is here and I would like to point out to him that more transparency is necessary in the transaction of the banks in these matters, like how the remittances are being arrived at, and how we could be able to arrest them, have to be looked into. Many people have already told about over-invoicing, under-invoicing and smuggling of narcotics etc.

We have taken certain steps like rationalisation of customs duties. However, in a developing country like ours we should be doubly cautious about these transactions. Otherwise, any amount of laws will not help. Even with a stringent law like FERA we still have foreign exchange irregularities. Since we are going to bring into effect the FEMA, we should see as to how we can ensure that irregularities are stopped. Prevention of money-laundering and management of foreign exchange are interrelated subjects. Therefore, an integrated approach should be adopted while dealing with these subjects. However, in certain clauses they differ with each other in approach.

I agree that too many regulations will not help our country. We have to fall in line with the rest of the world. We are already in the process of liberalisation in various fields. This is one of the areas where liberalisation was needed. That is why the Finance Minister has come out with these Bills. At the same time too much of liberalisation also would lead a developing country like ours into a difficult situation because people are not geared to accept the liberalisation in certain areas particularly in money dealings.

Offenders should be treated in a way where there is no place for protracted litigation. It is common experience in our country that once somebody commits an economic offence, the litigation goes on for several years and by the time the verdict is given one forget as to what had happened in the first instance in that case. There should be a methodology to see that economic offenders are proceeded against in time. In the first instance it is very difficult to get hold of offenders. When one of these offenders is caught, litigation goes on for years together without the case coming to its logical conclusion. A legal framework should be put in place wherein an offender could be tried and the legal process is brought to the conclusion at the earliest. The Finance Minister may think that we have a comfortable amount of foreign exchange reserves. As suggested by a colleague, out of the 34 billion US dollars plus of reserves, a major part is NRI remittances rather than trade surplus. So, how to generate surplus in the country is a very important thing. Otherwise, when there is a run,

people will withdraw their money and we will be put in a very difficult situation. Instead of depending solely on depository accounts we should also get real money by way of trading. That part of the reserves is more sound than the present depository accounts.

I fully agree with the view that we should fall in line with the rest of the world. I, therefore, support these Bills.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the two Bills listed as items 9 and 10 of the today's List of Business, that is, Prevention of Money Laundering Bill, 1999 and Foreign Exchange Management Bill, 1999 are being taken together for the consideration of the House.

Sir, the much watered down Foreign Exchange Management Bill is slated to replace the more stringent law, that is, FERA. It has been reported and whispered in the country that the industrial lobby and the big industrial associations of our country are creating constant pressure on the Government to convert FERA into FEMA. And, I think, it will rather help the *hawala* operators and black-marketeers. That is why we are strongly opposing this Bill.

I do not know whether the hon. Finance Minister will express his anguish to this particular language. But I am rather compelled to say that this Bill is anti-national also. I oppose this Bill.

This Bill seeks to dilate on the offence under the foreign exchange violation. The offences of foreign exchange violation is not considered as a criminal offence under the new provisions. It is only a civil offence. The penalty is only payment of fine, that too, in a limited way. So, the Bill proposes to give effect retrospectively. In many cases, it will be difficult to counter foreign exchange violation, particularly, *hawala* crime.

Sir, under the present law, prior to the full-scale convertibility particularly, capital account convertibility, such a devolution shall make illegal outflow of funds easy, and violation shall be committed with impunity. Illegal transaction of funds are done because of the inadequacy of taxes.

17.33 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

It is primarily done to protect illegal income arising out of the tax evasion and avoidance of law. Decline in value of Indian currency is also a significant factor which encourage stashing away of funds. In the name of liberalisation, efficient measures are considered to be retrograde steps. Illegal diversification of funds out of the country is an offence against the community and it impinges upon the resource mobilisation to tackle basic human problems. Therefore, it is wrong to consider this as a civil offence. Liberalisation gives rise to criminality. It is sought to be passed as civil offence.

So, we think, if this House passes this Bill, it will help the black marketers, criminals, black marketeers and *hawala* operators. So, once again we oppose this Bill

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I rise to support the two Bills brought before Parliament for converting the FERA to FEMA as also the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill which is being considered along with the first Bill.

What we are discussing today is the method that is required along with moving times to facilitate external trade and payment and for promoting orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India. This is not a new Bill. This was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August, 1998. It has been referred to the Standing Committee. But unfortunately the Lok Sabha was dissolved. So, it could not be proceeded with. Now the foreign exchange management concept is not a static concept. It is not that this Bill which was enacted in 1973, then called Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, will continue to be relevant for ever. Things are changing. Things will change. The financial scenario of the country is changing. It must change. It must progress and along with this, the rules and regulations must also be amended to meet the changing situation and, therefore, the concept that any change that is being brought about is not a desirable one, is a static concept. It is not a dynamic concept. The dynamic concept is to change with the changing scenario, particularly fiscal and financial scenarios of the country. The previous speaker and all the other speakers who got up always started by saying many things about our country, but one of the things that is most commonly heard is that we are a very corrupt country and it surprises me because if it is said in relation to the change in FERA, then FEMA has been in operation since 1973, a period of more than 26 years and, therefore, this corruption can be put in the shelf of FERA despite the fact that it had so-called very harsh provisions for managing it. Therefore, harshness by itself is not a panacea for managing fiscal and financial ills. The remedy is to move with the times, to move and meet the requirement of the financial institutions, to take note of financial developments in the country and thereafter to make amendments to our rules and regulations so that they meet the requirements. Ours is a poor country and every time somebody got caught in a FERA violation, there is a lot of jubilation on the part of the common man and he says "Oh, this man has been caught. Now he will be penalised." Therefore, a concept arose as if every man doing any financial malfeasance or financial irregularity or a contravention of the orders that existed for a highly undesirable man, should be put behind the lock and key and then the whole lawful people would be very happy.

This appeared to be the concept. If it is a financial irregularity, there are ways of finding and penalizing him but to immediately consider it as a third degree crime would not be in the fairness of things if we want a better management of foreign exchange in our country as well as better correlation between our foreign exchange management and foreign trade. Therefore, concept-wise, this is a change towards a more human outlook towards financial transactions.

[Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi]

It has been said that this Bill has diluted certain provisions of the old FERA and that it has become very very kind to people who commit various regulation malfeasance and therefore it is anti-national. Anti-national, I find, is becoming a very common word in this august House. All financial liberalization measures are called anti-national. I would like to say that the measure has been brought only to remove the fear. Under FERA, in 1995, 2456 show-cause notices were issued and prosecution was launched in 202 cases; in 1996, the show-cause notices issued were 2291 and prosecution was launched in 101 cases; and in 1997, 2726 show-cause notices were issued while prosecution was launched in 90 cases. What kind of harassment went on in the meanwhile can only be imagined. It is the draconian measures that this Bill proposes to remove. It has become more open but it must not be taken as a cosmetic change.

There is a definite radical departure from FERA. For example, sections 8 to 31 of FERA are a labyrinth of regulations which do not promote any growth. They stopped financial dealings. On the other hand, the Foreign Exchange Management Bill is orderly. Admittedly, it is liberal and it will definitely promote financial dealings a great deal.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, conclude now.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Chairman, Sir, while you speak nobody can get you concluded, then why are you asking me to conclude I am speaking very slowly. Please give me five minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There I am in opposition and here I am impartial.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : I admit my fault.

[English]

The change in this Bill should be seen in relation to the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill. It is in the fitness of things that both the Bills are being considered together. It is our habit that we club all offences at the same level.

[Translation]

You take smuggling for example ; a man taking one bag of rice, and some poor people carrying clothes would be stopped. Similarly a man smuggling opium and a man smuggling weapons would also be stopped. This Money Laundering Bill is more stringent, it is more firm and FEMA is more humanistic, we must understand the difference.

If you say that stringent action should be taken in regard to arms, narcotics etc. so much emphasis should not be laid on other things, then half of our employees would have not work and the emphasis would be on the right thing.

There are some merits in this. We will rather say that

FEMA itself will take us in the right environment in the 21st Century. It will harmonise with world trade, it will expand and the fear of foreign money, internal money would be dispelled.

[English]

The Government which has the maximum number of draconian laws is the most corrupt one.

[Translation]

Our fiscal and financial institutions will be strengthened by doing away with them. Thus, I call upon the House to support the Bill. I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the two Bills introduced by the hon. Finance Minister.

Really speaking, these two Bills are very necessary in the changed circumstances. We are at the threshold of the new Millennium and we are in an era of liberalisation and globalization.

In this changed situation, I think that stringent laws are very necessary to plug the loopholes and to teach lessons to the offenders. We are all aware that money laundering is the world's third largest business, next to petroleum and foreign exchange. This activity has threatened the sovereignty and integrity of the nations. The money derived from illegal activities is converted into assets and is appeared to have acquired from legitimate sources. Laundering is a secretive business, quantum is a guess work which is threatening the international financial system also.

According to the UN, the annual turnover from the global trade in illicit drug is 400 billion dollars. The laundering-men can avoid detection in a myriad ways, cash is funnelled in through offshore shell companies by using anonymous accounts and broken into small deposits to dodge rules that require banks to report all large deposits. It is very interesting to note that crores and crores of rupees are involved in this kind of transactions. The big men are involved in these illicit ways and it is now posing as a threat to the unity and integrity of the nations as well as threatening the very basic economics of countries. That money is challenging the State's economy. We can see what happened in Mexico, Thailand and some other countries. These are the examples before the nation.

It has been reported widely in newspapers that America has waged in economic war against nations which were not ready to enact laws to plug money laundering.

So, this is a very serious issue which is confronting not only India and other developing countries but also other nations of the world. Interestingly, as Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal has mentioned, there is a very close link between terrorism:

and money laundering. If you examine the terrorist activities throughout the world, you will find that there is a close link between the two, and India is not an exception. There was a mention about the Golden Triangle. Drug trafficking is taking place in the border areas of our country. India is one of the transit points of drug trafficking and it is corrupting our system. It is unfortunate that even the para-military personnel who are posted in the border areas are involved in drug trafficking and other things. It has been widely reported in the newspapers that the ISI is also involved in this kind of drug trafficking. India has become a main transit point for all these drugs. I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to plug and loopholes and take certain stringent measures in this regard. It is because, it involves the security of the nation. As rightly mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the UN and other international agencies have asked several countries to come forward and take measures to plug these loopholes in regard to money laundering. The UN held certain Conventions also. The UN and other international agencies are time and again asking the member countries to take corrective steps in this regard. It is sure that nobody would oppose the essence of this Bill, but at the same time, certain apprehensions have been raised in certain quarters about this Bill.

At the outset I would like to mention that I am supporting this Bill. It should be given more teeth. We should plug the loopholes. At the same time the apprehensions expressed in certain quarters, especially by the industrialists should be taken note of. Of course, the country cannot be converted into a Police State. At the same time we should see to it that the problems and issues raised by them are looked into in all fairness. It is because they are also the citizens of this country. They have given some Memoranda to the hon. Minister of Finance. I would request the hon. Minister to look into all these aspects. This Bill should not go against the basic rights of the citizens as established by the criminal law. The FICCI and other organizations have raised certain issues. They have conducted a seminar which was widely reported in all the newspapers. They have mentioned that the investigating officer has been vested with the barbaric powers to summon, search, seizure and arrest based on his reason to believe.

Sir, it has been mentioned that under the Money-Laundering Act, the authorities will be empowered, merely on reasons to believe, to investigate and the officer will have the power to summon and extract statement from any person and the same shall be deemed to be judicial proceedings within the meaning of Sections 193 and 228 of the Indian Penal Code, 1960. On mere suspicion, the investigating officer will have the powers to search, seize and arrest. This aspect has to be viewed and the Finance Minister should think about this very seriously.

Another very important issue which is to be mentioned is the composition of the Appellate Tribunal. On the other day, when one of our Members Shri J.S. Brar was complaining that officers are getting more powers, the hon. Finance Minister took offence to that. Now, let us see the composition of the Appellate Tribunal. It says that a person is or has been a

judge of the High Court. Unfortunately, Mr. Finance Minister, your officers are misleading you. They want to take undue powers. Some of them want to serve in Appellate Tribunal after the retirement. What is the necessity for that? You are also taking the age limit of 65 years. Is there a dearth of officers? What is the need for that? We have qualified people in this country to serve on the Appellate Tribunal. Unfortunately, this is what is happening in our country. The officers who are sitting at the helm of affairs are influencing the Ministers and the Ministers are, knowingly or unknowingly, accepting whatever they are saying. My request to the hon. Finance Minister is that it should be modified as – a person is or has been or is qualified to be a judge of the High Court so that others also could get an opportunity. I think in all fairness the Minister will accept this proposal.

Now, I come to special courts. Shri Murthy has rightly pointed out that we are hearing or are witnessing all kinds of judicial proceedings in our country. Undue delay in the proceedings of our cases is affecting the people very much. Even though there is a provision for setting up special court, I am afraid that these proceedings will take more time and justice will not be getting to the people in time.

I think, the hon. Finance Minister might have gone through the serious observations made by the Reserve Bank of India regarding this Bill. The RBI has expressed the following view

"The onus of proof in case of illegal money-laundering should be on the agencies who are trying these cases and not the accused."

According to the Bill, the accused has to prove it. This is against the jurisprudence. I think that this has to be viewed very seriously. Certainly other issues have also been raised by the RBI. But I do not want to go into them due to time constraint. The main issue which they have pointed out is regarding the onus of proof. I think the hon. Finance Minister will definitely go through these aspects. When we are passing a legislation, it should be foolproof and these lacunae should be plugged.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I request to extend the sitting of the House by half an hour. ....(Interruptions)

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House agrees, time can be extended by half an hour.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, only two-three persons have been left to speak, please get it passed today itself.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Kindly consider what we have been saying.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

[English]

We are supporting the Bill, all right. But there are certain points which we have made. You please consider those points.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : We will do it.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I am sure, you will consider them.

[Translation]

This is in your interest. You have created a special court. Apart from that, cases relating to other offences will be dealt by some another court so all these cases should be dealt with by one court. They should not move any other court.

[English]

There are certain things which you please reflect over.

[Translation]

Do not pass it in a haste, let it be passed tomorrow... (Interruptions) Time does not matter. We will sit for half an hour, but it will be better to consider it today and get it passed tomorrow .... (Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : The reply is also to be given.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : We do not mind. We would certainly want you to consider the suggestions which we have made. We are helping you. You have provided for Supreme Court judges. No Supreme Court Judge will come to sit in this Bench.

[Translation]

There is nothing in it. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : If will be done. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : If others are to remain. It would add to your difficulties.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it would have been better if these two bills had been passed two years earlier as this would have further strengthened the new era of liberalisation into which we are entering. I would start my speech by narrating an incident which happened in a company. There is a company in Mumbai which exported a total of six containers in all. The company exported items worth 6 crore and 89 lakhs rupees. When they went to export seventh container at the Mumbai Port Trust the custom officers opened the container. Much to their

surprise, they found some cloth in it of little value. The company has already received about Rs. 95 lakh as duty drawback on the last six consignments exported earlier. I have quoted one instance only, there are hundreds of such instances.

Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to consider as to how far it is good to develop concepts like duty drawback when we are entering into the competitive market and wish to promote export business ? On the one hand we are making the laws more stringent through money laundering Bill and on the other hand we are relaxing the laws by converting the FERA into FEMA. Both have their own importance, I support the policies of the Government and the administration. I wish to request the hon'ble Minister that since the administration is moving ahead in the right direction and we have made good progress during the past one year and a half, still more attention is required to be paid to make further improvements. If not today, when can we get the figures of the number of cases registered and the number of persons served show cause notices under COFEPOSA and the number of cases settled across the table and the number of persons punished out of them. I have some of the figures with me but I do not wish to cite them today. Administration is moving in the right direction. Hon'ble Minister is steering in a new direction. I feel and I wish that it is necessary to give information here by making the administration more accountable through the representatives of the people what is the position of our country ? U.S. expert has stated about duty drawback, bogus export and such imports.

[English]

A US expert has given one tip on this. He has quoted a case where on paper exercise bicycle was exported for a ridiculous price of 15 cents a piece against an average global price of around \$ 100.

"Similarly, truck and bus tyres were imported from USA for over 1000 dollars a piece when actual price was around 150 dollars."

[Translation]

There are several instances like that and these are still continuing and money laundering is related to Hawala, smuggling, drug trafficking and all that. This is the best example as to how money laundering is done. Fraud businessmen earn money by bogus exports through FEMA-FERA and on the other hand drug traffickers or criminals get money through Hawala transactions with the help of these businessmen. I want to cite another example -

[English]

"It is estimated that over 100 billion dollars is generated and/or slashed abroad by resident Indians in defiance of FERA. It is still an enigma that many Indians on their return journey to Indian halt out of their way at Zurich ostensibly to change flight. The reason is best known to them only. (We

also know as to why they are changing the flight). We have seen the rising incidence of black and white shades of money for the last few decades but the green money is surpassing all that."

[Translation]

I want to draw the attention of the House towards these rising incidents. A check on them is necessary. I just want to quote one more instance as to why it is necessary to bring the Money Laundering Bill. A resolution has been passed by the United Nations and others. It has also been mentioned somewhere in the Money Laundering Bill that extradition treaty should also be brought in use to check this money laundering racket. We have recently entered into an extradition treaty with Dubai. Whether this extradition treaty could also be used to control the activities of biggest underworld don of Maharashtra or India, Dawood who operates from Dubai or Pakistan? I also urge upon the House to use this money laundering Bill against the mafia dons who are running big empires in Mumbai.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the news system which has come into being is poison for the entire financial system. It requires to be controlled. Otherwise our condition would become as that of Mexico and other countries. Thus, this new law is extremely important. This malady is not restricted to India alone.

[English]

"A report published in 1995 by Australia's financial intelligence unit concluded that between 740 million dollars to 3.3 billion dollars was washed through Australia each year. (The same is the position with Netherland also.) In Netherland 14 per cent dubious cases went to police and only 0.5 per cent of the original suspects went for prosecution."

[Translation]

But we can make this law more stringent by making provisions for this, here in our country. In 1992, when we entered in the new era of liberalisation, in a way we gave certain relaxations in the matter of current account and foreign exchange. We are moving ahead in the same direction by making further relaxations in the matter of current account and making of transparent. But at the same time I would express my concern that it has been mentioned somewhere in Section 6 of the Bill that efforts are being made by the Ministry, Department to give exemption to the capital account transaction for supporting the current account transaction. It is good. I would also request you not to hasten the opening of the capital account simply because you wish to relax the current account. We have opened up capital account for certain kind of transactions today. At present our economy is not that strong or Mature enough to free the Capital Account. I know that our Government do not have such intentions. Hope the Hon'ble Minister would clarify the position in this regard.

In the end I would like to state that both the bills brought forward by you in order to control the Hawala business and criminal activities is a right step in the direction. Thus, I support both the bills.

[English]

SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill before the House is a very important legislation. As we are entering into the 21st century and a very wide field of having global trade and other things, I feel that we are having a very sincere and famous Finance Minister, but I do not think that this Bill has a clear idea of the path which it wants to take. I think that the Finance Minister could not go through it fully, because it was prepared keeping in mind the UN Resolution alone. So, it is not a comprehensive Bill which will threaten the foreign investors when they come to our country. Even though the Bill will be passed, since we are supporting it, I would request the Finance Minister that he should along with the Home Minister, Law Minister and External Affairs Minister and formulate a better legislation which would also be very simple.

Then, the number of white collar crimes has increased in our country. So, we have a clear, simple and concise Bill to prevent these crimes. If we compare the two Bills which are before the House, there is a lot of repetition. Instead of having two Bills, we can have only one Bill which is very comprehensive and useful. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to have a separate focussing on these types of crimes.

The Indian Penal Code is very clearly defined, unlike this Bill. But the Indian Penal Code is now used only for tackling the law and order problems in the States, because it is a State subject. We have a subject here, under this Bill which is very wide and which goes beyond the States and beyond the country also. Therefore, we should have a separate enforcement authority, just like the Central Bureau of Investigation, for preventing the white collar crimes. There should be a Central Economic Police Department. Management of foreign exchange is not required. The nomenclature of the Bill itself is a misnomer. There is nothing to manage here, there should only be policing. It is required to catch the culprits, book them, put them behind the bars and confiscate the properties which they have acquired through their illegal activities.

That cannot be management. It can be policing. There should be separate policing which should be finding out who actually are committing the crime. They should be very watchful and find out that in our territory, there should not be any crime committed in these ways. Therefore, if that type of machinery is created, then, that will be giving more confidence to the law-abiding people so that they can be very clear in their minds that if they were law-abiding, then they are protected. If anything happens beyond the law, then they will be punished. That type of circumstances have to be created. That environment has to be created in this new era. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Finance to concern



[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

trate on creating a separate agency which should be policing because we find in the Act that it is having both the executive and the judicial powers in one hand. That should be separated like that in the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution.

Now, when we are going for a law that should have clarity to say that a machinery which is looking after the management of the economy can be a prosecutor but cannot be a judge for it. Now, regarding the powers of the Assistant Director or below that rank, it is giving the powers to create a case or to be a prosecutor. At the same time, they are also sitting as judges. That bifurcation should be there. They can be prosecutors but the judge should be somebody else. The court should be there. Special courts, which are created for the purpose of economic offences to cover up these types of laws alone should be created. There should be full-time judges and not judges who are retired or who are retired civil servants or something like that. That should not be there.

When you are having a verdict in a criminal court, then, it catches the eyes of all the people. But when there is a verdict by the Assistant Director or the Deputy Director, it cannot catch the eyes of the people. It cannot prohibit further occurrence of such offences. Therefore, it should be a separate entity. Judiciary should be separated and full-time judges should be appointed. When there is an appellate side also, full-time judges should be appointed. Unless that type of thing is created, there will not be a fear of law. Inside the administration, just like a Revenue Board, they are also not worried about it. They are getting an order. Then, they are quashing it by way of some other proceedings. Therefore, there should be separation of executive and judiciary. This is a very important legislation and needs particular attention of the Ministry of Finance. Therefore, I will request the Minister of Finance to make that arrangement.

In the meantime, I would also like to submit that when we go through the law, especially the definition made for money laundering, in section 3, it is not very clear what property he acquires, owns, possesses or transfers any proceeds of the crime. Where is the crime committed? Suppose the crime is committed in a foreign country and property is acquired here or suppose a crime is committed and property is acquired somewhere else and money is laundered, will it attract? When such types of reciprocal things are happening, this particular section will not attract that type of thing?

In the same way, there are many things which are not directly focussing or pinpointing that these are the offences punishable. That type of specification is not there and throughout the code, only the description of the authority and the powers of the authority and procedures are laid down. If both the Bills are taken up together, then it can be very simple and, at the same time, it will be a comprehensive Bill.

As one of our hon. Members told, when the Criminal Procedure Code is allowed to be followed, it is very easy to make a law instead of giving procedures. How it has to be searched or how it has to be supervised or surveyed are the

things. Every definition is very weak. It is also not very clear when we compare it with search under the Criminal Procedure Code.

It is not a clear one, if we compare it with search in the Criminal Procedure Code. When we are having a very good law of Criminal Procedure Code. Simply we can add it, just like in one section it is added the Criminal Procedure Code will be followed. In the same way we can make it that way also.

I would like to sum up my submission by saying that nowadays the cinema and television are showing blackmarketing and foreign exchange violations done through the sea route. These activities are now taken up by the unemployed youth, especially the educated youth, to show their heroic approach. Therefore, if the statistics are gone through, we can see such types of offences committed in foreign countries. By doing so, they are amassing wealth and showing their wealth in this country. These types of things have to be looked into. And such cinemas should be prohibited.

We have to be preventive on the one side and there should be rehabilitation on the other side. Some people are unnecessarily involved and their families are totally razed. Such type of people should be taken care of. They should be rehabilitated. Their families are in the streets and they cannot find out how to bring them out, because they are used as tools in the hands of rich people, who are having a very good network throughout the world. In the Southern part of India, you can easily find, on every airport, people travelling with passports and getting something smuggled from outside, they are caught, and jailed. There is nobody to bother about them. In the same way many people in Singapore, Malaysia and Arabian countries could not be repatriated. They are living there and they are tortured there. In the Arabian countries, arms and legs have been removed from the bodies of many people. Even though, they are Indian citizens but they could not get any relief. They could not come back and they are dying like anything.

Many things are happening throughout the world. Therefore, these poor people, who are going there for the sake of money and to earn their livelihood get trapped in this. There are so many women employees also. They should also be protected. They are suffering a lot in Singapore, Malaysia and Arabian countries.

So, in toto, I would like to submit that the hon. Finance Minister should take an overall view, that is, preventive, actual policing and rehabilitation work. So, there is a Bill presented by the hon. Finance Minister, which should be a specimen for the world to be followed.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (PURULIA) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the Money Laundering and FEMA, both the Bills come together and both of them are part of the liberalisation process.

Sir, it is a fact that Money Laundering is a threat to the financial system and it also destabilizes our society and it also destabilizes the integrity and sovereignty of our country. But through this Bill, I do not feel that black money can be controlled. The generation of black money is also a threat to our financial system. So, some stringent measures should be taken, but those have not been provided in this Bill.

Besides that, in the FEMA Bill, it is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons :

"... to facilitate the external trade and payment and for providing the orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange markets in India, etc...."

But I think, this purpose will not be served.

The earlier FERA was to some extent stringent and there it was trial under the criminal procedure. Now, it has become trial under the civil procedure. It is a part of liberalisation. Too much liberalisation, I think, will not help our country. Some stringent action should be taken. So, on behalf of my Party, I oppose this Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRYAINKIL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, now, the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill has been examined once before. I do not want to go into the details. There were suggestions made by the Standing Committee on the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill. We all know that money laundering is an offence having international dimensions. It is an off-shoot of an illicit traffic in narcotic substance and psychotropic substance. The United Nations had to deal with it and the Convention also provides that it should be made punishable and the proceeds should be recovered.

I do not oppose this Bill. I have to make some suggestions. Now the point is that the punishment that is to be awarded in money laundering should not be compromised. There should be no room for repetition of this offence. We may say that the punishment should be reformatory but in the case of money laundering, the man who is committing this offence, this illicit transaction, may be minting money also. These persons are capable of even challenging the authority of the lawfully established Government. They have such a network throughout the nation and they can influence anybody. That is the position. I do not know whether the Finance Minister will succeed with this legislation. I am not sure about it. This legislation is only a first step. I am not sure whether he will be able to deal with money laundering with this piece of statute. It requires much more detailed provisions.

Now I would suggest one word that the Central Government had diluted the bail provisions. Why should that be ? Now, you see, the small boys and girls are used as agents. Why should you release them on bail all of a sudden ? They are the agents of the moneyed people. The real culprit will not come to the stage. They are directing behind the scene. All these transactions take place through the agents employed by the big people, rich people, who are the hoarders. The

small boys and girls, innocent boys and girls below the age of 15 years or 16 years are being employed in these illicit transactions. If they are found guilty and they are arrested, why should you leave them so easily ? We can send them to the reformatory school. Let them be there. Why should you entrust them to somebody else on bail ? The person who is behind the scene will take the responsibility of getting these boys released on bail. Why should you release them ? Let them be in the reformatory school. Let the man behind the scene come into the picture. So, the Central Government's action in not accepting our recommendation and diluting the bail provision is not at all good. Why should you make it bailable ?

Suppose a person is sick, we will send him to hospital. Why should the bail provision be made so easy ?

Even if the offender is a sick person and he is arrested, he should not be let off on bail. He may be sent for medical treatment if he is sick. But the bail provision need not be diluted.

Then take the case of female offenders. Why should you release them on bail so easily ? Female persons are not meant for this purpose. They are acting as agents of the person who is behind her, who is directing the offender. So, the conclusion arrived at by the Central Government in diluting the bail provision is opposed. We want stringent provisions and we are for deterrent punishment, deterrent punishment in the sense that the offence should not be repeated. It is a challenge to our economy. It is a challenge to the Government as a whole. That is why, I take this opportunity to impress upon the Government to be stringent in the matter of money laundering.

I may say one more word. You have fixed the age limit of the Chairperson as 68 years. Why should such an old man be a Chairperson ? He is 68 years old. I do not know whether the Government is having anybody in mind to accommodate him. But here it is given that in the case of Chairperson, he can serve up to the age of 68 years. Why should he be allowed to serve up to 68 years ? The age limit of the Member is fixed as 65 years. Then you do this. You give him the age limit of 70 years and 75 years. If things go on like this, there will be no end to the matter. I can understand if the maximum age is 65 years.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : You are 65. That is why, you want that.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : No, I can understand the age limit of 65 years. Why should it be 68 years, especially, in a matter in which he will have to take some judicial decisions ? The judicial mind will have to act. At the age of 68 years, the judicial mind need not act. For some persons, it may be possible but not in all cases. It is to accommodate the retired people. We need not always accommodate the retired people. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to reconsider this. Let us fix it at 65 years only. Even the age limit of the Chief Justice of the Supreme

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

Court is 65 years only. Then why should the age limit of this person be fixed at 68 years ? I do not understand the logic behind it. Please tell me the logic behind it. If I go on like this, there are many other Members who may lose their chance. So, due to lack of time, I do not want to go into the details.

I can understand the point with regard to the headquarters. But what about the sittings? Why do you not have the sittings in the Capital city of each State ? Why do you not provide it in the Statute itself ? You have mentioned here that somebody else has to be consulted and decision will have to be taken. That is a delaying process. We should make it abundantly clear that there will be regular sittings at least in three or four metropolitan Capitals. We must provide that in the Money Laundering Act. I am sure if things go on like this, the hon. Finance Minister will have to come again before this House with an amendment Bill for this. I am very definite about it. I am concluding my submission on the first Bill.

Let me come to the second Bill. Unfortunately, we do not get time. We are now replacing an Ordinance which was in force till 1973, till the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act was in force. We had a bitter experience. We know the inadequacies and also the flaws in that Bill.

Now our economic policy has changed; our outlook has changed and all our basic principles have been thrown to the winds. Now we are thinking of global economy, liberalization and all that. This Bill is brought to suit the changing conditions. I do not know how far he will succeed in his attempt. That is also another matter.

But when you bring a Bill, it must be conclusive. It must be of some definite purpose. I am sure with this piece of legislation the hon. Minister cannot reach that purpose because the machinery that is brought into existence is quite inadequate to meet the situation.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I would like to know whether you are extending the time of the House. It is already 6.30 p.m. The time of the House was extended only for half-an-hour. You please tell us whether you are extending the time of the House further or not.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : He is the last speaker. Then, there will be reply.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, you should extend the time of the House. That is my point. I have no objection.

SHRI V. DHANANAJAYA KUMAR : That can be done with your concurrence.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, you have to extend the time of the House.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House concurs to extend the time till the discussion on this Bill is over

[English]

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The provisions contained in this Bill need drastic changes in regard to punishment. At present, it provides for punishment given to criminals. Now, under FERA, the offender will be sent to prison which is meant for criminals and the offence will be treated as a criminal offence. That is the basic thing. Now, as per FEMA, criminal element is taken away. (Interruptions). Management is another matter. If he is committing the offence and if he is an offender, then he will be sent to a civil prison which is meant for people other than criminals and which will be costly to the exchequer because the entire expense will have to be met by the State. He will be treated as 'A' class prisoner with all the facilities. The Penal law of India provides for punishment for offences like cheating. But under the FEMA, it will be treated as offence other than a criminal offence.

I am sure that the hon. Minister has to come again with amendments for meeting unlawful money transactions. Here, as per the present Act in force, it will be treated as pure and simple criminal offence. Now, when this Act will come into force, criminals will be treated in a civilised manner. They will not be sent to jails.

So, I am saying that the hon. Minister has to come again with this Bill to deal with foreign exchange offences. It is defective in many ways. It cannot deal with the modern money transactions. It will be ineffective in dealing with the foreign exchange offences and it will be ineffective in dealing with all offences. So, I am suggesting modifications to make the Bill effective.

In one sense, I may bring out the inadequacies. Now, who is the person ? The person is not defined in the Act. A person who is not present in India is not defined. There are certain things in the definition. You have not defined the person. We have recommended in the Committee that the person should be defined in the Act. Person is not defined anywhere. I have gone through both the Acts. You have not defined it. You have to define it. You have defined about the foreign exchange, but not about the person who is committing the offence. You ought to have defined. You have not done it. (Interruptions).

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA) : If the word 'person' has not been defined in the Bill, the definition provided in the legal lexicon is to be accepted.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRYAINKIL) : So, my humble submission is that on going through the Foreign Exchange Management Bill, I find that it is ineffective to deal with modern transactions. So, I oppose that Bill.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (BHILWARA) : Sir, I rise to support both the Bills – the Foreign Exchange Management Bill which replaces the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and the Prevention of Money-laundering Bill. One minus the other would not be really complete. So, both the Bills had to be placed here and I congratulate the Finance Minister for that. After 25 years, the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act needed a lot of changes and, therefore, this Foreign Exchange Management Bill has been introduced.

I remember the time when both Rajmata Gayatri Devi and also the ex-Maharaja of Jaipur were booked under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and were put into jail for some crime or the other. If it was Foreign Exchange Management Act, they would not have been put straight into the jail. This Foreign Exchange Management Bill was needed because the times have changed. In 25 years, we have gone a long way towards globalisation and liberalisation. It is because of this that the present Bill has been introduced and I congratulate the Finance Minister for that.

But there are two or three things that I want to put across to him. One is that it is very difficult to really distinguish white money from black money, and once it is laundered, it is very difficult to say how this money was acquired. In the same light, suppose a person borrows money, now does he know that this money is laundered or this money is bad money or this money is tainted money? Why should he be punished? Suppose somebody borrows money, how does he know whether it is white or black? I am unable to understand why they have put this clause. So, they must really do something about this.

The other thing is – and I welcome this thought also – that for the first time in the Indian history, the onus of proof is on the accused. In no crime the onus of proof is on the accused and I congratulate the Finance Minister to have added teeth to this Bill. He has really opened a lot of new thinking on crime because a lot of countries in Europe and America have a system which is just dichotomy, just different from ours. While right now the accused is innocent till proved guilty, here the whole system has been changed, and I feel that is a good start.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members of this House for the wide support which has been given to these two pieces of legislation. I am also grateful to them for the suggestions which they have made. There are some issues and there are some points on which, I think, the exploration which I shall offer will be able to clarify the situation.

Sir, what is the structure? Why are we discussing these two Bills together? We are doing it because while on the question of foreign exchange management we are shifting from a more draconian and difficult piece of legislation to a more liberal piece of legislation, in the case of money-laundering, we are making it very stringent, as I said in my opening remarks.

So, we are moving from FERA which, if it stands in the centre, we are moving towards liberalism in one direction and we are moving to more stringent measures in regard to others.

Now, I will take up the Foreign Exchange Management Bill first. I had said that with current account liberalisation, with the recommendation which had been made by various Committees through the amendments which were brought about in 1993, it was almost incumbent on the Government to come up with a Foreign Exchange Management Bill. The FERA, starting in 1947, through 1973 to 1993, went through a number of mutations in terms of this situation prevailing then. FEMA is our response to the situation which prevails today.

I would like to disabuse the minds of some hon. Members who felt concerned at the fragility of our foreign exchange reserves position. I would like to say that successive Governments in India have proceeded extremely cautiously as far as the foreign exchange front is concerned. The reason why India was not sucked into the East-Asian crisis to which a reference was made here was entirely on account of the fact that we have moved cautiously and that caution is not necessarily confined to strictness to non-liberalisation. That has been proceeded in a manner where the confidence of the people has not been shaken. Why is there a run on foreign exchange reserves? There is a run on foreign exchange reserves when the confidence of the people in the system shakes. Now, we as a nation, have been able to maintain the confidence not only of our nationals but also of the foreign investors.

I have had occasion to mention in this House that when the Asian crisis was blowing had it was at its peak, even at that time the reserve money which could have been taken away from our country in terms of foreign exchange stayed in our country. It was not taken away. Take even the foreign institutional investment. The net decline in 1998-99 was only about U.S. 500 million dollars in a total size to about U.S. nine billion dollars. So, that shows the confidence that the people had in the Indian system.

Now, we have current liberalisation. I would like to assure my friend Shri Kirit Somaiya who talked about capital account liberalisation. This FEMA, by itself, does not propel us to capital account liberalisation. This Government, this country will have to take a conscious decision that we want to move further towards capital account liberalisation. It will not come automatically and I would like to repeat here that caution shall continue to be our watchword. We shall never take risks which will expose this country to unnecessary hardship.

Therefore, we shall move cautiously. But I would like, as I said, to assure the hon. Members who have expressed doubts in this regard that our reserves are not only large but they are also stable. I see no reason for any particular concern in that regard. It is in that context to bring the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act in line with the situation of today

[Shri Jaswant Sinha]  
that we have brought the Foreign Exchange Management Bill. It is true that the nature of offence is being shifted from criminal to civil because all offences or most of the offences are civil in nature.

If somebody, for instance, is evading or avoiding income tax, then we proceed against him under the Income Tax laws which are of civil nature. The Income-tax Officers do not have the right to arrest. They can move another court of law if they want somebody arrested. Now, this is the kind of change which is being brought about and therefore, I think, on the Foreign Exchange Management Bill, there should be no cause for concern.

Now, I come to the Prevention of Money-Laundering Bill. What is the basic structure? The basic structure is that certain types of offences must be committed and there must be pecuniary gain arising out of those offences and there should be an attempt at laundering those receipts, then this Act will come into force. Now, what are the offences which have been included? All these offences are defined. I would say, for instance, 'murder'. I would like to inform Shri Bansal that murder is there because he mentioned that.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : I said that murder is there and there could be other cases also.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Yes. Now, I am saying that murder has been mentioned. We have taken a number of offences from the various Acts which we thought could be used for extorting money, for receiving illegal proceeds and those are the things which should be covered. For instance, Shri Anadi Sahu raised the issue of seduction in custody. I was also intrigued by this because what is quoted here is section 9 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. If you read the whole section 9, you will find that it not only talks of seduction in custody, it talks of seduction in custody for purpose of prostitution. If it is done for prostitution, then obviously, there will be illegal gain and anything acquired out of that has to be dealt with. Similar is the case under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Then, there are drugs. Of course, we have treated drugs separately, both in terms of punishment and in terms of fine.

The point I am making is that we have picked up certain offences which are heinous, as I said in the beginning, which are of very serious nature. We are bringing this legislation on money-laundering so that receipts from those crimes and properties acquired as a result thereof, are dealt with under this Act. At the present moment, we have no legislation which will deal exclusively with this particular subject. So, we are bringing this Bill.

Now, the question was raised about the qualification of members and their appointments in the Appellate Tribunal. I would like to inform Shri Bansal that since it is related to the original crime, we are saying that there must be a charge-sheet before we proceed with it. I mean that the charge-sheet is a given stage in a legal proceeding which is framed when the prosecuting agency comes to the conclusion that there is enough evidence to proceed with the offence or the offender.

Therefore, charge is an important point. That will also lead to interim attachment of the property and the final confiscation of the property will come only when he is proved guilty under those laws which we have quoted here.

Therefore, it is important to relate the provisions of this Bill to the Schedule which we have mentioned. If we delink it from the Schedule, then all and every offence can be brought within its ambit, but that is not the intention of this legislation. The intention is to confine it to certain serious, heinous offences and that is why, we have decided to enumerate the offences under various Acts in this Schedule.

Now, I come to the question of tribunal and age. It is true that the age of the Chairperson has been fixed at 68 years. But what are we saying in clause 27(1)? We are saying :

"A person shall not be qualified for appointment as Chairperson unless he is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court."

Why are we saying that for the Chairperson and not for the members? We are saying it for the Chairperson because this is a very serious piece of legislation and the offences which will be tried under this piece of legislation are offences of heinous nature. We want to Chairperson ....

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I am sorry to interrupt. The offences will not be tried by the Appellate Tribunal. It is only the question of attachment and then final confiscation of the property. The offences will be tried by the special judge.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Yes, Sir.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : The offences will be tried by the Special Judge.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I made that distinction myself. I am saying that whatever action has to be taken under this Bill, that will be taken by this Tribunal. Therefore, we want this Tribunal to be a high-powered body. Now, we are talking only about the Chairperson that he is or has been .....  
(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM) : Why do you want to take retired persons ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : We are saying "is or has been"; both the options are open.

18.56 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Whatever it may be his order is appellable before a High Court, no Judge of the Supreme Court will take this assignment.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Therefore, we are saying, "a Judge of the Supreme Court or a Judge of a High Court"; we are not ruling out the High Court. As far as the members are concerned, there are various categories of members who qualify to be members.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I am sorry to interrupt you. It is not really an interruption. The point I made was that in all the laws so far, we have had the qualification that a person who is a Judge or who has been a Judge or who is qualified to be a Judge of the High Court is eligible for it. Such attempt was made once earlier in the case of Central Administrative Tribunals. The House objected to it, and that clause was amended accordingly then because the feeling was that this part should be given to the judicial people. The same attempt is being made now.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I will read it further. As far as a member is concerned, we are saying (a) is or has been a Judge of the High Court; (b) has been a member of the Indian Legal Service, and has held a post in Grade-I of that service for three years.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : We have no objection to the subsequent parts. But in this part, it should be "a person who is or has been or who is qualified to be a Judge of the High Court."

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Shri Bansal might have noticed that in the FEMA, we have such a provision. Here, we have deliberately and thinkingly avoided putting it because we wanted to confine it to a sitting or retired Judge of the High Court or the Supreme Court. That is the reason why it has been done.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : That is being uncharitable to these people.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : It is not an inadvertence. There is some thought which has gone into it. Now, I come to another point which Shri Bansal raised, that is, the right of the Government to appeal. We will be very cautious. It is not that we are going to appeal in every case. It is again going to be a thinking action. We will be cautious. In the administrative instructions, we will make sure that it is not treated lightly.

Now, Sir, as far as the burden of proof is concerned, it is true that in this legislation, as in some other sterner places of legislation, the burden of proof has been put on the accused. But we must recall to our mind that the burden of proof is put on the accused even in the case of disproportionate assets in the Prevention of Corruption Act. There are certain provisions in certain Acts where the burden of proof has been put on the accused. He has to prove himself innocent. But a point was made here about unknowingly acquiring a property which has been bought out by money-laundering. We are saying that he must be able to do it "knowingly". If he has done it unknowingly, he is not guilty. When we are saying "knowingly", the burden of proof of proving "knowingly" rests with the prosecution. So, it is not in all cases; we are protecting the citizen against that kind of a difficulty.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (BHILWARA) : Suppose, he borrows, how does he know whether it is white money or black money or laundered money ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : That is what I am saying that if he has borrowed money which is covered by this Act, then the prosecution will have to prove that he did it "knowingly". If

he knows that the money was tainted and even then he proceed to borrow it, then he is within the mischief of this Bill. He is not guilty, unless the prosecution is able to prove that he did it "knowingly".

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Due to the importance that is being attached to these provisions, you say that only people who have held important positions should be holding the office of the Chairman Appellate Authority and other positions. At the same time, you say that the proceedings would be judicial in nature, that is what the Act says.

19.00 hrs.

But you are debarring the presence of a lawyer before them. It is again the first piece of legislation where you say that a lawyer will not appear and there will only be an authorised representative who may not be aware of the distinction, which my hon. friend from that side was trying to point out. If a case has to be put up before a judge of the Supreme Court and a lawyer is not present there, if the lawyer does not represent the accused.....

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : We are presuming that the authorised representative will have sufficient knowledge of law to be able to go and represent.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : That qualification is not mentioned. Authorised representative means that an accused cannot authorise a lawyer to appear. You say that he can authorise a lawyer to appear as his authorised representative. That would be good enough.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : When he chooses his representative....

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : He cannot choose. You do not want him to choose. That is why, I was submitting to the Chair that we should not hurry through these provisions. There is much to be desired. You will subsequently see, that day will come, when various provisions would be challenged. They would be struck down by the courts. You will see that. Simply because the law has been framed you are just pushing it through.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, my only reply to this is that both these Bills were introduced in the last Lok Sabha. It was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee on Finance considered every clause. The officers of the Ministry appeared before them and explained everything and we have accepted many important suggestions of the Committee.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : A Judge of the Supreme Court would be expected to act like a *panch*.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : For instance, the point which Shri Ramesh Chennithala was raising about falsification of accounts. Now, it was a part of the earlier Bill which I had introduced in the last Lok Sabha. It was on the recommendation of the Committee as a result of representations which were made by various industrial associations and trade associations that we accepted the recommendations of the Com-

mittee and decided to delete that. So, falsification of accounts is not a part of the Bill now.

Sir, my submission would be that we have discussed these in detail at various stages and a lot of thoughts also have gone into this. Both the Bills are in order and I would suggest that the Bills should be adopted and passed by this House.

Sir, there is another point about the right of appellant to seek legal assistance under clause 38.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : This is not about money-laundering.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : No, this is not about money laundering.

Sir, finally I would like to submit that we have taken these steps deliberately. The Committee has agreed with us and therefore, we have omitted and have not brought those provisions within this Bill. With these words I suggest that let this House pass these two Bills.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to prevent money-laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from, or involved in money-laundering and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will no take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vilas Muttemwar to move his amendment no. 4 and 5 to Clause 4. He is not present in the House.

The question is :

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 4 was added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vilas Muttemwar to move his amendment no. 6 and 7 to Clause 5. He is not present in the House.

The question is :

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.  
Clause 5 was added to the Bill.*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : Sir, have my amendment come to you ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : They may be in the process.

#### Clause 6

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vilas Muttemwar to move his amendment no. 8. He is not present in the House. Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil and Shri Sharad Pawar to move their amendment No. 18. They are not present in the House.

The question is :

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.  
Clause 6 was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 7

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vilas Muttemwar to move his amendment no. 9. He is not present in the House.

The question is :

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.  
Clause 7 was added to the Bill.  
Clause 8 was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 9

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil and Shri Sharad Pawar to move their amendment No. 19. They are not present.

The question is :

"That clause 9 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.  
Clause 9 was added to the Bill.  
Clauses 10 to 16 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 17

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vilas Muttemwar to move his amendments No. 10 to 14. He is not present.

The question is :

"That clause 17 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.  
Clause 17 was added to the Bill.  
Clauses 18 to 26 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 27

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil and Shri Sharad Pawar to move their amendment No. 20. They are not present in the House.

The question is :

"That clause 27 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.  
Clause 27 was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 28

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vilas Muttemwar to move his amendments No. 15 to 16. He is not present in the House.

The question is :

"That clause 28 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 28 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 29 to 36 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 37**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vilas Muttemwar to move his amendment No. 17. He is not present in the House.

The question is :

"That clause 37 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 37 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 38 to 47 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 48**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil and Shri Sharad Pawar to move their amendment No. 21. They are not present in the House.

The question is :

"That clause 48 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 48 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 49 to 72 were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Amendment No. 2 – Shri Anadi Charan Sahu. Are you moving ?

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA) : I am not moving it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Good.

The question is :

"That clause 73 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 73 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 74 was added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is Amendment No. 3 to the Schedule. Shri Anadi Charan Sahu, are you moving it ?

SHRI ANADI SAHU : No, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Title were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill be passed."

....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, I will not take more than a minute. We have all discussed this Bill. We are welcoming the Bill. In his intervention, my friend Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal was mentioning that in certain clauses there was no clarity. Ambiguity is there. Of course, it had gone to the Standing Committee on Finance earlier and they made their recommendations also.

Sir, I think that this is a very serious piece of legislation. It needs more consideration, otherwise, again the Government would have to come with further amendments. So, I would request the Government to kindly go into the details. Of course, we had given certain suggestions but unfortunately, the hon. Minister has not accepted any of them. But since, these two legislations have very serious repercussions on our economy as well as on the citizens of this country, the Government should think about them seriously.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I have no hesitation in accepting the suggestions of the hon. Members. Take, for instance, the issue about the legal practitioner, raised by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal. Now, I have the report of the Committee here. What did the Committee say ? The Committee considered the whole thing. They said that 'apart from the legal practitioner, there could be other representatives like Chartered Accountant, Company Secretary and somebody else.'

Therefore, to give it a much wider coverage, they suggested that it should be an authorised representative because these are all money-related offences and somebody might want to be representative as a Chartered Accountant. We are not blocking a Chartered Accountant. We are not blocking an Income Tax practitioner. So, we are expanding the scope.

When he suddenly got up and asked this question. I could not reply. But when I looked into my papers, I found that this is the explanation.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Do you mean to say that lawyers can appear ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Yes

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Representatives include advocate also.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am in a position to give you the assurance that by authorised representative, we will include legal practitioners also, as it will include many other categories.

Sir, now my hon. colleague Shri Radhakrishnan is not here. He had raised the issue that 'person' is not defined. Now, I am told that 'person' is defined. There are specific provisions in both the Bills where we are defining what a 'person' means. We have got into the total reading of this very carefully.



Even then, I have taken note of these suggestions and if there is anything, we will certainly take care of that in the rules and regulations.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we come to the next Bill – Foreign Exchange Management Bill, 1999.

The question is :

"That 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, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 12 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 12 were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are three amendments by Shri Vilas Muttamwar. He is not here.

The question is:

"That clause 13 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 13 was added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Anadi Sahu, are you moving your amendment No. 1, 2, and 3 ?

SHRI ANADI SAHU : I am not moving my amendments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 14 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 14 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 15 to 18 were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Anadi Sahu, are you moving your amendment ?

SHRI ANADI SAHU : I am not moving.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 19 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 19 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 20 was added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Anadi Sahu, are you moving your amendment No. 5 and 6 ?

SHRI ANADI SAHU : I am not moving.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:  
"That clause 21 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 21 was added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are amendment Nos. 12 and 13 of Shri Vilas Muttamwar. He is not here.

The question is:

"That clause 22 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 22 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 23 and 24 were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is an amendment No. 14 of Shri Vilas Muttamwar. He is not here.

The question is:

"That clause 25 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 25 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 26 to 30 were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is amendment No. 15 Shri Vilas Muttamwar is not here.

The question is :

"That clause 31 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 31 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 32 to 34 were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is amendment No. 16 of Shri Vilas Muttamwar. He is not there.

The question is:

"That clause 35 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 35 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 36 to 49 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long*

*Title were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

19.21 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 3, 1999/ Aagrahayana 12, 1921 (Saka)*

**Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates  
(English Version)**

Thursday, December 2, 1999/Agrahayana 11, 1921 (Saka)

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<b>Col./line</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Read</b>
Page(i)/29	Chapra	Chhapra
70/8(from below) 152/10	SHIR	SHRI
83/12	TEH	THE
117,118/9	2239893	2236893
121/20	5550.00	5500.00
123/12(from below)	32.40	32.20
159/28	980580	980850
163/28	DR RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH	DR.RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH
253/4	SHRI MADHAVRO SCINDIA	SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA
255/29	SHRI P.S. THOMAS	SHRI P.C. THOMAS
257/31	SHRI ADHI SHANKAR	SHRI ADHI SANKAR
273/8	Behera,Shri Padmanava	Behera,Shri Padamanava
275/4	e	94
282/12	no	now
307/6	that	what
320/6	dracorjan	draconian
320/44	in economic war	an economic war
323/17	far	for
323/30	If	It
324/3(from below)	engima	enigma
324/4(from below)	Slashed abroad	Stashed abroad
333/9(from below)	exploration	explanation
335/12(from below)	dealth	dealt
336/8(from below)	it may if	it may be if
344/7,14,21,28	Shri Vilas Muttamwar	Shri Vilas Muttemwar

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