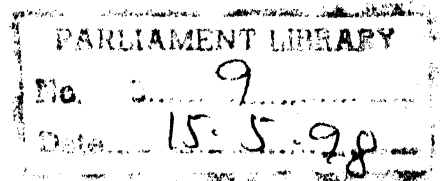


LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Fifth Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, August 4, 1997/Shravana 13,
1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Three Minutes past
Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Promotion of Tourism from Gulf Countries

*161. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a wide scope for promotion of tourism in the country from the Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the number of tourists in the country coming from the Gulf countries and the outcome thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is wide scope for promotion of tourism in the country from the Gulf countries for the following reasons :-

- (i) Gulf tourists are traditionally fond of India. Both the countries have age-old trade, cultural and historical links.
- (ii) Gulf tourists travel mostly during summer months (April-June), which is India's off season. This also helps us to encourage hotel occupancy in the off-season and movement of summer traffic to various regions.
- (iii) Gulf tourists consider that India provides value for their money.
- (iv) The Gulf states are well connected by air from India and the time taken to reach India from the Gulf states is not much.
- (v) The Gulf tourists are very fond of shopping and India offers an excellent opportunity for purchasing goods and services.

(c) A planned marketing and advertising strategy has been devised to increase the inflow of Gulf tourists to India utilising print and electronic media, providing publicity material in local language, targeting the potential travellers, extending support to tour operators and travel agents and organising seminars/conferences and through participation in tourism and travel fairs etc.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection since my questions are related to the hon. Minister. I would like to know the number of tourists from the gulf countries to India during 1994-95 and 1995-96, places they liked to visit, steps taken by tourist department for the further development of historical, natural scenic and picturesque places of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh like Jhansi, Lalitpur, Tikamgarh and Chanderi and the amount allocated in the current financial year for the development of these tourist places?

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, from the Gulf countries, the figures for 1994-95... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Mr. Minister, Sir, you can speak in Hindi.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you make that suggestion when we have translation facility?

[Translation]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The number of tourists in 1994 is 1,31,690 in 1995, 1,30,175 and in 1996 it is 1,02,918. The percentage of tourists decreased because of Ayodhya incident and Mumbai bomb blast. It is gradually picking up. So far as the promotion of Gulf is concerned, they have India as the target area because during rainy season, more and more people want to see India for shopping. They are high spenders and their infrastructure is good. Besides, language-wise, they are close to India. They have good air-link from these countries. Therefore, they want to visit India, specially Mumbai and Goa. Since they have no train service in their country, they are very much attracted to see and travel by train. We are chalking out package for rainy season when they have summer season in their countries. So far one lakh... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Mr. Minister, please consider my question.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : It was previously one lakh thirty thousand, then two lakh and now we are targetting five lakh. Therefore, detailed package and programmes are being started from this year.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was not my question. I wanted to know names of the places liked by them and the plans chalked out by the Government for the development of historical places and places of scenic beauty and picturesque spots of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh like Jhansi, Lalitpur, Tikamgarh and Chanderi and the amount allocated during the current financial year?

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, I fully agree with the hon. member that beautiful locations and destinations in and around Jhansi can be connected. The Defence Minister is also suggesting that Jhansi can be one point, where the nature's beauty is there. We can improve that, provided we get the support from the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Please let us know as to what the Government proposes to do? You may enquire the hon. Defence Minister about the number of historical places which abound in scenic beauty. I seek your sympathy and assurance.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Please give your suggestions and the Government of India will do whatever is possible.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the hon. Minister is aware that the decrease in the number of Gulf tourist is due to adverse conditions prevailing in these areas, such as dirt and filth around Tajmahal, moisture in Ajanta-Ellora caves, criminal activities between Goa and Quillon, Drug-peddling in Pushkar and increasing pollution in lakes. In addition, how many seminars to attract the Gulf tourists and the tourists from other countries have been organised in India during 1995-96 and 1996-97? What are the major decisions that have been taken in these seminars and the details of co-ordination set up with world tourist organisations.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : So far as Taj Mahal, and other tourist places in the surrounding areas are concerned.

[Translation]

You are saying that the dirt and filth is increasing in the surrounding areas. For this purpose, if the State Government and local municipality pays proper attention towards the tourism, the prevailing situation can be changed.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Sir, what is your responsibility in this regard?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The Union Government can provide financial assistance, literature and extend

suggestions but it has to be implemented by the local authority.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : But what would you like to state about the monuments under Archaeological Survey of India?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : So far as Archaeological Survey of India is concerned, we write letters to this department for the proper maintenance of the monuments and if the monuments are surrounded by filth, tourists would not like to visit these places. Besides, you have asked as to what has been done for promoting tourism in Gulf countries and the number of seminars held in this regard. As I have told earlier, we are holding meetings through our Dubai based regional office of the director for the promotion of Tourism and organising exhibitions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot enter into an argument during the Question hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is that what steps the Government propose to take to check the narcotics peddling in Pushkar and pollution near Ajanta and Ellora...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No. Not allowed. Mr. Minister, you answer to the first supplementary and then finish it off. The Member cannot enter into an argument like this in the Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I have recently held a meeting of our overseas officers since we have a target to attract still more tourists from the Gulf countries to India. We have more than two hundred air routes for Gulf countries.

[English]

That means, we are well connected with the air activity so far as the Gulf is concerned. Our office at Dubai is promoting and participating in different tourism activities there. They are attracting the tourists and giving literature to them. They are promoting tourists to go to India in a big way because generally the attraction of the tourists is more towards Europe than India. But in the Southeast Asia, India comes first as far as the Gulf is concerned. Their choice is India. But in India also, we have to take a little care of them because they want to spend money and they also want a little comfort. They want to see rains, particularly in Bombay, Goa and Sindhurg. They want to see rainfalls and come to see rains. We are trying our best in that direction.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Through you, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. This is regarding Jaisalmer town. The town is on the world map, especially the Fort, which can be called the Eighth Wonder of the World.

What is happening is, tourism is neglected there. There is no proper hotel, though now Mr. Jaswant Singh is constructing it, yet that is also only three-star hotel. What is happening is, because the people there are very poor, they cannot construct hotels. There is no flight also.

Through you, I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Tourism and the Minister of Civil Aviation ...*(Interruptions)* There was a question about four days back and he said that he would be considering it this Winter. But already time is running out and nothing is coming. For constructing hotels also, they are not doing anything.

As mentioned here, Gulf tourists come during April-June. During that time, the temperature shoots up to 52 to 55 degree Celsius. So, air-conditioned hotels should come. Galore of tourists, especially from the Gulf countries want to come to this place. But nothing has been done. As you know, this is a desert and underdeveloped district. But nothing has been done.

I want to know, through you, whether the Minister would like to give some assurance to the House for promoting tourism there.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : As you know, of late, Jaisalmar Fort is really coming up as one of the most important tourist attractions and the foreign tourists are more attracted to that particular location.

Recently, Taj Group, ITC Group and Oberoi Group have been allotted lands to construct hotels there. So far as the flight is concerned, Indian Airlines has agreed to give air connection to that site. I am sure, it will take another three to four years. But ultimately the private industries and private groups are coming up for five-star hotels around Jaisalmer Fort.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Sir, politics are being played about the flight going to Jaisalmer.

Will the hon. Minister give an assurance; because there are some people with vested interests who want the flights to go to Jodhpur so that occupancy rate in hotels at Jodhpur goes up?

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has already given an assurance. Hon. Minister, do you want to give a second assurance?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I will certainly pass it on to the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Sir, in reply to this question, the hon. Minister has given all the reason why the Gulf countries are traditionally fond of India. We have age-old trade, cultural and historical links with the Gulf countries.

In this respect, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that Gujarat, particularly the Kutch region, has age-old trade, historical and cultural relations with the Gulf countries.

In Gujarat, there are so many tourist spots, like Gir Forests, etc. and in Kutch, there are so many potentialities, like sea beaches etc. which can be exploited. Just recently, signs of 5000 year old Harappan culture have been found in Dhaula Veera. But to develop this area, there are no infrastructural facilities provided by the Government. There is no daily airlink to Kutch, though there is an airlink between Kutch and Mumbai for the last so many years, but that too is only four times a week. There should be a direct daily flight between Gulf countries and Ahmedabad and there should be a daily flight between Mumbai and Kutch.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps he is going to take to develop that area and what infrastructural facilities he is going to provide in Gujarat. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister, in coordination with the Minister of Civil Aviation what he is proposing to do for development of infrastructural facilities at Dhaula Veera.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, so far as Gujarat, particularly the Kutch area of Gujarat, is concerned, the potentiality is there but it has not been so far exploited properly. To exploit it properly and to link it with the Gulf countries and other areas, the State Government's role is also equally very important.

Regarding air connectivity, though Ahmedabad has been declared as an international airport, I think, the Gulf airlines do come to Ahmedabad and I think the Civil Aviation Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : These flights are not coming daily.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I will send that suggestion to the Civil Aviation Ministry.

But so far as development of infrastructural facilities, like hotels, etc., are concerned, the State Government has to come up with a different policy there.

Recently, I had a meeting with the hon. Chief Minister of Gujarat and I am told that he was taking keen interest to develop that particular area so that tourism can be developed.

[Translation]

L.P.G. Connections

+
*162. DR. ARVIND SHARMA :
SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

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

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision

to provide L.P.G. connection to all towns and cities with the population of twenty thousand and more and applications have been invited from the residents of such towns and cities;

(b) if so, the number of applications received by the Government. State-wise and the number out of them who have been issued L.P.G. connections and those which are pending;

(c) the time by which the applicants on the waiting list are likely to be provided L.P.G. connections;

(d) whether the Government are taking any action to provide L.P.G. connections to the large number of applicants on waiting list with a view to protect the environment depleting due to the use of the forest based fuel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. Presently towns/markets having a population of more than 20,000 as per 1990-91 census have been covered for LPG supply in the country. Prospective customers can register themselves for new LPG connection with the existing LPG distributorships or new distributorships being opened in those areas.

(b) and (c) Applications for release of LPG connections are not invited or received by the Government. The prospective customers have to register themselves with and are provided LPG connection by the LPG distributors.

(d) and (e) The existing LPG customer strength in the country as on 1.4.1997 is 293 lakhs and 141 lakhs persons are on waiting list. Subject to availability of product, LPG connections are released regularly through Annual Enrolment Plan. Apart from releasing connections to customers in accordance with the priorities fixed by the Government, it has been decided to release LPG connections to all eligible persons who are on the waiting list before 1.1.1991. In order to protect environment, LPG connections are released to hilly areas and Taj Trapezium on priority. Efforts are on to extend LPG facility to rural areas as well. It is planned to liquidate total waiting list and release connection on demand by the year 2001-2002.

DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, consumers are provided LPG connections by the Government through distributors and distributors are selected by Oil Selection Board but Oil Selection Board has not been reconstituted. Since February-March, 1996 due to which about three to four thousand applications have been pending for providing LPG Agencies. You can see that on the one hand, the Government talks about the upliftment of rural and backward classes, but on the other hand, three-four thousand applications have

been pending with the Oil Selection Board. Through you, I would like to know as to by when the Oil Selection Board would be reconstituted and what are the reasons for the delay occurring in this matter.

My second question in this regard is whether the said delay has been caused due to the scams in the previous Oil Selection Board. I want that the Government should tell the House the reasons for the delay in the constitution of the Board. If there have been complaints regarding the scams committed during the last Board, whether the House would be taken in confidence before the reconstitution of the Oil Selection Board because it is heard that now its criteria has been changed, now there would be two General Managers in that. I request that the Government should make it clear whether the House would be taken into confidence or not while reconstituting Oil Selection Board.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there had been a lot of dispute regarding Oil Selection Board in the past. The case was even taken to the court. Therefore, the present Government issued some directions during the time of Deve Gowda ji. He was the Prime Minister at that time and also holding the charge of Petroleum Ministry. He issued direction that a commission would be constituted which would be headed by a retired judge of High Court and there would be Deputy General Managers of two Oil companies as its Members. When the new Government was formed, we requested the Prime Minister that there should also be a public representative in it because he understands the difficulties of the public. He told us that for the time being its implementation should be stopped. We would constitute the committee within a week which would consist of a retired High Court judge and two Deputy General Managers as decided, and when the Prime Minister would clear the proposal that a public representative should also be included in it, we would include that also, we put this proposal before the House.

DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Some changes are being made in the criteria. I request you that it should be discussed in the House. It is an important issue in which we also talk about rural and backward people. It should be discussed in the House as to how Oil Selection Board should be constituted and how these things should be included in it.

If we take LPG cylinder from the godown, we have to pay two and a half rupee less, but the consumer does not know that he is to pay two and a half rupee less. A blue card has been issued to LPG consumers. I want that a red card should be issued separately and because of it, the poor man, the unknown person would know that cylinder can be obtained by paying two and a half rupee less on Red card. It is an important issue and it should be discussed in the House. By when you would attain the target of clearing 3000 Gas applications? The Government says that LPG connections would be provided to all the villages having

population of 20,000 by the year 2000 A.D. How it is possible when Oil Selection Board has not been constituted for the last one and a half year. It is a very important issue. It should be discussed in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a suggestion. I think, the hon. Minister has noted it down.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given a statement that as on 1.4.1997, 141 lakh persons are on waiting list. The hon. Minister has also mentioned in his statement, which has been laid on the Table of the House, that it has been decided to release LPG connections to all eligible persons who are on waiting list before 1.1.1991. May I know from the hon. Minister as to when will this waiting list as on 1.1.1991 be cleared and how many are there in the waiting list?

Now I come to second part of my question. The hon. Minister has given a very rosy picture to this House and to the nation. He has said in his reply that it is planned to liquidate total waiting list and release connection on demand by the year 2001-2002. What are the concrete steps the Government has taken to liquidate all these wait-lists?

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Oil Companies have been issued orders that waiting list before 1.9.91 should be cleared. If any applicant is left and he writes in this regard, it may be cleared immediately. We have said that LPG would be made available on demand by the year 2000. The Oil Companies have fixed this target that in the year 1997-98, 40 lac connections would be provided and accordingly new LPG agencies would be opened. It is not a rosy picture, but the decision taken by the Government is this that 40 lac connections would be provided in the year 1997-98. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been making preparation for providing 50 lac connections in the year 1998-99, 50 lac connections in the year 1999-2000 and 20 lac connections in the year 2001-2002. We understand that after that we would be able to supply LPG on demand.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a long list of the applicants for new gas agencies. The hon'ble Member has told that large number of applications are under consideration of the Ministry. The Government has decided that gas connections would be provided through earlier gas agencies on payment of rupees four thousand. I want to say that in this way gas connections would never be provided in rural areas because new gas agencies would not be opened and there would not be any town in the rural area having 20 thousand or more population due to which the rural area would not get any benefit of this proposal.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been repeatedly saying in this House that there should be a Gas Agency at Panchayat Samiti level because forests have been completely destroyed. The department of forest has banned cutting of wood. People are not getting fuel wood. Even otherwise also, the wood is not available. Then how the rural areas are going to get the benefit of LPG? The Minister has told that LPG would be made available to all by the year 2000 A.D.

I think that this facility would be provided only in the urban areas and rural areas would be deprived of it while 80 percent people of our country live in villages. These people are not being benefited by these gas agencies and the hon'ble Minister has stated that in future also only 20 percent people of urban areas in the country would get benefit of these gas agencies. Therefore, I would like to request hon'ble Minister through you that one L.P.G. agency be opened in each Panchayat of the country so as to provide L.P.G. facility to the rural people.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we proposed to set up a gas agency within the radius of 15 kilometres of a town having the population of more than 20 thousand. Here I would like to make it clear that despite that, gas agency would be viable or not is not certain because it is difficult to predict that how many people would avail this facility. Hence the Government have decided that efforts would be made to open gas agency within the radius of 15 kilometres of the town or villages having the population of more than 10 thousands. Its radius is being increased because a village has much less population.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has stated that village people would not be benefited by this facility and the felling of trees has been stopped. It involves the question of environment. In this connection I would like to submit that the Government have decided that gas be provided immediately on demand in the hilly areas which are situated at the height of two thousand feet and waiting list should be cleared in these areas. I hope that waiting list would be cleared this year because, major problem there is, non-availability of wood. Mr. Speaker, Sir, second point is this that Taj Mahal is situated in a beautiful place. Government has issued order that L.P.G. be supplied to the residents residing around it on demand so as to maintain its beauty and save it from the smoke so L.P.G. is being supplied to this area.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a Member of Parliament from Agra. Hence I raised hand to speak. Whatever hon'ble Minister has stated is not true. Despite the order of the Union Government and Supreme Court, L.P.G. is not being provided to the residents of trepazium area and nor these connections are being given to the rural areas.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Rawatji, it is not proper. Please sit down.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister through you that L.P.G. agencies in the country are harassing the applicants who are on waiting list and their way of providing information to these applicants is improper and faulty due to which they do not get L.P.G. connection.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister through you towards the owners of L.P.G. agencies in Sagar. Many irregularities are being committed there. Applicants on waiting list are not informed in time and after passing due time when the applicants go to agency to collect information regarding their connection they are told that their serial number has lapsed. At present waiting list of L.P.G. has 17 thousand applicants in Sagar. L.P.G. connections are being provided through the agency ignoring this list. In the past applicants upto serial No. 12 thousand were given evasive reply that their number had lapsed. Such irregularities are being committed there. At the same time when they go for connection they are asked to pay Rs. 1500 to 2000 in black and no action is being taken against the owner of the L.P.G. agency despite the complaints made in this regard.

Therefore, I would like to know from hon'ble Minister that what action is being taken by him to remove these irregularities?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, department or concerned companies take action regarding the irregularity committed in the matter of L.P.G. connections. Hon'ble Member has made complaint about the distribution of L.P.G. in Sagar. If he makes his complaint in writing, it would be forwarded for necessary action.

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, jungle inhabitant be permitted to speak on jungle and I am jungle inhabitant. In the city, Harijans...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : On this occasion no need to deliver speech but you can ask question.

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI : Harijans and labourers can not live in the city because their jhuggies are demolished. The same thing is happening in jungle. Harijans, Adivasis and backwards are being driven out from the jungles. It does not matter if poor people are dumped in sea. If they cut wood from jungles, these lose their beauty. They have no source of income other than wood. Therefore, the poor are being asked to leave jungle. There is no cleanliness in the city rather there is filth and, therefore, jhuggies of poor are being demolished.

I would like to submit that dump all the poor people in sea. As a result of which they will not come into the contact of the rich. When the matter of construction of accommodation comes up, the services of poor are

required...(Interruptions) the same thing is happening in the matter of gas. When we people use wood as fuel, why should we talk about gas? Now they are not allowed to cut wood. Poor are being attacked from all sides. How can we save ourselves from this attack? We are very much worried about it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You ask your question.

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI : Poor bring wood from jungle and use as fuel. If gas is provided to the poor free of cost, only then jungle can be protected. If you don't give it free, we will indulge in theft. Thereafter you can say whatever you like...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Well, sit down, you must give some reply.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : The Government have decided to provide 10 lakhs L.P.G. connections every year in rural areas...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No. 163, Dr. Asim Bala. I cannot allow everybody. There are so many other questions. Thirty-five minutes are already over and we have finished only two questions. Dr. Asim Bala.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, please. You cannot finish the whole one hour in one question. Other questions are also equally important.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Members of Lok Sabha are not getting the facility of gas connection while the Members of Rajya Sabha are availing this facility...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Joshiji, you are an elderly man. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are on the next questions.

(Interruptions)

Leakage of Question Papers

+

*163. DR. ASIM BALA :

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any enquiry has been ordered into the

spate of leakages of question papers for the entrance tests conducted this year by the Indian Institute of Technology, the Delhi College of Engineering, University Grants Commission and other bodies;

(b) if so, the findings thereof, including the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty in this regard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid recurrence of such leakages in future?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) to (c) The CBI has undertaken the investigation of the cases of alleged leakages of question papers for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) conducted by the IITs and the National Eligibility Test (NET) conducted by the UGC this year. The investigation is not yet over. There was no leakage of question papers for the entrance test for admission to Delhi College of Engineering and other bodies.

DR. ASIM BALA : Sir, the leakage of question papers is a national problem and an important one also. Every year, in most of the States, question papers are being leaked out and no measures are being taken against this menace. CBI and IB inquiry into the IIT and UGC incidents is welcome. But, Sir, the whole organisation is involved on a gigantic scale, with no guarantee for foolproof security measures. Teachers are more often paper-setters for the very examination for which they offer private coaching. To get rid of this menace, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government is thinking to change the whole examination system and form a Question Bank.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, in the history of IIT, this is the first instance where the question paper was leaked out and the examination was cancelled. The examination was held again and the result is going to be announced soon. The loss of time to the students is also being compensated by cutting down the holidays. This had been discussed earlier also in this House. The leakage of question paper for IIT examination is a serious matter and that is why the CBI inquiry has been ordered by the Government itself. The Government is still waiting for the CBI inquiry report to come. Once the report is available, the IIT and the Government will take appropriate action on that.

DR. ASIM BALA : It is not a question of saying that the CBI and the IB inquiry are going on. It is an important social problem. So, to solve this problem, I have given a suggestion also in my question, that is, creation of a Question Bank. I would like to know whether the Government is going to accept that suggestion to change the whole examination system by creating a Question Bank.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, the hon. Member is saying that the entire examination system has to be

changed. It is a suggestion and the Government has taken note of that.

DR. ASIM BALA : Is the Government going to bring some Bill against private coaching, tutorial homes and private tuitions?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, last time also this question was answered. To curb this problem, private tuition and coaching have to be stopped. In that direction, the Government is working out certain measures which will curb these kinds of activities.

DR. ASIM BALA : I wanted to know whether the Government is going to bring it in the form of a Bill.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, at this point of time, I am not in a position to say whether the Government is preparing to bring a Bill or not.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, before I come to my Supplementary, I would like to seek a clarification from the Minister. The Minister has replied here that there is no leakage of question paper for the entrance test for admission to Delhi College of Engineering. If it is so, then why is that examination being re-conducted? I would like this to be clarified. I think there is a problem here.

Now I come to my Supplementary. The leakage of question papers of prestigious institutions has now reached epidemic proportions.

Sir, the Indian Institute of Technology is one premier institution in the country where this epidemic had not touched. But now we have the question papers of I.I.T. Joint Entrance Examination being leaked. It was leaked in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. It is very significant. Lucknow and Patna are the two main centres...*(Interruptions)* The nexus between the coaching classes and the people who are involved in organising the J.E.E. is very obvious because the premium demanded by the people to get through the I.I.T. is very high. It is welcome that the C.B.I. inquiry has been ordered. But, specifically the nexus between the coaching classes and the organisers has to be investigated and that too very soon.

Lot of parents have been put to great difficulty because of this leakage. This cannot be compensated. The mental torture and agony cannot be compensated. I would ask the Government whether they are thinking of entering into a registration system for registering the coaching classes particularly for I.I.T., I.A.S. and other examinations. This is the first part of my question.

Secondly, a suggestion has been made that like the I.A.S. examination there should be a preliminary examination for I.I.Ts. also, and then it should be followed by a final examination for a limited number of people at limited number of centres. It is because when you have a large number of centres, this is the problem that comes.

These are the two parts of my question.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, many kinds of apprehensions are there. So far as this particular issue is concerned, normally the I.I.Ts. used to send the question papers just one day before the examination.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : That is enough for them.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : But this time, in view of the May Day holiday and as there was a *Bandh* call for another day, the question papers were despatched two days before the examination to Patna and Lucknow. The Government is not in a position to say whether the question papers have been leaked from those particular centres or not. Unless the investigation is over it cannot be said that the question papers were leaked from that centre itself. This is a matter of concern for everybody and particularly the students and parents who have really undergone serious mental and financial problems because the students have to appear in the examination for the second times, and then the time is lost to them and all that. That is why the Government have directed them to hold an inquiry. The I.I.T. authorities are also shocked as to how this could happen. It has never happened in the past thirty years. The credibility of I.I.Ts. is also their concern. That is why they are also working for foolproof measures so that such thing does not happen in future.

So far as the re-examination in Delhi College of Engineering is concerned, actually the question paper was not leaked. In fact, from one student it was found that along with the question paper, the answer sheet was also tagged. That was how this was leaked. There were also some printing errors in the question papers. That is why the One-Man Committee which investigated the matter recommended that it should be cancelled and re-examination should be held.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, he has not answered the second part as to whether they are considering holding the preliminary examination or not.

MR. SPEAKER : That is a suggestion. I think the Government will certainly note down that suggestion.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Yes sir.

MR. SPEAKER : In fact, both your questions were not questions but they were suggestions - one for the investigating agency and the other for the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident in I.I.T. may have taken place for the first time but the attention of the Union Government must have been drawn towards rest of the Universities, where this leakage takes place time and again. When the examinations were held in I.I.T. again, by that time some students had taken admission at other places. Now those students want that they must get admission in I.I.T. again. It seems to me that there is mismanagement in filling the seats being vacated by them. Whether the

Government will set up a grievance cell for this, which will ensure that admissions in I.I.T. are given to genuine students because of the re-examination conducted after the leakage of paper? I have been putting questions on this issue for the last three sessions, which is very important one-the question that tutorial classes are not being conducted in Delhi University. All the three times the reply came that information is being collected. Due to this the private coaching phenomena is increasing rapidly. Whether the hon'ble Minister will reply as to why this is not being replied to for the last three sessions. A lecturer in Delhi University has to take 18 classes, out of these, he is not taking nine classes officially. That is why I want information on these 2 points from the Minister.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is a different subject.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, I think both the question are in the form of suggestion and the Government has taken note of them.

[Translation]

Construction of National Highways/Bridges

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*164. **SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE :**
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of National Highways and Bridges taken up for construction during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State wise;

(b) whether the work undertaken on these highways/bridges has since been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the projects under construction are likely to be completed?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) The details indicating the position are given in the annexure enclosed.

(c) Development of National Highways is a continuous process. Some of the on going works have been delayed due to difficulty in land acquisition, delay in shifting of utilities, change of scope due to site conditions, unprecedented floods, contractual failures

and problems, legal disputes, stay order granted by courts and non-availability of sufficient funds, etc.

(d) Works in progress, being in different stages of construction, will get completed in phases upto year 2000 or so.

Annexure

Statewise List showing position of National Highway works in progress/completed during Eighth Five Year Plan.

S.No.	State	No. of works in progress during Eighth Plan	No. of works completed during Eighth Plan
1.	Andhra Pradesh	220	154
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14	4
3.	Assam	159	79
4.	Bihar	206	119
5.	Chandigarh	6	2
6.	Delhi	21	14
7.	Goa	50	24
8.	Gujarat	246	160
9.	Haryana	76	49
10.	Himachal Pradesh	175	95
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2
12.	Karnataka	130	59
13.	Kerala	131	74
14.	Madhya Pradesh	183	97
15.	Maharashtra	260	170
16.	Manipur	94	54
17.	Meghalaya	119	86
18.	Nagaland	14	7
19.	Orissa	215	120
20.	Pondicherry	8	2
21.	Punjab	96	66
22.	Rajasthan	176	92
23.	Tamil Nadu	230	143
24.	Uttar Pradesh	255	164
25.	West Bengal	187	105
Total		3275	1941

[Translation]

SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country is completing fifty years of independence. In this country Tribal areas are still underdeveloped. There,

tribals are not getting the benefits due to them because of lack of roads to reach their areas. Due to lack of roads, development could not take place there. When you accord approval to any of National Highway or sanction money for this purpose, whether you put any condition on states that the National Highways passing through these undeveloped areas be completed on priority basis.

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the question which the learned Member has originally asked is only general in nature. Now, he is asking a specific question whether any amount has been allotted to *adivasi* areas. If a specific question is asked now, then, I require a notice.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : In reply to the question, the Minister has said that in the Eighth Five Year Plan the target was of 3275 works, out of that 941 works have been completed. Rest of the works will be completed by 2000. The reasons for non completion of works in Eighth Five Year Plan as explained by the Minister were non-acquisition of land, pendency of legal cases, stay orders given by courts and non-availability of sufficient funds. But it has also been said that these works will be completed by the year 2000 A.D. I would like to ask the Minister whether these hurdles would be removed by the year 2000 A.D. and remaining works would be completed?

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the bottlenecks are there. We have passed the Land Acquisition Act. We are taking steps on the land side also. We are also speeding up all the other areas to the effect that everything will be over by the year 2001.

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : The Minister has mentioned all the difficulties. It is all right. But what are the steps being taken? You say that you have passed the Land Acquisition Act, but certainly you are not going to make it better as delay in shifting of utilities, change of scope, unprecedented floods, contractual failures and non-availability of funds etc. are there. Do you have enough funds? What is the infrastructure that you want to build in this country? What have you done during the Eighth Plan? Have you surrendered any funds during the Eighth Plan? How many new National Highways you have got in the Eighth Plan? What is your objective for the Ninth Plan? Are you going to bring in new National Highways?

SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN : With regard to funds, the hon. Member and the House are fully aware of the fact that in the First Plan, the budgetary support was 1.4 per cent and in the Eighth Plan, it was 0.6 per cent. But anyway, we are banking upon the Resolution passed by the House on a question of 5 per cent cess on diesel and petrol. That matter is still pending with the Cabinet.

If it is released, I will be able to give pronouncements with regard to National Highways. Otherwise, as far as the present position of funds is concerned, I could not pronounce any new National Highway. We hope that it will be cleared by the Cabinet. We will be able to say something about National Highways only after it is cleared by the Cabinet.

SHRI B.R. PATIL : Regarding development of National Highways, the hon. Minister has said in his reply that the on-going works have been delayed due to difficulty in land acquisition etc. I would like to put a specific question regarding National Highway No. 13 between Bijapur and Bangalore. It also touches Chitradurga where National Highway No. 4 is already there. Due to non-availability of funds, about 100 kilometres of road is in a very bad condition and every day thousands of vehicles are moving on that road.

Sir, this road had been opened to public traffic for the last 11 years. In spite of the request made by the Government of Karnataka, sufficient funds have not been provided to National Highway No. 13. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to provide sufficient funds for completion of another 100 kilometres which is in a very bad condition.

SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the main question is general in nature, but a specific question has been asked regarding a particular State. Therefore, I require a separate notice.

Resource Crunch in Defence Forces

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*165. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the defence forces have been facing resource crunch to meet its current and projected requirements and whether the Army Chief has invited the attention of Government to the shortage of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the requirement of funds for the defence forces?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Allocation to Defence is made from within the overall resource availability keeping in view requirements of national security and other sectors of the economy. Currently, a total of Rs. 32000 crores have been provided to the Defence forces in BE 1997-98 to meet their essential

maintenance and modernisation needs. In addition, Rs. 3620 crores have also been provided for meeting the expected liability on account of the recommendations of Vth Pay Commission. The Government stands committed to adequately provide any additional requirement of capital expenditure during the course of the year.

(c) A detailed exercise has been carried out by the Ministry of Defence in the recent past in consultation with the Service Hqrs. to assess the essential fund requirements of the Defence Services. This is currently under active consideration of the Government.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the situation is very piquant with the Government that the reply has no relevance with the question which is :

[English]

"whether the Defence Forces have been facing resource crunch to meet its current and projected requirements and whether the Army Chief has invited the attention of the Government to the shortage of funds;"

[Translation]

It has not been mentioned anywhere. The fact remains that the Army Chief of our country wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister informing him that the army was facing economic crisis which had been adversely affecting the defence capabilities of the country. He has drawn the attention of the hon. Prime Minister to the fact that the entire world knows about that but the Government did not give the reply to that. Whether he had drawn their attention or not? If he has drawn the attention then in what way? Nothing has been mentioned about the economic crisis they have been facing. No reply is being given by the Government. It has been mentioned in the Budget data that 36000 crore rupees have been granted. What new thing the Government has given? The reply to the question which we had raised is not there in his reply. The question is something else and the reply is something else. It is an amazing happening. I would like to know through you if the Army Headquarters had asked for 12666.75 crore rupees for modernisation and reinforcing the equipment supplies whereas the Ministry sanctioned 10024.90 crore rupees only. The Finance Ministry sanctioned 7357 crore rupees which was almost fifty percent of the projected requirement of the Army. The fifty percent was sanctioned by the Finance Ministry and the hon. Finance Minister gave the statement that he would sanction whatever amount is asked for Defence. What is this? This is the report of the Standing Committee and the entire House has recommended that this amount should be received by you. It has also been mentioned in it there is the

resource crunch. See, I would like to mention it here also that he had written to this extent :

[English]

"In real terms, the hike in Defence Forces Estimate for 1997-98 is only notional."

[Translation]

Only a nominal increase has been made and they have repeatedly said that they need more amount. The Defence Department has asked for 4620 crore rupees more for modernisation and you have received 1279 crore rupees only. I would like to know from the Government that keeping in view all this, do you have the resource crunch or not? Would you inform about this or not? Would the army of the country get full arms commensurate with their actual requirement or not? The way Pakistan is piling up arms...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Joshi ji, please conclude now.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Please tell me, why your Defence Budget is depleting every year. I would also like to ask as to what percent of the GDP is being spent in our country, as compared to Pakistan and China, on defence? Please mention their and our percentage. Later on, it should also be mentioned whether there is resource crunch for the Indian army or not?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank hon. Joshi ji that he has raised a very important question since the Government has been saying it time and again that no stone would be left unturned to safeguard the unity and integrity of the nation. I extend my thanks for the same. He has drawn the attention of both the Government and nation by raising this issue seriously.

As far as the question of 32 thousand crore rupees is concerned, it is alright that the provision of 32 thousand crore rupees has been made. The remaining three thousand crore rupees would be spent on the Fifth Pay Commission. It is correct that the Defence Ministry and the heads of the Forces have written letters to the Finance Ministry and to Mr. Prime Minister. Due to that, the Finance Minister while presenting the budget had assured the entire House that the required amount would be made available for procurement of the necessary arms and ammunitions. Likewise you might have observed that last year the budget of 27-28 thousand crore rupees was allocated, but later on it went upto 29 thousand. I would like to assure the House that as far as the defence is concerned, the required amount would be made available for this purpose. As far writing the letter, it is also true that not only they but we also have written letters and have been writing to the Finance Ministry and the hon. Prime Minister also and have been making efforts to get more and more funds from them. Besides, we have requested them to

make more provisions in the Ninth Plan. The decision regarding it would be taken soon.

As far as the question of expenses of defence in comparison with Pakistan and China is concerned it would have to be accepted that our expenses are less than their. You have raised the issue of GDP in comparison with Pakistan and China then their's is much and I do not know about the data. But as far as the defence of our country is concerned we have been spending 2.44 rupees which is quite lesser than that is being spent in Pakistan and China. We have been making efforts to spend more and more and to fulfil the requirement.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has accepted the paucity of funds. There is paucity of funds for the Navy, Air Force and the Military. The Government admits it and have been saying that more provisions would be made in the Ninth Plan. The Navy takes much time in construction work. It has been mentioned in the report of the Standing Committee that :-

[English]

"On the capability side, the Indian Navy's inventory of ships has been on the decline as no order for indigenous construction of ships has been placed since 1986 due to constraints of funds. As regards submarines, the Navy at present has about 70 per cent of the projected force levels of submarines envisaged in their 15-Year Perspective Plan. This will deteriorate further with the decommissioning of first class submarines and scheduled refit, repairs-cum-modernisation of other submarines etc., etc."

[Translation]

These things cannot be made in one day. If you want to develop the Navy, construct the ships and submarines, then these cannot be made in 10-15 days or in one or two months. Again, the same situation prevails in the Air Force. Likewise, if there is paucity of funds for purchasing arms then when would these be bought. I would like to know if the Ninth Five Year Plan has been prepared or not? The Standing Committee has said that the Ninth Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised. When the plan has not been finalised what would happen. I would like to know if the plan for the Ninth Five Year Plan has been fully finalised or not? What is your final recommendation, has the Cabinet approved that and whether the necessary resources are being mobilised for it?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : As far as economic crisis is concerned, it would have to be agreed that the country is facing economic crisis but efforts are being made to improve the present condition. Whatever economic crisis be there in the country, for the Defence

purpose, there would be no compromise in the name of economic crunch...*(Interruptions)*

12.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not disturb. There are some other hon. Members who want to ask questions. Why are you disturbing?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member, is concerned due to curtailment in the defence budget allocations during the last few years and therefore it seems to be difficult to make it up within one or two years. Even then the Government has been making efforts to make it up within two years.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Suresh Prabhu will put the question now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think he has every right to ask a question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have lost a lot of time saying "because and because". I am not responsible for that.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Out of 37 countries in Asia, India stands 35th in defence expenditure. The per capita expenditure on defence by India is only 8.7 dollars per person. It is deteriorating very fast. On the other hand, Pakistan is acquiring surface-to-air missiles. The new amendment passed in the Senate of USA makes it possible for Pakistan to acquire arms from USA. On the other hand, we are reducing our defence expenditure. You are saying that the Government has written a letter. You are saying that you have written a letter to the Prime Minister. The defence forces are writing a letter to you.

MR. SPEAKER : It is over. Whatever statement you wanted to make, you have made it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : A debate on this issue should take place. It is a very important subject. Kindly allow half an discussion. The Minister agrees for it.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is a very important issue. There should be a discussion under Rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER : We have started a discussion on the Ninth Plan Approach Paper. We are supposed to continue with the discussion on the Ninth Plan Approach Paper during this Session. That is the time when you can raise all these questions.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The hon. Minister wants to reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have not started Government Business so far. We have a lot of business before us.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Near Air Collision

*166. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details and reasons of the incidents in which the aircraft averted from the near collisions in the air during the last four months, month-wise;

(b) the details of inquiries conducted in this regard alongwith the outcome thereof;

(c) whether in any of such case the Airport Authority of India has suspended the Air Traffic Controller who almost guided the two planes to disaster;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the security and prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Two air-miss incidents have been reported in the Indian skies during the last four months. The details are as under :

Date	Airlines involved	Reasons
1	2	3
2.4.1997	Air India and United Airlines	Reduced range of the Air Surveillance Radar, existence of cloudy weather and the Controller's failure to provide the vertical separation between the aircraft.
22.6.1997	Romanian Airlines and Gulf Air	The Radar Controller at Delhi Airport instructed the arriving Romanian aircraft to descend on Radian 255 to 17000 feet while clearing the departing Gulf Air aircraft to climb to

1	2	3
		22000 feet on the same radial. The Romanian flight crew reduced his rate of descent as per the Traffic Collision Avoidance system advice on his aircraft.

(c) and (d) In case of the incident of 2.4.1997, the Air Traffic Controller on duty was placed under suspension.

(e) The main steps taken to avoid chances of mid-air collision are : (1) Refresher courses to update professional knowledge of Air Traffic Controllers, (ii) Periodical proficiency checks of Air Traffic Controllers, (iii) Modernisation of Air Traffic Services at Delhi and Mumbai airports, (iv) Proper maintenance of navigation and communication and landing facilities, and (v) Compulsory installation of ACAS on every aircraft flying in Indian skies in a time-bound manner.

[Translation]

Agreement between Air India and Air France

*167. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India and Indian Airlines have signed a preferential commercial agreement with Air France to facilitate an increase in code-sharing between the three airlines;

(b) if so, the precise terms of the agreement and how it is likely to benefit Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(c) how much increase in terms of passenger movement and cargo is expected thereby for AI and IA and corresponding increase in traffic for Air France?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Air India and Indian Airlines have concluded a Co-operative Services Agreement with Air France.

(b) and (c) The Agreement signed by Air India envisages operation of additional 6 frequencies by Air France in a phased manner by Summer-2000, in which Air India will be allowed a block of 40 Y class seats and 4 J class seats at an agreed price. The Agreement also envisaged Air India code-sharing on Air France's flights beyond Paris to other destinations and preferential pro-rates.

The Agreement signed by Indian Airlines enables the two airlines to sell tickets on each other's services, preferential pro-rates and through check-in facilities on

each other's services on specified sectors. Air France and Indian Airlines have also agreed to co-operate in publicity and promotion campaigns, training of pilots, ground and cabin crew and aircraft maintenance.

The Agreement will enable Air India to expand their network to interior points in Europe and USA, using Paris as a hub. Instead of operating services with their own aircraft to Zurich and Amsterdam, AI will be able to serve these markets through code-share services with Air France from Winter 1997-98 on a thrice weekly basis. This spread of services will not only cater to the traffic AI was earlier carrying but will also allow for growth. This arrangement will also result in cost-saving due to removal of AI's services to Amsterdam and Zurich with their own aircraft. The code-share on India-France-India sector will enable Air India to augment its carriage on the route without deploying their own aircraft. The agreement will also enable Air India to augment its cargo capacity on India-France-India Sector.

Indian Airlines will also benefit from the facility of selling tickets on Air France Services and co-operation in ticket sale, publicity and promotion campaigns, cargo-operations and frequent flier programmes. The agreement on pro-rates will also financially benefit Air India and Indian Airlines.

[English]

Mock Parliament

168. SHRI B.K. GADHVI :
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Mock Parliament held by his Ministry for the benefit of school children in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether his Ministry has prepared any programme for the future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) A statements is attached.

(b) and (c) In addition to the existing schemes of Youth Parliament Competitions for Senior Secondary Schools under the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the New Delhi Municipal Council it is proposed to organise a National Youth Parliament Competition for Navodaya Vidyalayas located in different parts of the country. It is also proposed to organise a National Competition of Youth Parliament among selected Universities from different parts of the country. As a first step in this direction an Orientation Course for participants from 26 Universities was held in New Delhi during 14th-17th July, 1997.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

Statement

With a view to strengthening parliamentary democracy in the country the Fourth All India Ship's Conference held in Bombay in 1962 recommended that Government should encourage holding of 'Mock Parliaments' in educational institutions. In pursuance of the above recommendation of the Whips' Conference the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs introduced in 1996 a scheme of 'Mock Parliament' Competitions in the Higher Secondary Schools under the Directorate of Education, Government of Delhi. The Eighth All India Whip's Conference held in Bhopal in 1972 recommended that the name 'Mock Parliament' may be substituted by 'Youth Parliament'. Consequently, the

scheme has been called as the 'Youth Parliament' Scheme since then.

2. At present, this Ministry is organisation two sets of competitions namely, one for students of the Senior Secondary Schools under the Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi and the New Delhi Municipal Council and the other as a National Competition for Kendriya Vidyalayas located all over the country.

3. Details of the number of schools/vidyalayas which participated in these two competitions, number of prizes awarded to the students and the name of the school/vidyalaya which stood first are as follows :

S.No.	Year	Competition	No. of Schools which participated	Prizes awarded to students	School/Vidyalaya which stood first
Delhi Schools and NDMC Schools					
1.	1994-95	Twenty-Ninth	50	469	Maharaja Agarsain Public School, Ashok Vihar, Phase-IV, Delhi
2.	1995-96	Thirtieth	43	423	Maharaja Agarsain Public School, Ashok Vihar, Phase-IV, Delhi
3.	1996-97	Thirty-First	54	551	Government Girls' Senior Secondary School, Andrews Ganj, New Delhi.
Kendriya Vidyalayas					
1.	1994-95	Seventh National Youth Parliament Competition	132	672	Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sector-J, Aliganj, Lucknow (UP)
2.	1995-96	Eighth National Youth Parliament Competition	131	692	Kendriya Vidyalaya No.2, R.S. Colaba, New Navy Nagar, Mumbai
3.	1996-97	Ninth National Youth Parliament Competition	176	877	Kendriya Vidyalaya, Dogra Lines, Meerut Cantt., Meerut (UP)

4. In view of the laudable objectives of the scheme, the Seventh All India Whips' Conference recommended that the Scheme should be extended to all the States/ Union Territories of the country and that the Ministry should give all possible help to encourage its implementation by offering financial assistance to the States and Union Territories which organise the Youth Parliament Competitions. Consequently a scheme of financial assistance was evolved by the Ministry in 1972-73 according to which, financial assistance up to a ceiling of Rs. 5,000/- was given to the States/Union Territories implementing the Scheme to meet part of the

expenditure incurred by them on awarding of prizes/ certificates to the students/institutions for their meritorious performance in the competition. During the year 1993, the ceiling of Financial assistance to the States/ Union Territories was raised to Rs. 10,000/-. As per the recommendation of the Eleventh All India Whips' Conference, the ceiling of the financial assistance to the States/Union Territories was raised to Rs. 25,000/- with effect from 16.8.1994.

5. As per the latest information from the States/ Union Territories, the Youth Parliament Scheme is being

implemented in 22 States/Union Territories, detailed as under :

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Bihar
3. Goa
4. Delhi
5. Gujarat
6. Haryana
7. Himachal Pradesh
8. Madhya Pradesh
9. Maharashtra
10. Meghalaya
11. Mizoram
12. Orissa
13. Nagaland
14. Pondicherry
15. Punjab
16. Rajasthan
17. Tamil Nadu
18. Tripura
19. Uttar Pradesh
20. West Bengal
21. Chandigarh
22. Dadra and Nagar Haveli

Delay of Defence Projects

*169. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
LT. GEN. PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as reported in the 'Pioneer' of July 3, 1997 some of the prestigious defence projects are stymied by inordinate delays ranging from 7 years to 27 years, resulting in a cost escalation of more than Rs. 5,000 crore;

(b) if so, the details of these projects, the extent of delay suffered by each and the cost escalation suffered in respect of each project;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the corrective measures taken to check inordinate delay in defence projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c) Defence projects like, Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun, Light Combat Aircraft, 5.56 mm Indian Small Arms System (INSAS), Pilotless Target Aircraft are high technology development projects. No project, however, has been stymied due to the delays. After successful completion of indigenous development,

MBT Arjun, 5.56 mm Indian Small Arms System (INSAS) and Pilotless target aircraft (PTA) have already entered production phase. These high performance critical defence systems will be available for the Armed Forces during Ninth Plan. The Light Combat Aircraft and Combat Aircraft and Advance Light Helicopter projects are progressing satisfactorily. Project 'Sea Bird' is a construction project and is scheduled to be completed in 2005 AD. It will not be in public interest to divulge more information on individual projects.

(d) The following measures have been taken to check inordinate delay in Defence projects;

- (i) Introduction of concurrent engineering practice.
- (ii) Development of technologies/competencies before taking up project for system development.
- (iii) Multi-tier project review system.
- (iv) Assured funding of higher priority projects.
- (v) Accelerated indigenous development of critical technologies/materials/components/sub-systems which have been denied or are likely to be denied under various export control regimes of developed nations.

New Tourism Policy

*170. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether sufficient allocation has not been made for tourism sector during the current plan period as compared to the Eighth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether a meeting of State Tourism Ministers was held recently in Delhi to discuss the new National Tourism Policy;

(d) if so, the details of the points discussed and the outcome thereof;

(e) the time by which the new tourism policy is likely to be implemented;

(f) whether views of State Government's Committees and experts in this regard have also been considered;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the Government also propose to include tourism in the Concurrent List of the Constitution;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) The Domestic Budgetary support provided by the Planning Commission for Central Department of Tourism during Eighth Five Year Plan was Rs. 440 crores. For the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission has approved a Domestic Budgetary support of Rs. 560 crores at 1996-97 prices. The funds provided to Central Department of Tourism are not allocated Statewise. Financial Assistance to State Governments from these funds are provided on the basis of specific proposals received and the availability of funds.

(c) to (g) The State Tourism Ministers Conference was held in Delhi on 27th June to discuss the New National Tourism Policy - 1997, alongwith other issues like Role of the State Governments in Infrastructure Development, Rationalisation of tax structure. Implementation of Centrally Assisted projects. Guidelines for Eco-tourism etc. were discussed. The National Tourism Policy was generally accepted and approved by the State Government Tourism Ministers present. The Draft Policy was also circulated to Industry Associations and a Workshop on the same was also held on 26th June, 1997. The suggestions received from various agencies have been incorporated in the Draft Policy.

(h) to (j) A suggestion for inclusion of Tourism in the Concurrent List was discussed in the State Tourism Ministers Conference to include Tourism in the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Most of the State Governments generally agreed to the proposal but wanted more time to consider and from their formal views on the subject. A few of the State Governments expressed their reservations on this subject.

Foreign Exchange Earnings by I.T.D.C.

*171. SHRI K.S. RAYUDU :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign exchange from Tourism has increased during last three years;

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

(c) whether there is now any decrease in foreign exchange earnings;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost foreign exchange earning by I.T.D.C.?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) There has been a consistent increase in foreign exchange earnings from tourism during last three years.

This upward trend continued during the first three months of current financial year also. The details are as given below :

Year	Foreign Exchange Earnings			
	Rs. crores	% Change	US \$ Million	% Change
1994-95	7365.61	5.7	2347.96	5.7
1995-96	9185.88	24.7	2928.27	24.7
1996-97	10417.57	13.4	3063.97	4.6
1997-98 (April-June)	1977.75	8.2	557.11	3.6

(e) The steps taken to increase foreign exchange earnings by ITDC includes participation in International Travel Marts, Hosting of Familiarization Tours of travel agents/writers etc., extending brochure support to foreign tour operators, featuring on the Amadeus Computerised Reservation System and publicity through Internet and holding Food festivals.

[Translation]

Decline in Pass Percentage

*172. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pass percentage of Kendriya Vidyalayas is declining slowly and the Ministry is concerned about it;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has declared the current academic session as "Zero failure year" on the directive of his Ministry; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Ministry and Sangathan to achieve full success in the current session?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No, Sir. The pass percentage of Class X and Class XII of Kendriya Vidyalayas has been consistently higher than the average pass percentage of the Central Board of Secondary Education. Further, the Class X and Class XII results of Kendriya Vidyalayas in 1997 are considerably better than those in 1996.

(c) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has set for itself a target of "Zero Failure for 1997-98".

(d) The Sangathan has planned to achieve this target through various measures including intensive monitoring of academic activities, recruitment and appointment of teachers, systematic in-service training of teachers and Principals and encouragement of Co-curricular activities.

[English]

Oil and Natural Gas Exploration

*173. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the quantity of under-ground Natural Gas and Oil available in the country particularly in Tripura;

(b) if so, the name of the agency which has conducted the survey and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether some foreign agencies have also been entrusted with the job regarding exploration of oil and natural gas in some parts of Tripura;

(d) if so, the names of agencies alongwith the details of terms and conditions of the agreements with them; and

(e) the details of industries that have been set up for proper utilisation of the natural gas available in Tripura and the other gas based industries planned to be set up in the State?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) ONGC, OIL and several Private/Joint Venture Companies have carried out exploration activities (which also include surveys) in different parts of the country (including offshore) and about 6389.2 million tonnes of inplace reserves of oil and oil equivalent of gas has been established as on 1.4.1996.

As regards Tripura, ONGC has been conducting Geoscientific surveys in the State since 1962 and as a result thereof inplace reserves of 30.10 billion cubic meters of gas have been established as on 1.4.1996.

(c) and (d) A U.S. Company, Okland Oil Company has been awarded the contract for the block AA-ON-3 in the 7th round of bidding. However, Production Sharing Contract for the block has not yet been signed.

(e) An allocation of 1.63 MMSCMD of gas has been made to the following units in Tripura :

	(MMSCMD)
* TSED, Rokhia	0.6000
* TSED, Baramura	0.1380
* TNGC	0.1302
* NEEPCO, Ramchandranagar	0.7500
* CNG (IBP)	0.0160

The expected consumption by these units will fully utilise the gas available in the State.

* TSED - Tripura State Electricity Department

- * TNGC - Tripura Natural Gas Company Ltd.
- * NEEPCO - North Eastern Electric Power Corporation
- * CNG (IBP) - Compressed Natural Gas (IBP)

Oil Industry Development Board

*174. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the purposes for setting up of Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB);

(b) the amount of cess collected under OIDB during the last three years; and

(c) the manner in which the above amount has been utilised?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The Oil Industry (Development) Act 1974, provides for the establishment of a Board for the development of oil industry. Under section 2 (k) of this Act, the term "oil industry" includes all activities by way of prospecting or exploring for or production of mineral oil, refining, processing, transportation, storage, handling and marketing of mineral oil, production and marketing of all products, down stream of an oil refinery and the production of fertilisers and petro-chemicals and all activities directly or indirectly connected therewith.

(b) A sum of Rs. 8185.57 crores approximately have been collected during the years 1994-95 to 1996-97.

(c) As per Section 16 of the Oil Industry Development Act, 1974, the cess is to be first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Central Government may after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, pay to the Oil Industry Development Board such sums of money out of the proceeds of cess as the Government may think fit for being utilised for the development of oil industry which, inter-alia, includes petroleum, petrochemicals and fertilizers. To the extent, the cess collection exceeds the sums directly paid to OIDB, it becomes a resource for financing Government expenditure in and for extending direct and indirect budgetary support to the Central public sector undertakings in petroleum, petrochemicals and fertilizers sector.

Indian Port Trust Act, 1908

*175. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign investments of over \$ 18 billion for the overall development of major ports in the country is awaiting requisite amendments in the Indian Port Trust Act, 1908;

(b) if so, the main points of amendments that are being considered;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced;

(d) whether to facilitate development of port infrastructure the Ministry plans to permit major ports to forge joint ventures with minor ports to fund their modernisation;

(e) if so, whether the move will help to meet the fund requirements of Rs. 2000 crore for development of minor intermediate ports in the Ninth plan period through private participation;

(f) if so, the steps likely to be taken in this regard; and

(g) to what extent the foreign fund flow for port modernisation will be available?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The provisions of the Major Port Trusts Act, at present, do not permit Major Ports to forge joint ventures with minor ports.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

Supply of Kerosene

*176. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV :

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :

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

(a) the quota of kerosene fixed for each State during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the basic parameters for fixation of such quota;

(c) whether requests for enhancement of kerosene quota have been received from different States;

(d) if so the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The quantity of Kerosene allocated to each State/UT during the last 3 years is given in the Statement attached.

(b) to (e) Kerosene is a deficit product in the country and more than 40% of the requirements are met by imports. Allocation of kerosene to the States is made on the basis of historicals, i.e. past allotment and consumption plus permissible increase against additional availability. Requests are received from the State Governments for additional allocation from time to time. However, on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it has not been possible to meet the full demand of the States. There is heavy subsidy on

kerosene, which has been growing over the years and is more than Rs. 5/- per litre at present totalling presently to more than Rs. 6000 crores per annum. Nevertheless, a 3% increase has been given in the allocation during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 over the previous years for the country as a whole. However, the States/UTs with lower per capita availability have been given higher increases and vice versa.

Statement

State-wise Allocation of Kerosene during the Last Three Years.

(Fig. in MTs)

State/UTs.	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	1	2	3
Haryana	153992	159468	161040
Himachal Pradesh	40374	42228	58282
Jammu & Kashmir	77815	85536	89500
Punjab	325679	328932	335955
Rajasthan	305612	327344	352370
Uttar Pradesh	1015016	1087462	1142082
Chandigarh	20928	21132	21372
Delhi	238540	240924	243648
Assam	251586	255232	258644
Bihar	558436	606924	652956
Manipur	22262	21638	22494
Meghalaya	15703	16092	20070
Nagaland	10324	11422	13728
Orissa	194954	211452	233459
Sikkim	7556	7632	7840
Tripura	22188	23112	30816
West Bengal	748188	757987	767110
Arunachal Pradesh	9566	9576	10994
Mizoram	6422	6360	7956
Andaman & Nicobar	4348	4632	4912
Gujarat	805680	806280	826562
Maharashtra	1507874	1527648	1549928
Goa	29132	27408	27774
Diu	1468	1488	1506
Daman	1476	1488	1506
Dadar & N. Haveli	3108	3144	3184
Madhya Pradesh	444420	482555	517874
Andhra Pradesh	602688	621656	647148
Karnataka	455696	484690	503150
Kerala	272537	287167	284753

	1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	668258	675276	695436
Pondicherry	14860	15012	15200
Lakshadweep	876	888	908
Total	8837562	9159785	9510157

Compulsory NCC Training

*177. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to make N.C.C. training compulsory in the colleges throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has received any recommendations from its Defence Affairs Committee in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

The Standing Committee of Parliament on Defence (1996-97) in its Fourth Report has recommended that National Cadet Cores (NCC) should be extended to all colleges and training should be provided to NCC cadets particularly at Under Officers and Senior Under Officers level with a view to developing in them officer like qualities and thus enabling them to obtain Commission in the Armed Forces. The Committee further recommended that the Government should examine the feasibility of resurrection of NCC as a feeder organisation to the Armed Forces adding that the NCC should also be developed to provide manpower at short notice in the unfortunate event of conflict.

2. NCC is essentially a youth movement attracting young people on voluntary basis. It is felt that the essential character of NCC should be retained and it is not desirable to make NCC compulsory in educational institutions throughout the country.

Security Force for Airports

*178. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning to raise

a dedicated security force for the Airports in the Country;

(b) if so, whether the force will be trained and answerable to the Airport Authority of India;

(c) if so, whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been worked out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) The proposal to set up an exclusive security organisation to guard some of the airports is under consideration of the Government.

Funds for Road Sector

*179. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Transport Ministry has been struggling for getting more funds for spending on the road sector;

(b) whether some State Governments have failed to utilise the precious external aid provided to these States for the road sector, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these loans were given for ten different schemes to build roads on the commitment that the funds would be drawn according to schedule;

(d) the names of States responsible for the failure to utilise the funds and the action taken against them;

(e) whether the Ministry has decided to sign the loan agreements only after the loan for the concerned projects has been acquired; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Constitutionally, the Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country and all other roads are essentially the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. Allocations of funds for development and maintenance of National Highways have been far below the requirements.

(b) Within the available resources the funds earmarked to the States for externally aided National Highway projects have been utilised. However, the utilisation could have been higher but for some slippages in implementation of projects on account of delay in completion of project preparation, land acquisition, shifting of utilities, environmental clearance, court litigation, award of work and non-performance/slow performance of contractors.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) For the reasons explained in para (b) above, the first World Bank loan could not be fully utilised and

the projects in the States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal are being undertaken either through budgetary sources or on BOT basis.

(e) and (f) Ministry has decided to sign loan agreements with external agencies in the following two stages :

- (i) Pre-construction Activities - This will cover preparation of detailed project report, land acquisition, shifting of utilities, environmental clearance.
- (ii) For execution.

Number of Airports in the Country

*180. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of airports in the country at present;
- (b) how many and which of these are international airports and are making profits;
- (c) location of loss making airports in the country;
- (d) whether there is a proposal to hand over loss making airports to States and private parties; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India manages 5 international airports, 87 domestic airports and 28 civil enclaves located at defence airfields. Out

of the above, the five international airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and Thiruvananthapuram as well as eight domestic airports at Ahmedabad, Goa, Mumbai (Juhu), Bangalore, Calicut, Cochin, Hyderabad and Bagdogra are making profits.

(c) All the remaining 107 airports and civil enclaves in the country are incurring losses.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Funds for Irrigation in Delhi

1776. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the funds provided to the National Capital Territory of Delhi for irrigation projects during the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of the funds utilised by the State Government, year-wise and the funds lying unutilised; and

(c) the reasons for not utilising the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) A Statement showing approved outlay, utilised and un-utilised funds and the reasons for not utilising the funds provided to the Government-of National Capital Territory of Delhi for irrigation projects during the last three years for Plan and Non-Plan is enclosed.

Statement

PLAN

Year	Approved Outlay (Rs. in lakhs)	Funds utilised (Rs. in lakhs)	Un-utilised Funds (Rs. in lakhs)	Reasons for not utilising the funds
1994-95	250.00	140.01	109.99	Planning Deptt. of Govt. of NCT of Delhi had reduced the allocation to Rs. 150 lakhs
1995-96	252.00	179.86	72.14	Delay in acquisition of land and in procurement of pumpsets
1996-97	64.00	46.11	17.89	Delay in clearance of the scheme "Extension of effluent irrigation scheme from Keshopur Treatment Plant (KEIS Phase-III)" by the Technical Advisory Committee

NON-PLAN

Year	Approved Outlay (Rs. in lakhs)	Funds utilised (Rs. in lakhs)	Un-utilised Funds (Rs. in lakhs)	Reasons for not utilising the funds
1994-95	294.00	293.92	0.08	Minor variation
1995-96	320.00	318.68	1.32	Minor variation
1996-97	316.75	303.46	13.29	Minor variation

Teaching Staff

1777. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Junior Navyug Schools at Moti Bagh and Lodhi Road were upgraded last year by extending the classes from Fifth to Ninth;

(b) if so, whether the teaching staff which were deputed to teach upto fifth are continuing to teach the students of senior classes in these schools;

(c) if so, the justification therefor;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to provide adequate and competent teaching staff to these schools; and

(e) the time by which the selection of teachers and entrusting them with the teaching job is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (e) As per the information furnished by New Delhi Municipal Council, the Junior Navyug Schools at Moti Bagh and Lodhi Road were upgraded from Primary to Middle level in 1990 and from Middle to Secondary level from the academic session 1997-98. On upgradation of these schools from Primary to Middle level, Trained Graduate Teachers were provided. In view of the upgradation from Middle to Secondary level, action has been initiated to recruit/appoint competent teachers and the same shall be completed shortly.

Persons killed in IAF-AVRO HS-748 Plane Crash

1778. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of civilians and crew members killed in the IAF AVRO HS-748 plane crash, separately;

(b) whether any compensation has been paid to civilians killed in the crash; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) Five crew members and seventeen Air Force personnel were killed in the IAF AVRO HS-748 plane crash on 24th December 1996. There was no civilian casualty.

Socio-Economic Development of SC/ST

1779. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ITDC contemplate to take up any specific scheme for socio-economic development for SC and ST in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) ITDC being a Commercially Competitive Corporation in a service industry, it does not have a specific scheme for the socio-economic development of SCs and STs. However, in recruitment and other personnel matters, ITDC follows the required norms and instructions of Government.

Flights from Bagdogra to other Places

1780. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since take any decision to operate flights from Bagdogra to other places of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines/Alliance Air are already operating thrice a week flights on the Sector Delhi/Bagdogra/Guwahati/Delhi and five times a week on the Sector Calcutta/Bagdogra/Calcutta. In addition, Bagdogra is also linked to Guwahati and Delhi by other Airlines. Passengers desirous of travelling between Bagdogra and other places can avail themselves of flights through Calcutta/Delhi.

[Translation]

District Primary Education Programme

1781. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of districts in Uttar Pradesh where District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) is being implemented;

(b) whether the Government propose to include other district of the State under this programme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Nil.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 15 districts (Maharajganj, Siddarthnagar, Gonda, Badaun, Khiri, Lalit Pur, Pilibhit, Basti, Moradabad, Shahjahanpur, Sonabhadra, Deoria, Hardoi, Bareilly and Firozabad) have been identified for inclusion under District Primary Education Programme phase-II.

[English]

Blue Print

1782. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have drawn up a blue print for the development of tourism in the country for the next decades;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether specified areas of tourist activities are proposed to be thrown open to the private tourist agencies and organisations; and

(c) whether the Tourism Policy would be got vetted by the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) A draft National Policy on Tourism has been prepared by the Department of Tourism and placed in the Parliament Library and circulated to the Members of the Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism, State Governments and Industrial Associations. The policy was also discussed in a Workshop organised on 26th June, 1997 and in the Tourism Ministers' Conference on 27th June, 1997. The policy aims at achieving sustainable development of tourism through the coordinated efforts of Central Government, State Governments and the private sector. It also aims at creating awareness on tourism and ensuring public participation in the development of tourism.

Court Orders for Civilian Officers of Dock Yard, Navy

1783. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has passed

an order on July 8, 1996 that Government should consider expeditious disposal of the representation regarding pay scale anomaly of the petitioner, namely Civilian Officers of Dock Yard of Indian Navy as was done in respect of JSOs in DRDO; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far to implement Supreme Court's orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As directed by the Supreme Court, the petition has been disposed off and the petitioner namely, the Indian Navy Civilian Officers Association, Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam has been given a reply on 29.7.1997.

Annual Rainfall in States

1784. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the average annual rainfall in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Meghalaya and rivers flowing through these States;

(b) the irrigation and hydro-generation potential of the rivers and the utilisation of that potential State-wise; and

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to harness the irrigation and hydro-potential and the Central assistance proposed to be provided to these States for the purpose, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Details of average (normal) annual rainfall, major river systems, Creation and utilisation of irrigation potential and hydro-generation potential in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Meghalaya are as under :

S.No.	Item	States		
		Arunachal Pradesh	Manipur	Meghalaya
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Annual Normal Rainfall in millimetre (mm)	2781	1382	4869
2.	Major River Systems/ sub-systems	Brahmaputra, Subansiri, Siang, Lohit, Kameng, Dibong, Noa, Dihing,	Barak	Meghna, Kopili, Kulsi, Bharalu, Dudhnoi, Jinarai, Jinjiram.
3.	Irrigation potential at the end of Eighth Plan (provisional) in thousand hectares			
	(i) Created	82.1	151.1	53.1
	(ii) Utilised	73.1	127.7	46.7

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Hydro-generation potential (Mega Watt at 60% Load Factor)			
	(i) Total potential	26756	1176	1070
	(ii) Potential developed	8.33	73.17	121.67

(c) Yes, Sir. In addition to plan allocations Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 4.30 crores has been provided for Khuga Irrigation Project of Manipur during 1996-97 under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. No Central assistance is provided for Hydro-Projects in the State-sector.

[Translation]

Cooking Gas Bottling Plants

1785. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ratio of the cooking gas bottling plants in Gujarat is minimum as compared with the population of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to set up new bottling plants in Gujarat; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) No, Sir. At present there are 91 LPG bottling plants operating in the country with total bottling capacity of 3457 TMTA. Out of these, following six bottling plants are operating in the State of Gujarat.

Location	Capacity (TMTA)
Rajkot	44
Hazira	44
Koyali	102
Surat	12
Gandhinagar	26
Ahmedabad	34
Total	262

In addition to the above, one bottling plant with a capacity of 66 TMTA has been commissioned recently at Ahmedabad.

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

(c) and (d) In addition to the bottling plants as mentioned in (a) above, IOC is setting up a bottling plant at Gandhar with a bottling capacity of 68 TMTA

against part resitment of Koyali bottling plant and one LPG bottling plant at Bhavnagar with a capacity of 44 TMTA, under VIII Plan.

[English]

Airports in North-East

1786. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to make Guwahati Airport as the "Hub" of air service for entire North-East;

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

(c) whether Silchar Airport is likely to be augmented soon facilitating landing and take-off flights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Guwahati is planned to be made a regional hub for the North-East. Upgradation of facilities at Guwahati Airport is an ongoing process.

(c) and (d) Airports Authority of India has already initiated action to replace the existing Very high frequency Omni Range (VOR) by Doppler Very high frequency Omni Range (DVOR) colocated with Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) at a cost of Rs. 101.26 lakhs. The work is likely to be completed by November, 1997.

Telugu Ganga Project

1787. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Water Commission refused to give hydrological clearance for prestigious multi-purpose Telugu Ganga Project;

(b) the main reasons to put forward by the Union Government;

(c) the steps taken by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to meet the need of the Union Government for its approval; and

(d) the time proposed to be taken by the State Government to get the projects cleared after its due clarification from the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The Central Water Commission has not given clearance to Telugu Ganga Project so far.

(b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been able to sort out inter-state issues.

(c) and (d) The Project will be cleared by the Union Government as soon as the inter-state issues are resolved.

Operation of Foreign Airlines to Calcutta

1788. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approached any foreign airlines to operate international flight from Calcutta Airport in the interest of the Eastern and North East States during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the difficulties to divert some international flights from Delhi and Mumbai to Calcutta;

(d) whether any steps have been initiated in that direction;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (f) The Government of India is offering various incentives to foreign airlines to operate to Calcutta, like the ability to combine Calcutta with other prime gate-ways, liberal fifth freedom rights, liberal terms of commercial agreements etc. During 1996-97, Calcutta has been offered as a point of call to the designated airlines of Armenia, Switzerland, Slovak Republic and Indonesia. Australia was granted facility to combine Calcutta with Delhi or Mumbai with effect from 16.10.96. The actual operations are, however, left to the commercial judgement of the airlines.

Direct Flight from Calicut to Mumbai

1789. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any direct flight from Calicut to Mumbai domestic airport operated by Indian Airlines;

(b) if not, the reasons for not operating such flight;

(c) whether the Government are aware that domestic passengers are put to difficulties since the Calicut-Mumbai flight operated by Indian Airlines is landing at Sahara International Airport;

(d) whether the private Airlines operating on this sector is flying with full capacity;

(e) whether it is true that certain officials in the Indian Airlines are colluding with private airlines to scuttle I.A. operation from Calicut to Mumbai Domestic Airport; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to aircraft capacity constraints, Indian Airlines is not in a position to introduce a direct flight from Calicut to Mumbai domestic airport.

(c) Indian Airlines has not received any complaint/representation regarding the difficulties being faced by the passengers.

(d) The average seat factor of Jet Airways on Calicut-Mumbai sector during the month of June, 1997 is 85.9%.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Direct Flight between Chennai and New York

1790. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any long pending demand to introduce direct flight between Chennai and New York; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereto and the reasons for the delay in operating the said flight?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Requests are received from time to time for introduction of direct flights from Chennai to New York.

(b) Air India operates one flight from Chennai to New York as a through flight with change of aircraft in Mumbai. One more flight offers an immediate connection to New York over Mumbai. On both these flights, Customs and Immigration formalities can be completed at Chennai. Air India also provides three other connections per week between Chennai and New York over Mumbai. Air India will consider operation of direct flights between Chennai and New York, depending upon availability of additional capacity and commercial and operational viability.

Conservation of Temples

1791. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations about conservation of a group of temples at village Pathra in the district of Midnapore, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has commenced its restoration work; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) to (d) The group of temples at Pathra Village, Dist. Midnapore, West Bengal are not centrally protected. On a request received from the Government of West Bengal, the Archaeological Survey of India will be executing the repairs as deposit works, on their behalf. It is not possible to indicate a time frame for the commencement of the work.

Amount Sanctioned to Cultural Organisations

1792. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cultural organisations financed by the Government for construction of buildings/ purchase of office materials during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount sanctioned to these cultural organisations during the above period; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) to (c)

Name of the State	Total No. of organisations given grant	Total amount sanctioned
1	2	3
1994-95		
Andhra Pradesh	3	Rs. 8,00,000/-
Kerala	4	Rs. 16,02,500/-
Bihar	1	Rs. 71,000/-
Chandigarh	2	Rs. 11,75,000/-
New Delhi	5	Rs. 25,97,000/-
Karnataka	6	Rs. 12,39,000/-
Orissa	3	Rs. 15,90,000/-
Punjab	1	Rs. 3,20,000/-
Tamil Nadu	2	Rs. 10,00,000/-
Uttar Pradesh	3	Rs. 1,95,000/-
West Bengal	1	Rs. 33,000/-
Haryana	1	Rs. 3,90,000/-
Maharashtra	1	Rs. 5,38,000/-
Manipur	3	Rs. 13,60,000/-
Assam	1	Rs. 5,20,000/-

	1	2	3
Gujarat		1	Rs. 2,50,000/-
Rajasthan		1	Rs. 6,00,000/-

1995-96

Assam	2	Rs. 7,50,000/-
Gujarat	1	Rs. 3,00,000/-
Maharashtra	3	Rs. 10,50,000/-
Uttar Pradesh	3	Rs. 15,65,000/-
Bihar	2	Rs. 1,25,448/-
Haryana	3	Rs. 40,41,000/-
Punjab	1	Rs. 1,80,000/-
Madhya Pradesh	3	Rs. 46,27,000/-
Orissa	2	Rs. 1,10,000/-
Himachal Pradesh	1	Rs. 10,00,000/-
Manipur	2	Rs. 10,00,000/-
Karnataka	1	Rs. 75,000/-
Andhra Pradesh	2	Rs. 1,55,000/-
West Bengal	1	Rs. 1,50,000/-
Kerala	3	Rs. 4,70,000/-

1996-97

Manipur	2	Rs. 16,00,000/-
Uttar Pradesh	2	Rs. 8,50,000/-
Kerala	5	Rs. 23,42,000/-
Andhra Pradesh	6	Rs. 5,50,000/-
Rajasthan	1	Rs. 50,000/-
Maharashtra	3	Rs. 30,00,000/-
Assam	2	Rs. 10,00,000/-
Karnataka	7	Rs. 24,39,000/-
West Bengal	2	Rs. 20,00,000/-
New Delhi	3	Rs. 16,00,000/-
Madhya Pradesh	1	Rs. 10,00,000/-
Bihar	1	Rs. 1,00,000/-

Conversion of INS Vikrant into Museum

1793. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Navy realises the importance of preserving Vikrant as a museum and a proposal to convert it into a museum is also being examined;

(b) if so, whether the examination of the proposal has been completed;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made to the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the time bound programme to examine and implement the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) A proposal has been received to convert the decommissioned ship INS Vikrant into a naval museum.

A decision in this regard would depend, inter alia, on feasibility of such conversion.

Air Services for West Bengal

1794. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in West Bengal linked with air services;

(b) whether as compared to other States, less places of West Bengal have been connected by air;

(c) whether there is any plan to expand air services in West Bengal;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have considered to connect Kharagpur, Haldia, Durgapur, Asansol, Bolpur, Jalpaiguri and Maldah by air with Calcutta;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Calcutta and Bagdogra in West Bengal have regular air services.

(b) Provision of air transport services to a place depends on traffic potential.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) Indian Airlines, at present, has no plans to link any new place in West Bengal. Private Airlines are encouraged to airlink more stations subject to viability.

Central Centre of Excellence for Hockey

1795. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved the setting up of a Central Centre of Excellence for Hockey at SAI Regional Centre (Bangalore);

(b) if so, the details regarding its composition and terms and references;

(c) whether help of foreign experts have been sought in the area of penalty corner conversion; and

(d) if so, the details is thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details regarding the Excellence Centre are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) It will be sought as and when required.

Statement

The details of Centre of Excellence for Hockey

1. The Centre will cater to 50 outstanding Hockey players identified for training on continuous basis. The selection would be made from all important tournaments from the age group of 16—21 years.

2. Selection of players would be made by a Talent Scouting Committee comprising of the following three members :-

(a) One person to be nominated by President, I.H.F.

(b) Two former Olympians to be nominated by DG, SAI.

3. The Committee would select at least four players for each position. Approximately half of the players should be from the juniors at any one time. For goal keeping and penalty corner conversion a larger number of players would be identified.

4. In the next stage of Talent Scouting the identified players will be subjected to test in the Human Performance Laboratory. In the final stage the Selection Committee based on the physical fitness and scientific test results, will select Hockey players not exceeding 50.

5. Players will be provided academic facilities.

6. Any player who does not make to the National Team within a period of 3 years or by the age of 23 would be weeded out.

7. Services of sports scientists and foreign experts would be provided to the players.

8. IHF will be involved actively in the Management Committee of the Centre of Excellence which will be constituted by the DG, SAI. This Committee will meet atleast once a quarter. All administrative support to the Project would be provided by SAI Southern Centre, Bangalore.

9. To keep up the players confidence level and self-image, efforts would be made to develop their personality in the manner very similar to being done for the NDA Cadets in the Army.

10. Centre of Excellence will participate in National level Hockey Tournaments and their entry to the tournaments would be as Federation Teams.

11. The funds for the Scheme would come from grants to SAI.

Development of Infrastructure in Sunderbans

1796. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any provision has been made in the current year's budget for the development of any infrastructure in Sunderban area in West Bengal, renowned for its Royal Bengal Tiger Project, like the provision of cottages to attract the foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) The construction of a Tourist Lodge at Fraserganj in Sunderbans has been prioritised in consultation with the State Government for central financial assistance of Rs. 35.00 lakhs during current financial year.

Committee for Ship Building Industry

1797. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee of Secretaries in the year 1984 had made certain recommendations for the ship building industry of the country;

(b) if so, the recommendations accepted and rejected by the Government;

(c) whether BICP after conducting a study had also recommended financial relief for the industry;

(d) if so, the nature of the recommendations; and

(e) the details of the recommendations accepted and rejected by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (e) The Committee of Secretaries in the year 1986 had examined the problems of Shipbuilding Industry and interalia, noted that the negative profitability was a common phenomenon and there seemed to be little prospect of making the shipbuilding industry a viable proposition. While it would be in the long term interest to sustain the development of the shipbuilding industry at an appropriate scale, it was important that steps were taken urgently to bring down the losses in the present system of operations. The Committee directed the Ministry to prepare a position paper on the functioning of the shipyards, giving a critical review of their performance and analysis of various cost elements and also proposing a package of optimum activity based on the most cost effective production programme which will result in minimising the losses.

As a follow up measure, two High-Powered Committees and one study by Bureau of Industrial Costs

& Prices (BICP) had looked into the problems of Shipbuilding Industry and long-term solutions to the financial problems. Broadly, the recommendations made by BICP were as follows :-

(i) Allow the price payable to shipyard at International Parity Price (IPP) plus 40%. The additional burden over IPP to be shared by the buyer and the Government at 10% and 30% of IPP respectively.

(ii) If imported material cost alone exceed IPP, then, it is not advisable to undertake production.

(iii) Domestic shipping industry should be permitted to procure ships through global tendering and domestic shipyards be allowed to participate in global tendering by Government treating the domestic shipyards as an 100% export activity.

Based on the reports of the said Committees and BICP, Government had revised the pricing Policy for Indian Public Sector Shipyards in September, 1993 for a period of two years, which inter-alia, envisaged availability of subsidy of 30% over and above the basic price (20% payable by the Government and 10% by the Shipowner), loan at concessional rate of 9% to the extent of 80% of the cost of a ship, fixation of price in terms of US \$/Japanese Yen, shipowners to pay stage payment to the yard at market determined parity rate of foreign exchange prevailing on the date of actual payment.

Tutorial Classes

1798. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the mechanism in Delhi University and its colleges to assure that tutorial classes are held regularly in the colleges;

(b) the number of tutorials held in the University during 1996-97;

(c) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to frequent reports that teaching faculty in Delhi University is highly under worked because tutorials, which form the basis of the work load and the faculty strength, are not taken; and

(d) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the University to ensure that students are not deprived of the benefit of intensive coaching through tutorials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Navyug Schools

1799. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new Navyug Schools in New Delhi opened during the last three years, location-wise;

(b) whether basic facilities in these schools have not been provided so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether in some schools new admitted children have been asked to attend the school later due to non-availability of the rooms;

(e) if so, whether such conditions prevail in Navyug School, Mandir Marg as well;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) Three Navyug Schools were opened by the Navyug School Educational Society during the last three years, one each at Pataudi House, Mandir Marg and Tilak Marg.

(b) While all basic facilities in these schools have been provided, the play-ground is common for Navyug Schools and the adjoining NDMC schools.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

(d) to (g) New Delhi Municipal Council has intimated that no such case has come to their notice. In Navyug School, Mandir Marg some renovation/partition work has now been completed.

Free Education in Navyug Schools

1800. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide free education including books, dress etc. to the children belonging to income below Rs. 50,000 per annum in NDMC Navyug Schools in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these facilities have not been provided in these schools particularly in Tilak Marg Navyug School since their inception;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided to those children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) to (e) Yes, Sir. With regard to Navyug School, Tilak

Marg, the New Delhi Municipal Council has informed that for supply of the uniforms, order has already been placed and the same shall be supplied very shortly.

Utilisation of Malda and Balurghat Airfield

1801. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry are aware of the fact that Malda and Balurghat (West Bengal) Airfield remained unutilised for last eight years for non-operation of Vayudoot flights and causing hardship;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct an air strip at newly formed district headquarter Raiganj of Uttar Dinajpur in North Bengal and plan for a Calcutta-Malda-Raiganj, Purnea (Bihar)-Coochbehar Flight which is commercially viable every day; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India has at present, no plans to construct an airstrip in Raiganj in West Bengal due to financial constraints. Moreover, no airline has shown interest in operating services on these routes.

[Translation]

National Highways Act

1802. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend National Highways Act for providing fresh incentives for road sector;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals under consideration/finalised and present status of the proposal; and

(c) the details of plans to provide warehousing and other facilities as integral part of highways project?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. It is proposed to amend the National Highways Act, 1956 to include land for housing and other development activities, which are an intergral part of the highway project, as land required for highway development and treat such acquisition as land required for public purpose. A Bill to be introduced in Parliament in this regard is, accordingly, under consideration of the Government.

(c) The Central Government has already permitted the State Governments for utilisation of space beneath the road-over-bridges or fly-overs on National Highways for warehousing, on an yearly licence fee.

[English]

Petroleum Exploration

1803. SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any exploratory wells have been dug by the ONGC in the off-shore of the Arabian Sea for oil during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations;

(c) the number of wells dug in this connection and the results of the analysis of the data therefrom;

(d) whether the ONGC proposes further exploration in this area; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the last 3 years, 86 wells have been drilled in the off-shore area in the Arabian Sea as per details given below :-

Year	Basin	No. of Wells	Hydrocarbon bearing
1994-95	Bombay Offshore	38	08
	Kutch Offshore	01	Nil
1995-96	Bombay Offshore	24	08
1996-97	Bombay Offshore	23	08

The results of the analysis suggest a better relative prospectivity of Bombay Offshore basin. However, the prospectivity of the Kutch basin is likely to improve after problem of subsurface imaging below the trap is tackled successfully.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. During the 9th Plan the following exploration work is planned in the offshore area in the Arabian Sea :-

Area	2D(LK)	3D(LK)	Exploratory Wells	Exploratory Meterage (000m)
Bombay Offshore	3,000	1,56,000	112	309.75
Kutch Offshore	-	11,000	09	34.60
Kerala Offshore	9,000	-	09	25.45
Deep Waters	-	-	07	24.80
Total	12,000	1,67,000	137	394.60

Performance of Schemes

1804. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of various schemes sponsored and implemented through Nehru Yuvak Kendras during the last five years in various States;

(b) if so, the details of the assessment/evaluation carried out with highlights of achievements and the deficiencies noticed;

(c) whether the Government propose to restructure the schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of action plan finalised for schemes to be implemented through Nehru Yuvak Kendras during 1997-98 in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (d) Review of various Schemes sponsored and implemented through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan is a continuing process. The implementation of schemes is monitored periodically through Annual Action Plan prepared by the Department. The schemes are restructured as and when need arises.

(e) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Regular Programmes plan of action for Maharashtra State for the year 1997-98 based on the Guidelines for the preparation of Annual Action Plan 1997-98.

S. No.	Name of the Programme	No. of Programme	Budget Per Programme	Total Budget Estimates
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Youth Club Development Programme	30	5,625	1,68,750
2.	Vocational Training Programme	30	12,000	3,60,000
3.	Awareness Campaign	30	4,000	1,20,000
4.	Work Camp	30	7,500	2,25,000
5.	Celebration of National & International Days & Weeks including National Youth Day, Week and Awards	30	8,000	2,40,000

1	2	3	4	5
6. Sports Promotion Programme		30	10,000	3,00,000
7. Cultural Programme		30	4,000	1,20,000
Total		210	51,125	15,33,750

Bridges at Jolakiasuti, Assam

1805. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for construction of a bridge at Jolakiasuti area of Dhemaji District of Assam on N.H. 52 was taken up during Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, since when the matter is pending for implementation;

(c) the reasons for delay in construction of the bridge;

(d) the names of the organisation entrusted to implement the project; and

(e) the target fixed alongwith the fund allocated during 1996-97 for construction of the project?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Estimate for Jolakiasuti Bridge was sanctioned in 1988.

(b) Since 1988.

(c) The Contractor could not execute the work of the bridge proper due to disturbed conditions prevailing in that area.

(d) Assam PWD till March, 1996 and thereafter Border Roads Organisation.

(e) The proposals have to be revised for the changed site conditions and the project is targetted for completion by 2001.

Promotion in I.R.C.C.

1806. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether I.R.C.C. R & P Rules were approved by MOST/D.O.P. and incumbent holding Company Secretary post got promotion/upgradation upto Secretary & GM (Admn.) only through CMD and IRCC Board without MOST/D.O.P. approval;

(b) what were the instructions and action taken on M/o Law, Justice and Company Affairs for "Profession misconduct" by IRCC;

(c) the date-wise details of officers taken loan for DDA, SFS Flats but not submitted documents to IRCC;

(d) the date-wise details of officers who are enjoying leased accommodation from corporation and HRA drawn by their wives in same station;

(e) whether incumbent involved in several cases have been made C.V.O.; and

(f) if so, give reasons/rules position for (a) to (e) above?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) In terms of Articles of Association of the Corporation, the Board of Directors are empowered to make byelaws from time to time, vary and repeal byelaws for the regulation of the business of the Corporation, its officers and servants. The R&P Rules of the Corporation were approved by the Board of Directors. No approval of DOP was taken. The Promotions/upgradation of all below Board level posts in the Corporation from time to time, including that of Secretary & GM (Admn.) have been made with the approval of the CMD/Board in the Corporation.

(b) No specific instructions of Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs on profession misconduct is available in Corporation records.

(c) There is no officer of the Corporation who has taken loan from IRCC during the last 5 years for purchase of DDA (SFS) flat.

(d) The following officers are enjoying leased accommodation from the Corporation. According to declaration given by them, their wives are not employed, and therefore, question of drawing HRA by them does not arise :

(i) Shri PC Chatterjee, Sr. Mgr. (Civil)

(ii) Shri ML Sharma, Manager (Civil)

(iii) Shri AK Mathur, Dy Manager (F&A)

In the above cases, the financial liabilities or the Corporation is restricted to the officers respective rent entitlement as per rules of the Corporation.

(e) No, Sir. The appointment of the present CVO in the Corporation is from 26.8.96 and the same is duly cleared by the Central Vigilance Commission.

(f) Rule position has been indicated in above parts.

[Translation]

Charging of Extra Money from Passengers

1807. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaint has been received regarding charging extra money from passengers for issuance of O.K. tickets by the booking agents in connivance with employees of Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received in four metro cities i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai during the last two years and the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Terrorists attack on Military in Assam

1808. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the terrorists have launched attacks on the military in Assam during the last three months;

(b) if so, whether some soldiers have lost their lives in above attacks;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government have taken any action on it as yet;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (e) In the recent past a number of incidents have taken place in Assam in which Security Forces have been targetted by militants. During the past three months, 25 Army personnel have been killed and 24 injured in such attacks. The Army has been undertaking counter insurgency operations in the State in conjunction with para military forces. During this period, in encounters with the Army 41 militants/suspects were killed and 755 militants/suspects apprehended. The operations are still continuing.

[English]

By Pass on N.H. 31

1809. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received complaints from MP stating that authorities concerned with construction of by pass on National Highway No. 31 from Falakata to Pundibari in West Bengal and a bridge over River Torsha have been misleading him;

(b) whether the main delay is due to the non-providing of funds regularly to State Government for this project, if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the details of funds provided, year-wise;

(c) whether this type of delay in progress has doubled/trippled the cost of project, which is in other words loss of Government revenue and avoidable increase of exchequer on Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay and action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Some Members of Parliament have written for the early completion of this project.

(b) Funds are allocated to States on Lump sum basis depending on overall availability of funds for NH Sector and work-wise distribution is left to the State Government. Allocation of funds, including Externally aided projects, during the last five years to the Government of West Bengal vis-a-vis fund allotted to this work by State Government is given below :

Year	(Rs. in lakhs) Allocation of fund to Govt. of West Bengal	(Rs. in lakhs) Funds allotted to the work by State Government
1993-94	3500.00	127.57
1994-95	3987.00	203.62
1995-96	3810.00	577.20
1996-97	3608.00	543.22
1997-98 (Amount allocated)	8200.00	700.00 (likely)

(c) and (d) Road work in realignment is progressing as per target. Slow progress of the bridge is due to some dispute on escalation of rates between the Contractor and the State PWD. State Government has been advised suitably to sort out the dispute to expedite the construction of the bridge.

Allocation by NLM

1810. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Literacy Mission has sanctioned Rs. 4.47 crores to Guntur District for its post literacy programme of phase-I and total literacy drive of phase-II;

(b) if so, whether Guntur is the only district in Andhra Pradesh or in the country to get the amounts proposed by the administration and sanctioned by the NLM;

(c) whether the Guntur District has achieved the literacy better than any other districts in the State; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the amount is likely to be spent and the total literacy proposed to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) The Project Approval Committee of the National Literacy Mission Authority which considered the Post Literacy proposal and cleared it in principle to cover

3.25 lakhs neo-literates at a per learner cost of Rs. 49.97 per year for a period of two years, which works out to Rs. 3.25 crores only.

However, an adhoc grant of Rs. 15 lakhs only so far has been released. The District Collector has since submitted a detailed revised pruned estimates as per the direction of the NLMA. The final grant will be based on the approved estimates.

(b) Post Literacy proposals are expected to be submitted by the District Administration as soon as 25% of the targeted group under Total Literacy Campaign or 50000 persons reach the level of Primer-II as part of the literacy campaign. Every district which attains this level accordingly submits the proposal for the consideration of the PAC of NLMA. Guntur district which fulfilled this norm submitted the proposal under PLP. There are 195 such projects which have so far been sanctioned in the country and in 19 districts in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The main object of the scheme is to eradicate illiteracy in the area of operation and there is no comparison of performance between the districts. The following position reveals the performance in the Guntur districts :

Targeted coverage	-	570873
Enroled	-	420414
Completed Pr. I	-	361178
still in Pr. I	-	3396
completed Pr. II	-	295402
still in Pr. II	-	25916
completed Pr. III	-	260403
still in Pr. III	-	10167

(d) The grant will be utilised towards running of 6500 Akshara Pragathi Kendras; training cost; monitoring and evaluation; environment building; office administration, transport charges etc. as per the norms approved by NLMA.

Tourism Development Programmes

1811. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has given a suggestion that in order to achieve the targets of attracting 50 lakh tourists by the turn of the century, India would have to become selective in its approach and improve its tourism development programmes;

(b) if so, the details of measures suggested by FICCI in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have accepted the suggestions made by the FICCI; and

(d) if so, the extent to which they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has given a number of suggestions on different occasions for tourism development in the country. These include adoption of a selective approach for increasing the foreign exchange earnings, provision of incentives like allocation of land at concessional rate for tourism industry, amendment of land Ceiling Act, inclusion of tourism in the Concurrent List, etc. Some of the items have been discussed in the State Tourism Minister's Meeting held in June 1997. Those items which fall within the jurisdiction of the States have been referred to them.

ONGC and Oil

1812. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to compensate Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited for giving some of their fields to private sector, in 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rate of cess and royalty being paid on oil and gas explored from small and medium sized discovered fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(c) For the 5 medium-sized and 13 small-sized fields, for which the Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) have been signed, the cess and royalty payable as per the PSCs for crude is Rs. 900/- tonne and Rs. 481/- tonne respectively. For Natural Gas royalty is payable at an advalorem rate of 10% and no cess is payable.

[Translation]

Barrage Over Yamuna

1813. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the time since when the project for the construction of a barrage over Yamuna in Agra submitted by the Uttar Pradesh Government is pending with the Union Government;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the Governor of Uttar Pradesh had laid the foundation stone of this project during the President's Rule in 1996;

(c) if so, the reasons for not clearing this project;

(d) the details of the objections ascribed by the Government in clearing this project; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remove these objections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The Detailed Project Report of Agra Barrage Project in Uttar Pradesh was received in Central Water Commission in April, 1996.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The project Report has been examined in Central Water Commission and appraisal of some aspects have been completed. The State Government is required to sort out the remaining techno-economic issues.

[English]

Tourist Centres in Losses

1814. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state ;

(a) the total number of tourist centres at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of tourist centres are running in losses;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the year-wise details of the losses incurred by each of these centres during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) There are several places in the country which are visited by tourists. These centres, however, cannot be classified as loss making or otherwise.

Faults in Policy Decision

1815. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether keeping in view the poor track record of the major and medium sectors of irrigation, the Union Government propose to set up an enquiry commission to ascertain faults in policy decision, the reasons for delay and corruption in various stages of the projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government to contain corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) The Major and Medium irrigation projects are implemented by the State Governments from State funds and Plan allocations and they are responsible for proper and timely implementation of the projects. However, wherever specific instances of irregularities are reported

the concerned State Governments are expected to take suitable action in the matter.

[Translation]

Colleges for Deaf and Dumb

1816. SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government and private colleges separately for deaf and dumb persons in Maharashtra;

(b) whether all these colleges are recognised by the Government; and

(c) if so, the scheme formulated by the Government to run such private institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) The Government is not aware of any colleges exclusively for deaf and dumb persons affiliated to any of the Universities in Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Restoration of LPG & Telephone Quota to MP

1817. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

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

(a) whether after withdrawing the gas coupon and telephone connection allotment facilities from the Members of Lok Sabha, any special arrangements have been made for the needy persons for allotment of gas and telephone connections and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) while the facility of gas and telephone connection is still available to the Rajya Sabha Members then the reasons for which the Members of Lok Sabha have been deprived of this privilege; and

(c) whether the Government would consult the Hon. Speaker and get this facility restored to the Members of Lok Sabha and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The discretionary quota for allotment of telephone connections of all MPs including Rajya Sabha MPs has not been withdrawn at any point of time. However, the discretionary quota for release of LPG connections for Member of Lok Sabha has been discontinued. The decision to discontinue the discretionary quota for release of LPG connections to

Members of Lok Sabha was announced by the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha in the house on 28th February, 1997. Consequent to this decision, LPG priority coupons have not been issued to Members of Lok Sabha from 1st April, 1997.

Under the revised Tatkal Scheme, any person can avail the LPG connection from any LPG distributor immediately on deposit of one time non-refundable amount of Rs. 4000/- alongwith the usual security.

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

[Translation]

Privatisation of Inland Waterways

1818. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to attract the private companies to invest in the Inland Waterways sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) The detailed policy guidelines for IWT sector including encouragement of privat sector participation in Inland Waterways Transport sector are under finalisation. As such, presently, no firm indication about time is possible to be indicated.

Delhi-Jaipur N.H.

1819. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of four lane on Jaipur-Delhi N.H. has been completed;

(b) if not, the names of the sections where it is lying incomplete and reasons for delay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Construction of 4 laning of National Highway No. 8 (Delhi-Jaipur Section) is as under :-

(i) Delhi to Gurgaon (km 36.63)	100%
(ii) Kotputli (km. 162.5) to Achrol (km. 231.00)	98.5%
(iii) Achrol (km. 231.00) to Jaipur (km. 263.00)	100%

The work of 4 laning from Gurgaon (km. 36.63) to Kotputli (km. 162.5) is in progress under Asian Development Bank Loan Assistance Programme and is targeted for completion by March, 2001.

[English]

Reservation in Minority Colleges

1820. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court verdict to give 50 per cent seats in colleges run by minority colleges to students of that community is being implemented;

(b) whether this right has been approved by the Government;

(c) if so, whether this verdict is being followed in colleges in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details of students applied, minorities amongst them in various courses in colleges of Delhi University and the number of students from minority communities selected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d) The Judgement of the Supreme Court rendered in St. Stephenes' College case, permits an institution covered under Article 30(1) of the Constitution to admit upto fifty per cent students of the relevant minority. As the right flows from a Constitutional provision as interpreted by the Court the question of Government approving such an arrangement does not arise - the law declared by the Supreme Court is the law of the land in terms of Article-141 of the Constitution. As this facility is available only to institution enjoying protection of Article-30, the question of its application to Colleges, generally, does not arise.

[Translation]

Reservation to Backward Classes

1821. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to provide 27 percent reservation to the backward classes in the educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) The question of providing 27 percent

reservation to Backward Classes in educational institutions is under active consideration of the Government and a decision is likely to be taken soon in this regard.

Scheme for Irrigation Sector

1822. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any concrete scheme for irrigation sector have been formulated by the Government in view of the uncertainty of monsoon in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the expected increase in the quantity of food grain production in the country consequent upon the implementation of the scheme; and

(d) the number of farmers likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Normal rainfall is predicted over most parts of the country. From 1st June to 16th July, 1997 the cumulative rainfall was normal to excess in 26 out of 35 sub divisions and 64% districts of the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Espionage Activity in DRDO

1823. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Intelligence Bureau officials have recently seized some floppy discs and documents containing information about scientific activity at the Defence Research Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the information as in the discs has been decoded;

(d) whether the persons connected with the spying have been apprehended; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (e) The floppies and documents seized by Intelligence Bureau were analysed by Defence Research and Development Organisation and it is confirmed that these floppies and documents did not contain any information on scientific activities of Defence Research and Development Organisation.

[Translation]

Loss of Life and Property in Narmada Valley

1824. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was loss of life and property in urban and rural areas of some districts in the Narmada Valley region of Madhya Pradesh on May 22, 1997;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made to ascertain the damage caused in rural and urban areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Narmada Valley region is lagging behind in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government have formulated any scheme for the rehabilitation and progress of the Narmada Valley region;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether any scheme have been formulated to include the above region in the Ninth Five Year Plan and the central assistance provided in this regard; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (i) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Air Services to SAARC Countries

1825. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision was taken in SAARC countries conference held in May, 1997 in Maldives to start direct air services among the seven member countries;

(b) if so, the action taken/progress made since then in this regard; and

(c) the time by which these services are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) At the 9th SAARC Summit held in Male in May, 1997, there was a decision that the Civil Aviation authorities of the member states should meet in the near future to explore the possibility of establishing direct services between SAARC capitals. The first meeting of the Civil Aviation Authorities of the member states is scheduled to be held in Dhaka on 27-29 August, 1997.

[English]

Staff Strength

1826. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total staff strength of Association of Indian Universities at present;

(b) whether employees's dismissal/termination/suspension is a routine affairs in this organisation;

(c) if so, the number of employees dismissed/terminated/suspended during the last ten years and their grounds thereof;

(d) the number of employees out of them who have filed court cases against this organisation;

(e) the outcome of these court cases; and

(f) the stops taken by the organisation to ensure job security of its employees by avoiding unfair dismissals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (f) According to the information furnished by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), the staff strength of the Association as on 31st July, 1997 was 86. The association have informed that disciplinary action was taken against seven employees during the last ten years. The action included (i) compulsory retirement (ii) termination of service (iii) deemed resignation and (iv) suspension.

Out of four cases filed in the Court against the decision of the Association of Indian Universities, two are still pending in the Court. The AIU has informed that a Standing Committee, which includes 19 Vice-Chancellors, review cases on appeal by the employees.

[Translation]

Cooking Gas

1827. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of cooking gas supplied to Bihar as against the requiremet of the State during the last three years; and

(b) the efforts made or proposed to be made by the Government to ensure supply of cooking gas to the State as per their requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of LPG sales made by the PSU Oil

Companes in the State of Bihar during the last three years are given as under :

Year	Sales by PSU Oil Cos. (Figs. in TMT)
1994-95	99.4
1995-96	133.9
1996-97 (Prov)	126.2

(b) Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections to applicants as early as possible. Plans have been drawn for higher availability of LPG by increasing the capacity of existing production sources, putting up new plants and higher imports through existing and new facilities.

[English]

Infanticide

1828. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether aborting the female foetus and murdering the girl child is quite rampant; and

(b) if so, the number of female infanticide in the country during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) Abortion of the female foetus has been a cause of concern and therefore, the Central Government has enacted the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 to curb the misuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for determination of the sex of the foetus leading to female foeticide. Infanticide is a crime under the Indian Penal Code. However, according to the National Crime Records Bureau, 139 and 106 cases of female infanticide and 38 and 34 cases of female foeticide were reported during 1995 and 1996 respectively.

[English]

Indo Pak Treaty

1829. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA ;
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sindhu Water Treaty between India and Pakistan was signed in April, 1960;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government for its implementation; and

(c) the extent to which the treaty has proved successful in the interest of both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The Indus Waters Treaty, 1960 between India and Pakistan was signed on 19th September, 1960.

(b) As provided in the Treaty, India and Pakistan each have created a permanent post of Commissioner for Indus Waters. The two Commissioners together from the Permanent Indus Commission, which has established and maintained cooperative arrangements for implementation of this Treaty.

(c) The Treaty has been in satisfactory operation for the past 37 years and by and large serves the interest of both the countries.

Distortion of History

1830. SHRI P. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Government ignoring sikhs role in freedom movement' appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated June 28, 1997; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to give them a honoured place in the 50th year celebration of India's Independence?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To commemorate 50th Anniversary of India's Independence, programmes/celebrations are being planned at all villages, Tahsils, Districts Headquarters, State capitals, National and International level which will include honouring of all freedom fighters, as well as villagers who contributed to the political, social and economic lift of the village. Each State, including Punjab, has set up a State Level Committee to decide the programmes and events for the year-long commemoration. Freedom Fighters of all communities including Sikhs will be honoured. The decision to honour freedom fighters hailing from a particular State, and recognise their contributions would lie with the State Level Committees.

Child Welfare Centre

1831. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of child welfare centres opened in the backward and tribal areas of Gujarat during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) whether any foreign assistance is being provided to the State for these centres; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) There is no central or centrally sponsored scheme under which Child Welfare Centres could be opened. However, for welfare and development of children, 103 Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) projects, 22 Creches and 24 Anganwadi-cum-Creches were sanctioned during the 8th Plan period to provide vital services to vulnerable children in backward and tribal areas of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provides assistance in the form of equipment and other supplies including vehicles, typewriters, weighing scales, duplicators etc. for the ICDS projects.

[Translation]

Responsibility of Army for Amarnath Pilgrimage

1832. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the army has taken a decision to take the responsibility of the pilgrims in view of the tragic accident taken place during Amarnath Pilgrimage last year;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made special arrangements for the safety of the pilgrims in view of the said accident; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) The responsibility of conducting Amarnath Yatra rests with the State Government. Army is also extending all help to the State Government as required by them in the smooth conduct of the Yatra. This year Army has provided 500 double ply tents and 40,000 blankets. In addition, Army's medical facilities and other assistance are also being provided.

Waiving of Interest in Relation to Rajasthan Canal

1833. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had constructed 'Pacce Khale' on Rajasthan Canal;

(b) whether the Government have issued any instructions to the farmers to deposit the instalments after the completion of construction;

(c) whether the principal amount will be borne by the State Government;

(d) whether the Union Government have any proposal to waive the interest;

(e) whether any Central assistance is proposed to be provided to the State Government to waive the loan; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Rajasthan has constructed lined field channels in the command of Indira Gandhi Nahar Project (IGNP) in Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) After the completion of the field channels, the loans taken for such works by the farmers through Rajasthan Land Development Corporation (RLDC) was to be repaid by the farmers as per the rules of RLDC. However, this repayment has been stayed by the State Government since 20.7.1987 till further orders in IGNP area. This stay does not apply to loans taken by farmers for this purpose directly from commercial banks/co-operative banks.

For the loans taken by the farmers through RLDC, the State Government is at present repaying the principal and interest to the banks on behalf of the farmers.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is under consideration of Union Government.

(f) Question does not arise.

Homeopathy Dispensaries

1834. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Air India have Homeopathy dispensaries; and

(b) if not, the time by which Homeopathy dispensaries in Indian Airlines and Air India are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Air India has a Homeopathy clinic at Old Airport Medical Centre, Mumbai. Indian Airlines has no Homeopathy dispensary nor does it have any plan at present to set up such a dispensary.

[English]

Circulation of Draft Bill on Ground Water

1835. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have circulated

any model draft bill on Ground Water to all the State Governments for their suggestions and comments;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the comments/suggestions received by the State Government thereon;

(c) whether the proposed bill has been finalised;

(d) if so, whether it is proposed to be laid before the Parliament; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) The Union Government have circulated a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. So far only the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh have enacted legislations for this purpose.

(c) Water being a state subject, suitable legislation on the line of the Model Bill has to be enacted by the State Governments.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Decline in Ground Water Level in M.P.

1836. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ground water level in plateau region of Madhya Pradesh is constantly declining as a result of which several hand pumps have become out of order;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to maintain the availability of potable water and to check the decline in ground water level;

(c) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has formulated any scheme for raising the ground water level of affected areas;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to provide Central assistance for the implementation of the scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) As per the survey conducted by the Central Ground Water Board, decline in the level of ground water in some parts of plateau region of Madhya Pradesh has been observed as a result of which a number of hand pumps in the area have become inoperative.

(b) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has established Rajiv Gandhi Watershed Mission to undertake water conservation, soil conservation and recharge measures through scientific methods. The

works have been undertaken in 440 Mini Water Sheds in 2000 villages of 340 blocks. These schemes would help in maintaining potable water supply in the areas by recharging ground water storage.

(c) to (e) The Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted a proposal in 1994 for providing financial assistance for the Project prepared by them for ground water recharge in six districts namely Rajnandgaon, Dhar, Mandla, Karhal (Morena) Shajapur and Rajgarh at an estimated cost of Rs. 3257.39 Lakhs. In addition, a scheme on Bolana Percolation Tank in Khandwa district for construction of percolation tank and gully plugs at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.97 lakhs was also received in December, 1996. Some of the projects of the State Government were proposed to be included in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme prepared by the Central Ground Water Board for assisting the states in ground water recharge. However, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been dropped as the same has not been approved by the Planning Commission.

NH No. 8

1837. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert National Highway No. 8 from Ajmer-Biawar-Udaipur-Ratanpur-Ahmedabad into four lane;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of total length of 515 km. of Ahmedabad section of N.H. No. 8, 6 km. length i.e. km. 509 to 515 near Ahmedabad is four lane. For four laning of entire N.H. No. 8, National Highways Authority of India is conducting feasibility study.

(c) Does not arise.

Periyar Dam

1838. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government to increase the level of storage capacity in Periyar Dam to cater to the needs of farmers in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Kerala is not conceding the demand to increase the water storage level to 156 ft. as compared to the present water level of 100 ft.; and

(c) whether the Government propose to intervene in the matter to help the farmers of Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) With ageing of the dam, safety of the Mulla Periyar Dam was considered doubtful. On the request of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the dam was inspected by officers of the Central Water Commission. It was advised that all the shutters of Spillway may be kept in raised position to lower the Water Level in the reservoir from FRL 152 ft to 136 ft and also recommended strengthening of the dam, specifying the measures to be taken. The Government of Tamil Nadu has completed most of the strengthening measures.

(b) The Government of Kerala has apprehensions on the safety of the dam even after strengthening measures and is not agreeing to restore the FRL to 152 ft.

(c) It is a matter between the Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and they should settle the matter amicably. The Central Government is also trying for an amicable settlement.

Changes in International Flights

1839. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tourism industry has suffered heavy losses due to sudden changes in international flights recently in view of the convenience of the Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not making any alternative arrangements for foreign tourists in such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Alternate arrangements were made for 1570 passengers ex-Frankfurt and 745 passengers ex-Paris by routing them over Air India's flights ex-Rome/London. Besides, 708 passengers from Osaka were transferred to other carriers.

Completion of Paradip Port

1840. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the completion of Paradip Port update project for expansion of mechanical coal handling facilities is anticipated to be delayed considerably;

(b) if so, when the project is likely to be completed according to the revised schedule as against the original target;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the extent to which the cost of the project is likely to escalate as a result thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the completion of project according to the revised schedule to avoid further cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Mechanical Coal Handling Project at Paradip Port is likely to be completed by December, 1999 as against the original target of 28th September, 1998.

(c) The reasons for delay are:

(i) Delay in obtaining Railway Approval for Train Unloading system and Rail Layout.

(ii) Litigation in the case.

(iii) Delay due to rebidding of a package because of withdrawal of bid validity by the successful bidder during extended bid validity period.

(d) The revised cost of the project is being worked out by the Port.

(e) The Government has constituted a High Level Steering Committee to monitor the progress of the project. The monitoring of projects at Port and Ministry level has also been strengthened.

[English]

Smooth Supply of Petrol

1841. KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that IOC, BPC and HPC are supplying petrol smoothly to their dealers from its fixed locations but IBP Co. Ltd. are unable to make smooth supplies;;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the persons responsible for the same;

(c) whether Oil Coordination Committee is not taking any action for rectifying the position;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the supplies by IBP Co. Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) IBP Co. is making smooth supplies of petrol to its dealers from the locations where it has its own supply points. At other points, hospitality arrangement with other oil majors exists, which is in line with normal industry practice. However during June, 1997, supplies of petrol to certain parts of Northern region were affected due to stoppage of tankers at Kandla, adverse rail/road conditions due to bad weather, shut down of BPC refinery and FCCU shut down at Vizag, Cochin and Koyali.

[Translation]

Bridges on NH - 12

1842. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the small bridge or construct a new bridge on river Warna near Bareilly on National Highway No. 12;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) The reconstruction of new bridge on river Warna is proposed to be included in 9th Five Year Plan subject to the inter-se-priority and overall availability of fund.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Four Lane from Monor to Talesari

1843. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for extension of four lane from Monor to Talesari Mumbai-Ahmedabad National Highway has been received by the Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for four-laning of the road portion in question of National Highway No. 8 in the Maharashtra State. The work of the preparation of detailed project report and other preliminaries of the project is presently in progress.

[Translation]

Educational Agreements

1844. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi University has entered into educational agreements with some countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the countries with whom agreements were made; and

(c) the time by which the above agreements are likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

NH Nos. 45 and 7 in Tamil Nadu

1845. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to develop the two national highways namely NH-45 and NH-7 in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to construct bypass road links around Chennai; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) The following proposals are under consideration for the development of NH-45 and NH-7 :

NH-45 : (i) widening to 4 lane including strengthening the existing 2 lane pavement from Km. 67/0 to 122/0 (Pukkathurai-Thindivanam) under B.O.T. (Built, Operate and Transfer) Scheme; (ii) widening to 4 lane including strengthening the existing 2 lane pavement from Km. 122/0 to 324/0 (Thindivanam to Truchy) under World Bank-III.

NH-7 : Strengthening weak 2 lane in Km. 95/0 to 130/0 and 141/0 to 150/0. Land acquisition for Thirumangalam bypass have been proposed under Annual Plan 1997-98.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The work of Chennai Bypass (length 31.30 Km) is to be done in 2 phases for which alignment has already been approved and the acquisition of land is in progress.

Lease out of Assets of Ports

1846. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lease out existing assets of ports to the private sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measure taken to ensure that private sector participation takes place smoothly in an effective manner?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Private Sector Participation guidelines provide for leasing out of existing assets of the ports to the private sector wherever it would attract additional investment and augment existing facilities and wherever it would result in increased traffic throughput, improvement in quality of service and better productivity.

(c) Government has issued clear and transparent guidelines in this regard.

CAG Report on Army Authorities and Ordnance Factories

1847. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its report No. 8 of 1995 tabled in both Houses of Parliament on May 9, 1995 has inducted the Army authorities, the respective ordnance factories managements and the Ministry for import of defective equipment, ammunition, non-utilisation of the available material, payment towards fraudulent consignment and delay in demanding claims and replacement etc. thereby causing heavy financial loss;

(b) if so, whether the Government have enquired into the matter and taken any action therein; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) A total of 88 audit paras were received in the Comptroller and Auditor General of India's report No. 8 of 1995 on the functioning of the Army, Ordnance Factories and Ministry of Defence. Of this, action taken notes on 51 audit paras have already been rendered to Monitoring Cell of Ministry of Finance for submission to PAC and action on the remaining 37 audit paras is in progress. Individual Action taken notes contain all details of specific administrative action taken wherever warranted and remedial measures adopted in each case.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Defence have an established system in place for effective and time-bound follow-up and taking remedial action with reference to deficiencies and irregularities brought out in the Audit Reports. Such corrective measures are taken in consultation with Associated Finance and Audit.

[Translation]

Petrol Pumps

1848. SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol pumps in Darbhanga district in Bihar and the number of petrol pumps against whom complaints have been filed;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry against them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There are twenty three (23) retail outlet dealerships in Darbhanga district in Bihar. A complaint against one dealer has been received by the concerned oil company. On investigation, it was found that the dealer was overcharging the customers. Suitable penal action of suspension of supplies for fifteen days, a fine of Rs. 2,000/- and a warning letter as provided under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines, has been taken against the erring dealer.

[English]

Bridge on N.H. 47

1849. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the replacement of the old bridge across the Kuzhithurai river on the Kanyakumari-Trivandrum N.H. 47; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) The work for reconstruction of bridge across Kuzhithurai river on NH-47 (Kanyakumari-Trivandrum Section of Tamil Nadu) has been included in the Annual Plan 1997-98 at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.00 Crore.

External Commercial Borrowing for Airbus and Boeings

1850. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering for an external commercial borrowing to meet the cost of proposed airbus and boeing aircraft;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of such loan; and

(c) the agencies identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Funds for purchase of aircraft are arranged by Air India partly through internal resource generation and partly by raising loans from the market.

[Translation]

Standard of Education

1851. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the standard of education has deteriorated; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to check the declining trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) There is no standardised touchstone to merit a generalised statement about the decline of educational standards. Standards vary from time to time in all institutions. However, the Government is fully conscious of the need to upgrade the quality and content of education in the various institutions and has been taking up specific programmes in this respect in pursuance of National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986. For improvement of primary education Operation Blackboard (OB), Non-Formal Education (NFE) and Teacher Education alongwith District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) are the major centrally sponsored schemes. A number of measures have also been taken to improve content and process of education at all stages. Some of the measures are renewal of curricula, improvement of quality of textbooks, in service training of teachers to improve their professional competence and utilisation of educational technology to bring about improvement in the quality of education. In order to foster quality in technical and higher education, Accreditation Councils have been set up by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grants Commission (UGC).

[English]

Funds to Assam

1852. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated to Assam under Central Road Fund during 1996-97 and the amount earmarked for 1997-98;

(b) the work undertaken by the State Government during 1996-97;

(c) the quantum of funds utilised by the State Government so far and the amount still lying unutilised;

(d) whether the proposals submitted by the State Government have been approved by the Union Government for development of roads in Assam; and

(e) if not, by when the remaining proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) An amount of Rs. 18 lakhs was allocated under Central Road Fund (CRF) during the year 1996-97 to the State of Assam. It is too early to indicate the allocation for the year 1997-98.

(b) and (c) The responsibility for execution of schemes sanctioned under CRF is the responsibility of the respective State Government and State Governments are expected to monitor the utilisation of funds.

(d) and (e) During the year 1996-97 one scheme involving an amount of Rs. 38.43 lakhs was sanctioned. As on 31.3.97 the State of Assam is having a debit balance and it may not be possible to sanction any more scheme for the present.

Storage Capacity of Rivers

1853. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the storage capacity of the rivers in the country has been going down due to not undertaking their deepening work for the last so many years;

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

(c) whether the Government have assessed the storage capacity of the rivers and formulated any scheme to increase the storage capacity of the rivers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (d) Changes in the river storage (carrying) capacity is a natural morphological phenomenon. However, to reduce the silt runoff in the rivers, various measures such as afforestation, soil conservation and catchment area treatment etc. in various river valleys are taken up.

Vacancies

1854. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether many posts of teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether examinations have not conducted for the above posts despite the fact that these posts had already been advertised in August-September, 1996; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d) As on 1.4.96, 3720 posts of teachers of various categories were lying vacant in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. An advertisement was issued for filling up posts of teachers in June, 1996. On the basis of

interviews, 2001 candidates have been selected for appointment to various categories of posts. Interviews for filling up about 500 vacancies of Trained Graduate Teachers are likely to be completed by September, 30, 1997. Recruitment process for 680 posts of Music Teachers, Drawing teachers, Socially Useful Productive Work (SUPW) teachers, Physical Education teachers and Librarians has also been initiated.

[Translation]

Renovation of Kota Airport

1855. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on the renovation of Kota airport along with the items of work taken up during the last three years;

(b) whether private airlines were permitted to fly on Delhi-Jaipur-Kota air route;

(c) if so, the names of such companies, the period for which their aircraft operated on this route along with the reasons for discontinuing the above mentioned air services;

(d) whether the Government had entered into a contract with these airlines before introducing their services;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount received by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The amount spent on the renovation of Kota Airport during last three years is Rs. 1.53 crores approximately.

(b) to (f) Airlines are free to operate their services to any airport in the country, subject to approval by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, fulfilment of the route dispersal guidelines and other relevant provisions of rules prescribed by the Government, and meeting the requirements of permits issued to them. Government does not enter into contract with airlines.

Reduction of Pay

1856. SHRI RAMMURTI SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been decided to reduce the pay of some of the historians in the Indian Council for Historical Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the guidelines of the Council in this regard;

(d) the total number of those historians in respect of whom this decision has been taken; and

(e) the number of historians in service and those out of them who have since retired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) The ICHR have reverted to the scales of pay of Directors and Deputy Directors approved by the Government with effect from 01/01/1986. These pay-scales were revised in April, 1992 by the Council without Government's approval. The revocation of the Council's unauthorised scale of pay for a section of the staff does not amount to any reduction of pay.

(c) There are no guidelines in this regard.

(d) and (e) The decision to revert to the approved scale of pay covers 11 persons only, 3 of whom have since retired.

[English]

Study on School Education

1857. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent study on teacher training institutions carried out by NCERT;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Teacher Education and Extension of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has conducted a pilot study on Human Resource Development (HRD) climate in 15 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) in the States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Delhi. The purpose of the study was to find out the quality of HRD climate in these institutions.

(c) NCERT is planning a status study of all the DIETs in the country as a follow-up of the above study so that strategies can be formulated to improve the functioning of these institutions.

Instrumental Landing System at Bhopal Airport

1858. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Instrumental Landing System (ILS) is not working at Bhopal airport;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) the other airports which have no such facilities or where ILS is not functioning there; and

(d) the steps the Government have taken to restore the same in Bhopal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a), (b) and (d) All systems of Instrumental Landing System (ILS) are working satisfactorily at Bhopal airport. The glide path was withdrawn on 30.11.93 due to runway extension work. With the extension of runway, the glide path had to be relocated. This facility is expected to be calibrated and commissioned by the end of August, 1997.

(c) Provision of ILS at an airfield depends upon visibility conditions, type of terrain around the airport, and the type of aircraft operated. ILS facility has been provided at 28 airports and AAI has plans to instal this facility at 6 more airports by the middle of 1998.

[Translation]

Consumption of Petroleum Products

1859. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VARMA :

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

(a) the details of special steps taken by the Government to minimise the consumption of petrol and petroleum products;

(b) whether the opinion of public and industrialists was sought and considered before taken decision in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the impact of rules and regulations regarding petrol and petroleum products issued recently on the consumption of petrol and petroleum products has been evaluated; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):
(a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Renewal of Modiluft's Licence

1860. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "DGCA won't renew Modiluft's licence" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated December 24, 1996;

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

(c) the reasons for the renewing Modiluft's licence;
 (d) the other private airlines which are still operating without licence;

(e) the airlines which have not applied for fresh licences inspite of expiry of their licences along with the reasons therefor;

(f) the total private air-operators at present operating in the country and the number out of them which are under fault; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to allow more airlines to operate?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) M/s. Modiluft Airlines does not have the aircraft for operating air services, which is a prior requirement for renewal of the permit.

(d) No airlines can operate air transport services without a valid operating permit.

(e) None.

(f) Out of seven private scheduled airlines four are not operating at present.

(g) In April, 1997, a new policy on domestic air transport services was formulated which removed the barriers to entry and exist from this sector.

[Translation]

Farakka Barrage

1861. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to construction of Farakka Barrage on river Ganges in 1975, several lakh acres of land in nothern India has become barren as a result of which the movement of sea fishes in the river has stopped;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken or proposed to take any action to overcome this problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) No Sir. The aspect of migration of Hilsa fish through fish lock gates of the Farakka Barrage was investigated by Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute (CICFRI), Barrackpore. It was observed that the existing fish local gates of Farakka Barrage were inadequate for migration of hilsa fish across the barrage.

Accordingly, it was decided that a Hilsa hatchery alongwith ponds, laboratory, stores etc. be established on the left bank adjacent to Farakka Barrage. Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute (CICFRI)

has started conducting research on breeding of Hilsa fish upstream of Farakka Barrage.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Examination Reforms

1862. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3519 dated March 17, 1997 regarding examination reforms and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The relevant information is still awaited from the University of Delhi and the University Grants Commission. Any further action in the matter would be possible only after the same is received. The Government has, however, initiated extensive dialogues on the subject of Examination Reforms generally.

[Translation]

Kendriya Vidyalayas

1863. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :

DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals relating to Kendriya Vidyalayas pending with the Government for approval, State-wise;

(b) the time by which approval is likely to be granted to them; and

(c) the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas proposed to be set up in the Ninth Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) A Statement indicating the number of proposals received from sponsoring agencies and pending for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas in the Country (State-wise) is annexed.

(b) and (c) Kendriya Vidyalayas are opened on the basis of receipt of suitable and complete proposals, inter alia, offering suitable land, temporary building and other infrastructural facilities from the user agencies. For 1997-98, 20 Kendriya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned.

Statement**State-wise List of Pending Proposals for the Opening of New Kendriya Vidyalyayas**

1.	Andhra Pradesh	01
2.	Assam	01
3.	Bihar	04
4.	Haryana	03
5.	Himachal Pradesh	03
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	02
7.	Kerala	03
8.	Maharashtra	01
9.	Madhya Pradesh	05
10.	Orissa	01
11.	Rajasthan	02
12.	Uttar Pradesh	06
13.	Punjab	01
14.	West Bengal	04
15.	Tripura	02
Total		39

[English]

ONGC's Project

1864. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

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

the details of the Rs. 2190 crores projects proposed to be undertaken by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): The following major developmental projects involving an investment of around Rs. 2190 crores are presently being implemented by the ONGC as indicated in the MOU signed with Government for 1997-98 :

(Rs. in Crore)

Projects	Sanctioned Cost
1	2
1. Commercialisation of INSITU Combustion in Balol Phase-II	118.49
2. Commercialisation of INSITU Combustion in Santhal Phase-II	278.37
3. B-121/119 Development in Western Offshore	151.88
4. B-173 A Development in Western Offshore	120.17

	1	2
5. B-55 Development in Western Offshore		376.74
6. Heera Phase-III Development in Western Offshore		954.20
7. Hazira Terminal Expansion Phase-III A		191.00

Command Area Development Programme

1865. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had asked State Governments to involve farmers in the Command Area Development Programme (CADP);

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the State Governments in this regard;

(c) the number of farmer's association formed by different States for the purpose; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the effective implementation of the Command Area Development Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government had advised State Governments to involve farmers in management of irrigation water.

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

(d) For effective implementation of the Programme the Union Government has been issuing guidelines for this purpose to State Governments from time to time, has taken up evaluation studies of some projects to identify constraints in the implementation of the Programme, intensified monitoring, held regular meetings of officers of State Government concerned with implementation of the Programme to discuss their problems and sponsored training programmes.

Statement

Details of action taken/proposed to be taken by State Governments to involve farmers in the Command Area Development Programme (CADP) and number of Farmers' Associations formed for the purpose

S.No.	State	Action taken/proposed to be taken and number of Farmers' Associations formed.
1	2	3

1.	Andhra Pradesh :	To provide legal status to Water Users' Associations, the State Government have enacted the "Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Management of Irrigation System Act-No. 11-1997" which provides
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1	2	3
	for creation of Water Users' Associations. Election have been held for Water Users' Associations and Government have notified the formation of 10,110 Water Users' Associations.	
2.	Assam :	
	The State Government have constituted a High Level Working Group under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary to formulate policy issues for Participatory Irrigation Management.	
	Two Farmers' Associations have been formed.	
3.	Bihar :	
	Paliganj distributary in Sone Command with a command area of 12,200 ha. and involving 75 villages has been handed over to the Water Users' Association for operation and management.	
4.	Gujarat :	
	A High Level Working Group under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary has been set up in March 1994 to formulate the policy issues relating to Participatory Irrigation Management.	
	Seventy one Farmers' Associations have been formed. Further, thirteen pilot projects for forming farmers associations have been taken up.	
5.	Haryana :	
	Under Command Area Development Programme, formation of Farmers' Associations at the outlet level have been formed.	
6.	Karnataka :	
	The Government of Karnataka have constituted a High Level Working Group under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary to formulate the policy issues for successful implementation of farmers participation. So far, 193 Farmers' Associations have been formed.	
7.	Kerala :	
	The Government of Kerala have constituted a High Level Committee for the implementation of Participatory Irrigation Management in Kerala.	
	So far, 3700 Farmers' Associations have been formed.	
8.	Madhya Pradesh :	
	Sixty five Farmers' Associations have been formed.	
9.	Maharashtra :	
	So far, 118 Farmers' Associations have been formed.	
10.	Manipur :	
	So far, 62 Farmers' Associations have been formed.	

1	2	3
11.	Orissa :	
	A High Level Working Group under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary has been constituted to formulate policy issues for implementation of Participatory Irrigation Management.	
	Seven hundred, seventy seven Farmers' Associations have been formed.	
12.	Rajasthan :	
	The State Government have constituted a High Level Working Group under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary for policy formulation for participation of farmers.	
	So far, 3843 Farmers' Associations have been formed.	
13.	Tamil Nadu :	
	Three hundred, twenty eight Farmers' Associations at distributary level have been formed.	
14.	Uttar Pradesh :	
	The State Government have constituted a High Level Working Group under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary to formulate policy issues and guidelines for the implementation of Participatory Irrigation Management in the State. One Pilot Project has been taken up.	
15-22.	Arunachal Pradesh Goa Himachal Pradesh Jammu and Kashmir Meghalaya Nagaland Tripura and West Bengal	No action taken.

[Translation]

Amount spent on Cricket Team

1866. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount being spent on Indian Cricket Team every year by the Government and whether there exists any provision for that amount;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for the year 1997-98;

(c) whether the Government are concerned over the defeat of India in all the events in the country or abroad till-date besides Titan Cup; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition of Indian Cricket?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Nil.

(b) Nil.

(c) and (d) The Government is very much concerned about the defeat of Indian Cricket team in the recent matches. Board of Control for Cricket in India, the apex body for promotion of Cricket, has assigned the failure to lack of killer instinct among the players of the team. The Board is taking steps for adopting modern techniques for overcoming similar problems in future.

The Government is taking steps for improving the performance of Indian team in various sports disciplines including Cricket. Guidelines for assisting National Sports Federations have been recently revised with a view to giving required assistance for promotion of sports and achieving excellence at National and International sports events.

Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies

1867. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up LPG agencies and petrol pumps in hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh;

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

(c) if so, the names of places where the survey has been conducted and the time by which these agencies and petrol pumps are likely to start their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Improvement of Professional Ability

1868. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had launched an ambitious scheme to improve the condition and the professional ability of the teachers;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had released any amount for the said scheme;

(c) whether even the one fourth of the said amount has not been utilised;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have taken any action to utilise the allocated fully to fulfil the ambitious scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Mapping the Ground Water Resources

1869. SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE :
SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scientific survey and satellite imaging has been carried out for mapping the ground water resources in the bed of the vedic river Sarawati (now extinct);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to an action plan proposed by a former executive of the Asian Development Bank for reviving water resources;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to consider ways and means for the implementation of the aforesaid plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Joint studies have been carried out by the Department of Space through Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Jodhpur and Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad and some other organisations for reconstruction of Palaeo drainage network in North Western India including the areas sometimes referred to as vedic river Saraswati by using data from Indian Remote Sensing Satellite and European Remote Sensing Satellite. A joint study team comprising members from different central and state organisations has also been constituted by Regional Remote Sensing Centre, Jodhpur, to carry out the work of reconstruction of Palaeo drainage network of Western Rajasthan.

(c) to (e) A research project proposal titled "Saraswati River Area Development Project - Concept and Proposal" was received in the Ministry of Water

Resources in October, 1996 from a former Executive of the Asian Development Bank. The proposal envisages :

- (i) reviving the sacred Saraswati River area in North-Western India as a region of perennial springs, lakes and rivers;
- (ii) improving the water availability and quality of water for domestic needs, livestock and irrigation;
- (iii) promoting integrated rural development of the region;
- (iv) promoting archaeological excavations, protecting and preserving cultural heritage and setting up in-situ museums for the people to understand and appreciate our ancient culture.

In the first phase of the scheme, an estimated cost of Rs. 20.67 lakhs has been proposed for preparation of a comprehensive Project Plan document (Pre-feasibility report). The remaining stages of work to follow have not been indicated in details. The proposal for granting financial support for the first phase of work is at consultation stage.

[Translation]

Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal

1870. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred by the each concerned State on its own and out of the financial assistance received from the Union Government, separately in connection with utilisation of water allocated under Narmada River Water Distribution Tribunal as on March 1997;

(b) the quantum of water out of the water made available to each State, the utilisation of which would be ensured under the scheme launched in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the scheme would be completed and the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) As per the Award of Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT), the quantum of available flow in river Narmada at Sardar Sarovar Dam site is assessed as 28 million acre feet (MAF) on the basis of 75% dependability. Out of which, the shares allocated to four party States are as under :

Gujarat	9.00 million acre feet (MAF)
Madhya Pradesh	18.25 million acre feet (MAF)
Maharashtra	0.25 million acre feet (MAF)
Rajasthan	0.50 million acre feet (MAF)

The Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal has envisaged completion of all the projects in Narmada Valley by 2024 A.D.

The respective State Governments have planned for major, medium and minor irrigation projects to utilise their shares of Narmada Water. However, the actual completion of these projects would depend on mobilisation of required resources and obtaining of statutory and other clearances wherever necessary, by the States.

Statement

The State-wise details of expenditure incurred on various completed and ongoing major and medium irrigation projects in Narmada Basin are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Gujarat	- 5521.2	(includes share costs of
	(upto March, 1997)	Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan
		and Maharashtra for Sardar Sarovar Project)
Madhya Pradesh	- 1194.99	
	(upto March, 1996)	

Under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 71.25 crores and Rs. 37.50 crores were provided to Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat and Indira Sagar Project in Madhya Pradesh respectively, during 1996-97 which were fully utilised by the State Governments.

The Government of India has also sanctioned Additional Central Assistance in lieu of World Bank loan assistance of Rs. 430.76 crores upto March, 1997 for Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat against the reimbursable expenditure of Rs. 484.21 crores. The State-wise details of Additional Central Assistance released are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Madhya Pradesh	- 172.21
Maharashtra	- 81.58
Gujarat	- 176.97
Total	430.76

Complaints Received against Chairman of CWC

1871. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA :

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints of irregularities and frauds received against the acting Chairman and the

Chief Engineer of the Central Water Commission during 1996-97 and 1997-98, till-date; and

(b) the action taken by the Government on these complaints and erring engineers to ensure transparency in the administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Eight complaints against Chief Engineer and Chairman of Central Water Commission containing various allegations have been received during 1996-97 and 1997-98 till date. Three of these complaints have been filed as the allegations contained in them were found to be baseless. The remaining five complaints are being looked into.

Inauguration of Indore Airport

1872. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have proposed any special scheme for the inauguration of newly constructed Indore Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be made effective;

(d) whether the attention of the Government has also been drawn to the inconvenience being caused to the public due to non-commissioning of the airport; and

(e) if so, the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Indore airport already exists. Only the terminal has been modified and extended.

(d) and (e) Phase-I of extended and modified Terminal Building at Indore Airport was commissioned in December, 1996. Works of Phase II and Phase III have been completed and the building will be commissioned after obtaining additional power supply for which, necessary amount has been deposited with M.P. State Electricity Board.

[English]

Increment of Teachers

1873. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether increment of a large number of Assistant Teachers of Sarvodaya Vidyalayas (Composit Schools) appointed in 1996 in South District of Delhi has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for stopping the increment; and

(d) the time by which the increment is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) The Government of Delhi has informed that all the Assistant Teachers of Sarvodaya Vidyalayas in South District are being paid regular increments.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan to Uttar Pradesh

1874. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether amount has been allocated by the World Bank for construction of the Phoolpur to Azamgarh via Mugrabad, Shahpur, Satharia, Machali-shahar Sujanganj-Badlapur road in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the delay in constructing this road; and

(d) the time by which the road construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) The construction of Phoolpur to Azamgarh road in Uttar Pradesh was initially proposed to be taken up with World Bank loan assistance. The scheme was later on dropped.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Strike of Employees of National Airport Division

1875. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of National Airports Division of Airport Authority of India have threatened to go on an indefinite strike; and

(b) if so, the details of their demands and the reasons for not accepting them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority Kamgar Union and Airports Authority Technical Staff union had given the notice to go for indefinite strike w.e.f 24.6.97 & 23.6.97 respectively. However, both the unions withdrew the strike notice.

(b) The list of demands of Airports Authority Kamgar Union, which are pending in conciliation with office of

the Dy. Chief Labour Commissioner include - (1) non-payment of bonus, productivity-linked incentives, dearness allowance arrears, etc., (2) discrimination in payment of HRA and other allowances compared with IAD workmen, (3) construction of residential accommodation, (4) revision of pay structure of certain categories of employees, (5) special allowance to employees of north-eastern region, (6) absorption of canteen employees and (7) relaxation of rules in medical claims.

Shortage of Spares in IAF

1876. SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether IAF is facing acute shortage of spares to maintain its combat aircraft besides specialised support vehicles and equipments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the shortage of spares for the proper maintenance of the IAF fighter aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The IAF has been experiencing some shortage of spares for maintenance of combat aircraft and specialist support vehicles and equipment.

(b) This is primarily due to the inability of the Russian Supplier agencies to meet the full requirements of the IAF, due to dis-integration of the erstwhile USSR.

(c) The matter has been pursued with the Russians from time to time at various levels. As a result, the position has considerably improved.

[Translation]

Literacy Schemes

1877. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented at present to spread literacy in the country;

(b) the percentage of increase in the literacy rate in the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) the target fixed for the increase in literacy rate in 1997-98; and

(d) the State-wise percentage of literacy rate at the end of December, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The main approach of the National Literacy Mission which is mandated to make 100 million people literate in the age group of 15-35 years by 1999 towards literacy

is through volunteer-based Total Literacy Campaigns, taken up on the basis of projects prepared by the districts. The Total Literacy Campaigns are implemented by Zilla Saksharata Samitis which include representatives from Voluntary Agencies. Where the Total Literacy Campaigns have not been taken up as yet Voluntary Agencies are supported for taking up literacy work in small pockets.

(b) to (d) The Literacy data in the country is collected through decennial Census Operations. The literacy rates of various States in the country on the basis of the 1991 Census only is available. Subsequent increase in literacy rate will be known only when the next census is held. No year-wise target for increase in the literacy rate has been fixed by the National Literacy Mission. However, the number of persons made literate State/UT-wise since the launching of National Literacy Mission under various schemes are enclosed in the statement.

Statement

S.No.	State/UT	Persons made literate
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	79,15,717
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	59,612
3.	Assam	10,80,861
4.	Bihar	42,73,168
5.	Goa	71,237
6.	Gujarat	61,27,821
7.	Haryana	3,05,780
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5,26,229
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1,63,892
10.	Karnataka	40,08,810
11.	Kerala	15,60,152
12.	Madhya Pradesh	47,12,956
13.	Maharashtra	51,48,526
14.	Manipur	67,371
15.	Meghalaya	84,284
16.	Mizoram	61,919
17.	Nagaland	63,123
18.	Orissa	21,17,957
19.	Punjab	5,53,922
20.	Rajasthan	27,50,767
21.	Sikkim	13,604
22.	Tamil Nadu	61,49,032
23.	Tripura	1,74,130
24.	Uttar Pradesh	62,07,640
25.	West Bengal	89,01,169
26.	A & N Islands	14,492

1	2	3
27.	Chandigarh	41,404
28.	D & N Haveli	7,293
29.	Daman & Diu	3,451
30.	Delhi	3,78,187
31.	Lakshadweep	986
32.	Pondicherry	99,965
		6,36,45,457

[English]

Suspension of Private Air Lines Operation

1878. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether many of the Mumbai-based private airlines have suspended operation since January 1997;

(b) if so, the details of such airlines; and

(c) how much loss of revenue the Airport Authority of India has incurred due to suspension of above flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) M/s. Skyline - NEPC Airlines has suspended operation since January, 1997.

(c) As on 31.5.1997, an amount of Rs. 174.16 lakhs is outstanding against the said Airlines as dues of the Airport Authority of India.

Cauvery River Authority

1879. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a Cauvery River Authority to oversee the implementation of the interim order of the Cauvery River Water Disputes Tribunal;

(b) whether it is a fact that setting up of such an authority will be detrimental to Karnataka's interests as the State had already opposed the implementation of the interim order stipulating the release of 205 tmcft of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the reaction of the concerned State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) In pursuance of the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the draft scheme envisaging "Cauvery River Authority" was formulated by the Central Government under Section 6A of the Inter State Water Disputes Act 1956 for implementation of the Interim Order dated 25.6.1991 of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

(CWDT) and sent to the Party States for their comments on 30.5.1997.

The scheme will be finalised strictly on merits after examining the comments of all the basin States. Thereafter a meeting with these States can be held to narrow down the differences to the extent possible. The finalised scheme will then be placed before the Cabinet for its approval, and after obtaining the approval of the Cabinet, the same will be notified and will be laid before each House of the Parliament for a period of 30 days.

The Parliament will have a right to make modifications which may include a decision for not having such a scheme at all, and scheme will then come into effect only in the modified form.

(c) The Governments of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry have by and large, agreed to the draft scheme with some changes and the Government of Kerala has requested for some more time to give their comments. However, Government of Karnataka have expressed strong opposition to the draft scheme and they have requested the Government of India, inter alia, to initiate action to settle the dispute through mutual discussions. Further, they have also requested the Central Government to simultaneously take steps for early finalisation of the National Policy Guidelines for water allocation amongst States.

Manufacture of Air Defence Ship

1880. SHRI L. RAMANA :
SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR :
LT. GEN. PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to manufacture indigenously Air Defence Ship (ADS) as reported in the Statesman dated June 23, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether building of an Air Defence Ship may take upto 10 years and that the present force levels of ships and submarines would drop considerably in a decade from now;

(d) if so, the cost likely to be incurred on the manufacturing of the said ship;

(e) whether the capacity utilisation at Mazagon Dock Limited has been at very low level particularly on the submarine side which has been lying practically idle since May, 1994 and may lead to dissipation of such technical expertise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) There is a proposal for construction of an Air Defence Ship (ADS).

(c) Yes, Sir. Construction of ADS would take around 10 years. In the meantime adequate force level would be maintained through suitable replacements, acquisitions, etc.

(d) The cost is likely to be about Rs. 1700 crores.

(e) and (f) Government have recently approved a proposal for construction of two submarines at Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in order to utilise the expertise and facilities available with MDL as also to catch up with the force levels.

UNDP Report

1881. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether India stands 138th in the Human Resources Development Index out of 175 countries in the world, as per the report of UNDP 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Comparatively lower life expectancy at birth, lower literacy level and low real per capita Gross Domestic Product are the reasons for the low ranking.

(c) As per the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), the objectives of the Plan, inter-alia, include accelerating the growth rate of the economy, providing basic minimum services of safe drinking water, primary health care facilities, universal primary education, shelter and connectivity to all in a time bound manner.

ISRO Buys Titanium

1882. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "ISRO buys titanium, gets bricks" appearing in the *Deccan Chronicle* dated June 11, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Mishra Dhatu Nigam had imported aluminium vanadium alloy from a German firm and after converting the same into titanium alloy, it was supplied to ISRO;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A consignment of 1,000 kgs of aluminium vanadium master alloy valued at Rs. 7.5 lakhs imported by Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd. (MIDHANI) from Germany was found to have been pilfered and substituted by construction bricks. This was discovered immediately after MIDHANI's clearing agent had delivered the consignment to the company's representatives at Bombay.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. MIDHANI has been importing aluminium vanadium master alloy from Germany for meeting its production requirements of titanium alloy for supply to ISRO.

(e) An FIR has been lodged with the police against the pilferage and the State Government of Maharashtra has been requested to expedite investigations.

International Status to Amritsar Airport

1883. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had a proposal to give international status to the Airport at Amritsar in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken and facilities extended to give international status to the Airport at Amritsar; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be given full fledged status and facilities of an international Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) and (c) Amritsar airport has already some facilities to cater to limited international flights. Extension of runway, construction of technical block-cum-control tower and extension of apron are being planned. Air India has also been asked to resume its flights to Birmingham. Further upgradation of facilities will depend on the volume of traffic and availability of funds.

Cracks in Taj Mahal

1884. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of cracks have appeared in the Taj Mahal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to repair the cracks and the time by which the repair work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) As per old records, some structural cracks had developed in the Taj Mahal immediately after it was constructed. Most of them have been treated but some of them are

kept in original position for further observation. Some surface cracks have occurred over the years due to oxidization of iron clamps used for joining of stones, besides thermal cracks and stress cracks. These cracks are being attended to by the Archaeological Survey of India on a continuous basis.

Incident of Armymen In Kashmir

1885. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
 SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH
 GAEKWAD :
 SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
 SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY :
 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Jawan runs amok, kills Col." appearing in 'The Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated June 17, 1997;

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

(c) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct an inquiry into the causes of such incidents in which army men have been killing their superiors or colleagues;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken to prevent such incidents occurring in the army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) An army Havildar shot dead a Colonel, a Captain and two Subedars before killing himself at Hirpur in Jammu & Kashmir on 15th June, 1997.

A study has been ordered at the level of Army Headquarters to go into these incidents.

Air Borne Warning and Control Systems by IAF

1886. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has proposed requirement of Rs. 3000 crore for Airborne Warning and Control Systems;

(b) if so, whether the Government have given its approval; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to ensure optimum utilisation of air defence aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) A proposal has recently come from the IAF for acquisition/

development of Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), which is under consideration.

[Translation]

Army Training Command

1887. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Army Training Command has been set up for deciding principles regarding contemporary and future methods of war;

(b) if so, whether certain rules are evolved and published in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of Training Commands set up so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) An Army Training Command has been set up to assist the Army in its preparedness for war by developing and disseminating concepts and doctrines (including logistics) for current and future warfare at operational and tactical levels and acting as the nodal agency for institutional training.

Army Headquarters have issued, for internal circulation, administrative instructions on the functions and charter of duties of the Army Training Command.

[English]

Construction of Airport at Bijapur

1888. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has already been conducted for the construction of Airport at Bijapur in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether any place has been identified for the proposed airport at Bijapur;

(c) whether the State Government has agreed to provide land and other infrastructural facilities for the proposed airport;

(d) whether any budget provision has been made for the proposed airport during 1997-98;

(e) whether the Government intend to construct the proposed airport by private sector;

(f) if so, the details of the MOU, if any, entered into between private parties and the Government; and

(g) the estimated cost of the proposed airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A site 6 kms. from Bijapur city has been identified by an AAI team for the construction of a new airport for 50-seater aircraft, at the request of the State Government.

(c) Approximately 300 acres of land have been identified by the State Government for the purpose.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) No decision has been taken on this aspect so far.

Exodus of Army Officers

1889. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the possible exodus of large scale army officer after the implementation of the Pay Commission report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether technically efficient officers are planning to quit their jobs in view of more attractive and better facilities in other fields; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) There is no information with the Government suggesting a large scale exodus of Army Officers after the implementation of the Pay Commission report.

As per available records, the percentage of technically qualified Army Officers who have applied for premature retirement from Army after submission of the report of Pay Commission is less than one per cent of their actual cadre strength. The percentage of those who have been granted premature retirement is still less. It can not, therefore, be concluded that a large number of technically qualified people are planning to leave the Army.

The existing rules provide for premature retirement from service under certain conditions such as supersession, compassionate reasons of a personal nature, etc. However, each request for premature retirement is examined in accordance with guidelines issued from time to time and ample precautions are taken to ensure that the interests of the services are not jeopardised or compromised.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Ports

1890. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge expenditure which were incurred at various ports in the country in the last years have not been fruitful;

(b) if so, the details of expenditure incurred on each port, separately;

(c) whether the attention of the Government on the above unnecessary expenditure has been drawn through the reports of Comptroller and Auditor General;

(d) if so, the directions issued by the Government from time to time to check such expenditures; and

(e) the names of ports and plants which have not been utilised till March, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Reports have been received from the Comptroller and Auditor General regarding alleged infructuous expenditure in some cases and these are under examination in consultation with the concerned major ports.

(e) The details of the utilisation of the plan outlays by various Major Ports during 1996-97 is given in the attached statement.

Statement

Details of Utilization of Plan Outlays by various Major Ports during 1996-97.

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No.	Name of the Port	Approved Outlay for 1996-97	Expenditure incurred	% utilisation
1.	Calcutta/Haldia	42.50	26.21	63
2.	Mumbai	74.60	89.95	121
3.	JL Nehru	68.00	49.88	73
4.	Chennai	115.00	96.57	84
5.	Cochin	7.00	7.56	108
6.	Vizag	45.00	42.79	95
7.	Kandla	35.00	15.84	45
8.	Mormugao	12.50	18.51	148
9.	Paradip	107.00	62.01	58
10.	New Mangalore	40.00	56.61	142
11.	Tuticorin	30.00	18.30	61
Total		576.60	484.23	84

Air Facility to Neemach in Madhya Pradesh

1891. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a demand has been made by the Aviation Club and other people's representatives of Neemach in Madhya Pradesh to link this place with air facility;

(b) whether the CRPF has a big centre at Neemach;

(c) whether airport facility is occasionally available at Neemach and generally CRPF, Government and other planes land over there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The airstrip at Neemach is controlled by the Indian Air Force and no scheduled air services are being operated to this airport.

(d) Airports Authority of India has no plans for developing passenger facilities at the airport.

[English]

Action Against Officers

1892. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2278 dated March 10, 1997 and state :

(a) the details of officers who have been transferred from their places of posting before initiating action;

(b) the details of action taken against each;

(c) whether action has been initiated/taken against some more officers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the charges levelled against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has informed that one officer was transferred from his place of posting before initiating action under CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 as applicable to K.V.S. Employees. Disciplinary Action has been initiated against the concerned officer under the rules.

(c) and (d) Disciplinary action has been initiated against three more officers after consultation with Central Vigilance Commission for various acts of misconduct relating to irregularities in appointments and violation of CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964 as applicable to K.V.S. Employees.

Sale of Arms by Blacklisted Firm through Intermediary

1893. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Swedish arms manufacturer 'Bofors', which is blacklisted in India after a 1986 bribery case, is defying the ban by selling

through an intermediary as reported in the Hindustan Times dated July 5, 1997;

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

(c) whether some components were procured by Ordnance Factory Board from some firm of Sweden; and

(d) if so, the particulars of the firm and other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) There is an embargo on M/s Bofors till they yield the names and full details of the recipients of the commission in the Supply Contract for the FH 77B Gun System and ammunition and return the amount. The embargo continues.

2. Components worth approximately Rs. 10.16 crores were contracted by the Ordnance Factory Board during the period 1993-94 to 1996-97 from M/s Mipro AB of Sweden for the manufacture of weapon and ammunition. It had been confirmed by the Indian Embassy in Sweden that M/s MIPRO AB did not have any links with M/s Bofors.

Free Tickets to companions of Member of AI

1894. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has offered free tickets to companions of members of Air India's elite club-the Maharajah;

(b) if so, the details of the beneficiaries who has taken advantage of the scheme;

(c) whether an agreement (informal or formal) has been reached between all the major carriers to stop discounting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the justification of continuing the free air tickets to companion's scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes Sir. Air India offered companion-free tickets to members of the Maharajah Club, subject to their purchasing a full fare ticket to any destination on Air India's network in any class.

(b) During the period from May 12 to June 30, 1997, 129 beneficiaries have taken advantage of the scheme.

(c) and (d) No formal or informal agreement has been reached between the major carriers to stop discounting totally. However, all the airlines feel the need for improvement in yields and reduction in discounting levels.

(e) The companion-free schemes are basically Sales Promotion Schemes and are operative for short periods.

Upgradation of J.L.N. Port Trust

1895. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Jawaharlal Nehru Trust has submitted proposals to the Government for berth expansion and for upgradation of other facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon and present status of the proposal;

(d) whether it is a fact that levels of congestion have increased substantially at Mumbai port and details of demurrages collected for the last two years; and

(e) the projections of traffic load for the next five years for ports at Mumbai, etc. and fresh initiatives taken to meet the same?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has submitted two proposals viz. construction of a Marine Chemical Terminal and construction of a Berth for handling all grades of Liquid Cargo.

(c) The proposals are under examination.

(d) No, Sir. There is no substantial increase in the congestion level at Mumbai port and demurrages are not collected by the port.

(e) The Working Group on port sector has projected a traffic of 43.45 million tonnes at Mumbai port and 24.51 million tonnes at Jawaharlal Nehru Port by 2002 AD. It is proposed to create additional capacity to handle the projected traffic during 9th Plan through plan funds and also through captive users and private sector participation.

By-Pass on N.H. 9 and 5

1896. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal for laying a by-pass road linking National Highway No. 9 with National Highway No. 5, outside Vijayawada City;

(b) if so, the length of the by-pass road and the cost of the project; and

(c) when the work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to resource constraints, by-passes are accorded lower priority. However, viable projects may receive consideration under Build Operate and Transfer scheme.

Ordnance Units in Vidarbha Region, Maharashtra

1897. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated plans for upgradation, expansion, modernisation, diversification, capacity addition of ordnance units in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of investments made on this account in defence production units in Vidarbha region project-wise during the last three years and results achieved thereunder alongwith the new proposal under execution/consideration and estimated cost thereof; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up new units in Vidarbha region during Ninth Five Year Plan and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) The content of Defence production is sought to be concurrently related to emerging threats and dictates of technology. This is achieved by development and production of new hardware. Upgradation, modernisation and expansion in Ordnance Factories are taken up on a systematic basis as part of renewal and replacement of old and worn out plant and machinery. Creation of new/additional capacities is also undertaken for specific projects on as required basis. The Ordnance Factories are also making sustained efforts for diversification through utilisation of their separable capacities for production for non-defence customers.

2. There are three ordnance factories located in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, namely Ordnance Factory, Chanda (OFCh), Ordnance Factory, Ambajhari (OFAj) and Ordnance Factory, Bhandara (OFBa). A project involving investment of Rs. 15.04 crores is under execution in OFBa. A project involving an investment of Rs. 25 crores is under consideration in OFAj. Details of expenditure on upgradation/modernisation in the three factories during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given below :-

Expenditure on upgradation/modernisation

(in crores of rupees)

Factory	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
OFCh	0.96	0.31	1.31
OFBa	0.91	0.82	0.57
OFAj	7.11	5.88	4.17

3. Since adequate facilities exist in the country, there are no plans presently to set up any new defence production units in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra or elsewhere in the country.

[Translation]

Grants to Voluntary Organisations

1898. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether the Union Government have made a provision for extending grants to voluntary organisations, the stage artists and theatre associations on the historic occasion of the 50th years of India's independence and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee set up by the Department of Culture has invited about 100 eminent artistes born after independence to give them an opportunity to pay tribute to the independence and to bring into focus the post independence achievements in the form of a performance of their choice. A maximum grant of Rs. 50,000/- shall be sanctioned in each case.

Opening of New Depots

1899. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new depots set up for distribution of petroleum products during the last three years;

(b) the number out of these in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the reasons for not starting depots of Indian Oil and HPC in Naryavali, Sagar districts in Madhya Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) Tankages of 12.3 lakhs KL have been commissioned during the last 3 years under various additional product tankage programmes.

(b) The tankages at following locations were commissioned in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years :-

Location	Company	Tankage (KLs)
Dehri	IOC	8000
Itarsi	IOC	8376
Bhittoni	HPC	5210
Raipur	HPC	12210
Satna	HPC	500
Total		34296

(c) and (d) The depots of IOC and HPC in Naryavali, Sagar Districts in Madhya Pradesh could not be fully commissioned as the connection of the siding with the main railway track could not be completed by the Central Railways. According to the latest indications given by the Central Railways, all the work would be completed by August, 1997 and the Depots are expected to be commissioned by September/October, 1997.

[English]

Licences for Methane Gas

1900. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Gujarat Government refuses to let Centre claim rights to coal gas; call its own global bids" as appearing in the 'Financial Express' dated July 7, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the details of total estimated reserves of Methane Gas established in the country so far and steps taken for exploitation of this resource to meet requirement of industrial needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Gujarat, in February, 1994 and March, 1997, has issued notifications under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulations and Development) Act, 1957 permitting prospecting operations in respect of Coal/Lignite Bed Methane (CBM) by the State public Sector and Department of the Geology and Mining of the State Government.

(c) The State Government has been informed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas that the CBM comes within the definition of "Petroleum" and "natural gas" as defined under the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959 and consequently the exploration and exploitation of CBM falls in the jurisdictional ambit of the Union Government.

(d) The current estimates of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in the country have been tentatively placed at about 1000 billion Cubic Meters. Government has recently approved a new policy for exploration and exploitation of CBM. The policy proposals provide for global competitive bidding for granting licences for exploration and exploitation of CBM, a fiscal and contractual framework for this purpose and specific incentives to investors.

Development of MEGA Ports

1901. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :
KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to develop two Mega Ports on the East and West Coasts to handle major commodities of exports and imports with private participation; and

(b) if so, the details with location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Appointment by BHU Vice-Chancellor

1902. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vice-Chancellor of BHU has appointed the present dean as dean and head of the department of the Faculty of Management for the next three years instead of appointing new professor as dean and head of the department by rotation system;

(b) if so, whether it is not the violation of section 25 of University's statute; and

(c) if so, the action being taken against the Vice-Chancellor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the Banaras Hindu University and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Utilisation of Funds

1903. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is under utilisation of funds by the State Governments and other concerned organisations including sports federations to develop sports in the country;

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

(c) the amount allocated to the sports federations, other organisations and the State Governments in the last five years and the amount utilised out of that by them?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement showing the grants released to Sports Federations and State Governments during last five years is enclosed. Funds are released to State Governments/Federation on receipt of accounts and utilisation certificate of funds released earlier.

Statement*Details of the Grants Released to Various National Sports Federations during the Last Five Years*

S.No.	Name of the Federation	Amount Sanctioned Year wise				
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	All India Carrom Federation	31,113	1,08,093	56,250	2,90,772	3,72,389
2.	All India Chess Federation	15,33,031	22,26,757	23,30,332	20,66,319	35,58,937
3.	All India Karate Do Federation	2,25,000	28,125	84,375	--	--
4.	All India Sports Council of the Deaf	4,77,403	10,85,130	1,45,633	8,37,317	9,42,564
5.	Amateur Handball Federation	5,20,350	11,99,960	3,06,250	3,12,500	4,87,500
6.	Basketball Federation of India	4,09,756	1,87,500	1,31,250	4,12,500	4,86,870
7.	Roller Skating Federation of India	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Cycle Polo Federation of India	30,570	1,77,275	-	-	2,40,571
9.	Gymnastic Federation of India	3,83,291	7,29,816	7,90,766	4,67,404	8,76,324
10.	Indian Body Building Federation	2,20,914	1,12,500	-	75,000	12,500
11.	Indian Golf Union	23,298	-	47,985	-	-
12.	Indian Polo Association	30,895	35,847	-	42,523	94,423
13.	Judo Federation of India	5,38,421	20,58,115	41,02,454	9,46,086	26,28,624

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Softball Association of India	3,93,750	93,750	2,81,250	1,33,100	1,68,750
15.	Taekwondo Federation of India	77,691	1,06,800	65,623	1,48,010	-
16.	Tenni Koit Federation of India	50,000	-	3,00,000	1,68,750	2,06,250
17.	Volleyball Federation of India	11,75,080	11,45,988	12,58,329	21,32,297	20,99,561
18.	Women's Cricket Association of India	-	-	-	31,755	-
19.	Throwball Federation of India	-	-	-	-	3,93,750
20.	Bridge Federation of India	1,48,734	-	-	-	-
21.	Indian Kayaking & Canoeing Federation of India	-	7,31,300	-	9,12,140	1,08,050
22.	School Games Federation of India	42,250	6,95,588	9,89,824	6,32,415	11,99,187
23.	Net Ball Federation of India	-	-	-	-	3,18,750
24.	Indian Olympic Association	31,32,102	19,82,902	53,83,543	84,49,493	-
25.	Physical Handicapped Sports Council of India (unrecognised)	2,59,920	-	-	-	6,94,395
26.	Winter Games Federation of India (Unrecognised)	1,74,840	-	-	-	1,18,560
27.	Ball Badminton Federation of India	68,958	4,43,750	19,750	1,68,500	2,81,250
28.	Amateur Baseball Federation of India	2,21,040	2,25,000	75,000	2,18,750	3,82,075
29.	Yachting Association of India	26,19,282	17,00,056	10,53,111	14,41,550	18,66,557
30.	Rowing Federation of India	-	16,23,956	-	-	3,08,790
31.	Archery Association of India	5,46,054	17,93,890	10,36,956	6,04,336	12,19,507
32.	Badminton Association of India	5,10,593	29,88,541	4,87,194	7,26,321	4,45,980
33.	Billiards & Snooker Federation of India	69,127	1,90,185	93,511	1,60,315	87,750
34.	Indian Amateur Boxing Fedn. of India	8,03,331	20,14,077	11,09,362	22,58,734	11,98,690
35.	Cycling Ederation of India	10,61,032	17,95,495	2,31,760	-	-
36.	Equestrian Federation of India	3,36,914	7,25,327	3,09,402	8,36,501	2,08,410
37.	All India Football Federation	3,39,852	12,27,715	11,74,930	19,40,619	23,07,800
38.	Indian Hockey Federation (Men)	22,07,057	46,77,326	39,70,402	80,54,831	23,15,087
39.	Indian Women Hockey Federation	12,60,232	28,43,820	33,85,231	12,70,006	25,98,914
40.	All India Tennis Association	5,13,062	2,57,594	1,50,170	-	-
41.	Indian Powerlifting Federation	-	2,75,000	1,75,000	10,31,250	1,75,000
42.	Squash Racket Federation of India	83,924	-	1,38,998	-	75,000
43.	Swimming Federation of India	11,29,700	16,06,010	7,15,000	4,94,218	12,25,728
44.	National Rifle Association of India	5,64,487	13,27,095	21,74,548	23,67,730	55,92,688
45.	Teble Tennis Federation	3,99,319	17,35,807	24,28,144	15,19,312	12,79,629
46.	Indian Weightlifting Federation	14,40,157	21,21,776	8,87,153	14,20,846	11,69,624
47.	Wrestling Federation of India	31,78,708	43,75,488	23,09,219	33,28,797	25,89,435
48.	Amateur Athletic Federation of India	18,58,048	33,20,780	47,59,662	2,02,383	9,23,005
49.	Amateur Kabbadi Federation of India	2,73,750	75,000	3,18,750	3,50,000	-
50.	Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society (unrecognised)	81,060	1,33,268	1,82,654	2,31,482	8,98,769
51.	Indian Council of Rehabilitation & Sports for Disabled (unrecognised)	12,000	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
52.	Indian Veteran Athletes Federation (unrecognised)	-	-	1,84,975	-	-
53.	Kho-Kho Federation of India	-	-	-	75,000	5,81,250
54.	Women Football Federation of India	-	-	-	4,26,588	-
55.	Atya-Patya Federation of India	-	-	-	-	-
56.	National Rifle Association of India for Physically handicapped players	-	-	-	-	2,16,171

Statement of Grants given to State Govts/UTs for creation of sports infrastructure during the last five years.

S.No.	State/UT	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13,00,000	21,50,000	Nil	12,50,000	21,50,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	10,86,000	20,65,000	Nil
3.	Assam	4,50,000	-	Nil	46,20,000	8,00,000
4.	Bihar	-	34,50,000	Nil	25,92,400	Nil
5.	Goa	20,00,000	10,00,000	19,00,000	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	52,62,758	-	Nil	5,17,242	43,200
7.	Haryana	4,49,000	-	97,50,000	38,88,000	98,33,400
8.	Himachal Pradesh	37,250	70,78,000	45,50,000	1,86,000	89,10,400
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	22,50,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Karnataka	20,02,500	12,32,500	15,74,250	64,34,000	836,37,058
11.	Kerala	17,19,250	18,08,250	16,59,800	6,00,100	19,13,400
12.	Madhya Pradesh	44,10,000	13,00,000	85,00,000	70,00,000	Nil
13.	Maharashtra	1,17,37,443	6,82,28,000	10,00,000	1,17,90,500	18,00,000
14.	Manipur	-	-	87,50,000	Nil	43,50,000
15.	Meghalaya	-	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Mizoram	-	-	Nil	1,07,74,500	86,19,600
17.	Nagaland	-	40,00,000	75,00,000	25,00,000	Nil
18.	Orissa	19,50,000	1,95,000	45,000	4,95,000	90,00,000
19.	Punjab	51,73,225	-	Nil	Nil	2,50,000
20.	Rajasthan	4,17,250	1,04,95,000	Nil	8,25,000	12,30,000
21.	Sikkim	5,93,257	-	13,15,918	Nil	2,48,454
22.	Tamil Nadu	1,33,32,525	7,42,625	54,770	3,32,925	35,15,575
23.	Tripura	-	-	64,50,000	Nil	14,50,000
24.	Uttar Pradesh	-	1,06,50,000	1,31,45,512	54,39,488	8,00,000
25.	West Bengal	41,15,542	40,18,500	4,95,000	5,86,490	35,00,000
26.	A & N Islands	-	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
27.	Chandigarh	38,800	17,50,000	Nil	1,75,500	1,75,500
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	-	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
29.	Daman & Diu	19,69,200	2,00,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.	Delhi	-	50,000	Nil	Nil	12,50,000
31.	Pondicherry	-	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Lakshdweep	-	-	Nil	Nil	Nil

[Translation]

By-Pass in U.P.

1904. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the delay taking place in the construction of Varanasi-Ramnagar-Niyatabad-Chandauli by-pass in district Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to get this by-pass constructed immediately?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to Varanasi-Ramnagar-Mughalsarai bypass on NH-2 in U.P.

(b) The reasons for delay are indicated below :-

(i) Failure of original contractor who was expelled in December, 1992 due to poor performance.

(ii) The remaining work was entrusted to Border Roads Organisation in June, 1993, who could re-start the work in February, 1994 after mobilisation of resources thereof.

(iii) Inadequacy of resources due to overall financial constraints.

(c) The work is targetted to be completed by December' 97.

Sanction to Projects

1905. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects sanctioned by the Union Government in Madhya Pradesh during 1996-97 under Women and Child Development Scheme;

(b) whether all the sanctioned projects have been implemented;

(c) if so, whether necessary material has been provided for these projects;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether distribution of necessary items have been given to districts or the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and if it has been given to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh whether it has been supplied to districts; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) The Union Government is not implementing any scheme known as Women and Child Development Scheme.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Yatri Niwas in Orissa

1906. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of existing Yatri Niwas in Orissa as on date with locations;

(b) whether the Government proposed to construct New Yatri Niwas in the State for providing lodging facilities to middle class domestic tourists;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the facilities being provided in the existing Yatri Niwas of the State and existing room charges therein;

(e) whether State Government have given any proposal in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism of Union Government provided financial assistance for the construction of Yatri Niwas at Chandipur and Puri in Orissa. No proposal has been received from the State Government for the construction of new Yatri Niwas in Orissa. However, a number of projects for the construction of tourist complexes to provide lodging facilities to middle class domestic tourists have been prioritised for financial assistance during 1997-98.

(d) to (f) According to the guidelines, the facilities to be provided in the Yatri Niwas are room/dormitories, restaurants, reception, area etc.

Dravidian Languages Schools/Universities

1907. SHRI SYDIAH KOTA :
SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Dravidian Languages Schools/Universities in the country and their locations thereof;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up new Dravidian Languages Schools/Universities;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the proposals received from State Governments in this regard; and

(d) their present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) The Central Government have no details regarding number of Dravidian language schools as such statistics

are not maintained. The details of the number of Dravidian Universities are :

- (i) Kannada University (Hampi).
 - (ii) Potti Sriramulu Telugu University (Hyderabad),
 - (iii) Tamil University (Tanjavore).
- (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Andhra Pradesh Government proposes setting up a Dravidian University. There is an established and laid down procedure under the U.G.C. Act for the State Universities to obtain assistance from the Central Grants through the UGC for specific programmes subject to fulfilment of certain prerequisites. These are processed and dealt with in the University Grants Commission.

[Translation]

SC/ST appointments in Defence Ministry

1908. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of appointments made on various posts in departments/undertakings under his Ministry during the last three years as on date;

(b) the post-wise details of SC/ST candidates selected on these posts;

(c) whether some posts reserved for SC/ST are at present lying vacant in departments/undertakings under his ministry;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up the reserved vacancies; and

(f) by when the reserved vacancies are likely to be filled up and the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as the same is collected.

[English]

Primary Education

1909. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the annual, rate of growth of enrolment of boys and girls students in Primary education in different States during the last three years;

(b) the increase in expenditure per enrolment during the above period; and

(c) the number of new Primary schools set up in different States during this period by the Government, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Based on available information the annual rate of growth of enrolment of boys and girls in primary schools in different states during the last three years is given in the attached statement.

(b) Information regarding increase in expenditure per enrolment is not maintained.

(c) The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Growth Rate in Enrolment in Primary Classes from 93-94 to 95-96

States/UTs	%in (93-94)		%in (94-95)		%in (95-96)	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	1.90	2.91	3.15	4.46	2.39	3.99
Arunachal Pradesh	3.26	7.63	3.41	4.38	2.64	7.60
Assam	8.80	24.27	0.86	0.51	1.02	1.03
Bihar	*	*	2.37	2.78	*	2.60
Goa	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gujarat	2.85	3.18	1.15	0.83	*	*
Haryana	*	*	*	4.30	5.82	6.94
Himachal Pradesh	6.45	2.65	1.19	1.19	1.10	1.09
Jammu and Kashmir	0.36	4.90	2.49	3.68	0.02	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karnataka	0.25	0.31	2.03	4.06	3.51	3.02
Kerala	*	*	*	*	*	*
Madhya Pradesh	0.74	0.64	1.11	*	3.39	7.46
Maharashtra	2.00	2.77	2.66	4.35	1.24	2.56
Manipur	10.35	10.11	*	*	6.60	10.65
Meghalaya	4.58	5.97	5.66	3.75	*	0.23
Mizoram	1.73	0.69	*	*	2.60	2.09
Nagaland	2.11	1.48	1.29	0.93	1.67	7.37
Orissa	*	*	*	0.95	0.84	1.13
Punjab	0.41	0.96	*	1.89	*	0.97
Rajasthan	7.72	1.68	5.46	8.96	4.25	12.87
Sikkim	1.11	0.62	3.63	6.07	2.28	7.72
Tamil Nadu	*	3.36	2.78	*	0.96	1.16
Tripura	*	*	4.00	5.84	1.90	1.66
Uttar Pradesh	NA	NA	0.00	0.00	NA	NA
West Bengal	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
A and N Islands	1.84	0.61	0.44	1.01	*	*
Chandigarh	9.66	9.90	0.46	1.55	*	2.38
D and N Haveli	8.67	12.11	7.59	12.76	7.60	6.90
Daman and Diu	1.24	0.75	1.80	4.76	4.12	4.94
Delhi	0.98	*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lakshadweep	0.93	*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	0.39	*	*	0.46	*	*

* There is no positive growth during this period.

Missiles Stored by Pakistan

1910. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief of the Army Staff has recently stated that Pakistan has stored missiles on its border with India;

(b) if so, whether India has ruled out withdrawal of troops from Siachen;

(c) whether India has also made it clear that no missiles have been deployed on its Border with Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Chief of Army Staff during an interview stated that Pakistan has stored missiles on its border with India.

(b) There is no direct correlation between the possession of missiles with Pakistan and the presence of our troops in Siachen.

(c) and (d) Government have denied the reports regarding deployment of 'Prithvi' missile on India's border with Pakistan.

Model Code of Governance

1911. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has urged the University Grants Commission to develop a model code of governance which would minimise political interferences and improve academic standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the University Grants Commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) In a communication, Member - Secretary of the Planning Commission has suggested a system of

performance-linked funding of the Universities to improve quality of higher education. This suggestion is, in fact, in line with the similar recommendations made by a Committee of the UGC appointed under the Chairmanship of Justice K. Punnayya. The Chairperson, UGC in her response, has broadly endorsed the idea. The details may, however, have to be worked out with reference to the provisions contained in the legislations governing the various Universities in the country.

[Translation]

Operation of Air Services In Joint Venture

1912. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the Government's decision to

ban the operation of air services in the joint venture by the foreign airlines, the non resident Indians have shown interest to invest in the domestic aviation sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement showing the companies in which NRI equity has been approved is enclosed.

(c) In accordance with the existing policy, non-resident Indian (NRI)/Overseas Corporate Body (OCB) investment upto 100% is permissible in the domestic air transport services sector. The proposals for grant of permission to operate air transport services involving NRI participation are accordingly considered under the guidelines.

Statement

Companies in which Foreign/NRI Equity has been Approved

S.No.	Name of the Company	Percentage of Foreign/NRI equity	Remarks
1.	M/s. Jet Airways (India) Ltd. *	20% foreign equity by Gulf Air 20% foreign equity by Kuwait Air 60% NRI equity	A scheduled private operator
2.	M/s. Lufthansa Cargo India** Pvt. Ltd.	95% NRI/OCB equity (57% NRI by Hinduja Group) (38% by Lufthansa AG, Germany)	NOC holder for air Cargo Services
3.	TCG Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	100% NRI/OCB equity by TCG Aviation, Mauritius	Applicant for NOC to operate air Cargo Services
4.	Elbee Airlines	55.84% NRI/OCB by CSLB Aviation Holding (Mauritius) Ltd.	A non-scheduled air Cargo operator
5.	M/s Trans India Airlines Pvt. Ltd.	50% NRI/OCB equity	Already holds NOC to operate non-scheduled air services
6.	M/s Assured Airways Ltd.	50% NRI Investment by M/s Ajit Raghav and Associates	Already holds NOC to operate non-scheduled air services
7.	M/s Deccan Airlines	51% NRI equity investment	Has applied for NOC to operate scheduled air services.
8.	M/s. Maharashi International Business Development Ltd.	100% NRI equity investment	Has applied for NOC to operate non-scheduled air services.

* Equity from foreign airlines is to be disinvested within 6 months of the Cabinet decision prohibiting any investment of equity by foreign airlines in domestic airlines.

** The Company does not operate on domestic sectors.

[English]

Oil Schemes

1913. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether various oil schemes and projects of

Madhya Pradesh are lying pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, since when and the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the time by which these projects and schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The proposal of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited for setting up of a Marketing Terminal for Central India Oil Refinery at Bina is pending with the Government for approval. The estimated cost of the projects is Rs. 463.4 crores (September, 1996 prices). The project is expected to be completed in 36 months from the date of Government's approval.

[Translation]

Rajiv Gandhi Reservoir in M.P.

1914. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to siphon off water of Narmada River from Mandala in Madhya Pradesh to Rajiv Gandhi Reservoir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred and the time likely to be taken for its completion;

(d) the time by which the sanction is likely to be accorded; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Magazine on Indian Rivers

1915. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to publish a magazine on the Indian rivers and its preservation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not considered necessary to publish such a Magazine.

Overhaul of MIG-29 Aircraft

1916. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of MIG-29 aircraft of the Indian Air Force require major overhaul;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as per the agreement, the overhaul was to be done by Russian Company;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Company has refused to overhaul these MIG aircrafts;

(f) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(g) whether the Government are negotiating for the purchase of more MIG-29 from Russian Company, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) A MIG-29 falls due for major overhaul after 11 years or after it has flown 800 hours. The aircraft has been in service since 1986 and has now become due for overhaul.

(c) to (f) There is no contract with any Russian company or any other foreign agency to overhaul these aircraft. Facilities for overhaul of MIG-29 aircraft have been set up in India.

(g) There is at present, no proposal for purchase of any more MIG-29 aircraft.

Bifurcation of Air Corridor for Delhi

1917. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Airports Authority of India has bifurcated the air corridor falling on Delhi-Karachi sector; and

(b) when the new routing pattern would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From 14th August, 1997.

Winding up of I.R.C.C.

1918. SHRI CHITRASEN SINKU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to wind up Indian Road Construction Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any complaints have been received in IRCC Project at Libya on Machinery and Equipment;

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

(e) the reasons for IRCC officers have been deputed instead of sending a Team of Senior Officers from MOST; and

(f) the reasons for not considering the bio-data of IRCC's employees in National Highways Authority of India received during 1996, if IRCC is wound up?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) The issue of winding up or revival of Indian Road Construction Corporation is still to be decided.

(c) and (d) No complaints have been received in IRCC Project at Libya on Machinery and Equipment.

(e) IRCC officers were deputed to ascertain the condition of machinery, likely cost of repairs, possibility of selling the machine locally or to re-export the same and give their recommendations.

(f) The posts in the National Highways Authority of India are filled up on the basis of deputation/selection for which employees of the IRCC are also considered.

[Translation]

Rani Avantibai Sagar Dam

1919. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the damage caused to Rani Avantibai Sagar Dam due to earthquake in Jabalpur;

(b) whether any scientific test has been conducted in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) A joint inspection team of officers of Central Water Commission and Narmada Valley Development Authority inspected the Rani Avantibai Sagar (Bargi) dam on 24th May, 1997. As per the inspection report submitted by the said team, no damage to the Rani Avantibai Sagar dam has occurred due to the earthquake.

[English]

Files on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

1920. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of files on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the Indian National Army relating to the 1940s still lying with his Ministry;

(b) whether there are any plans to transfer these files to the National Archives of India so that scholars may study them; and

(c) if so, by when this transfer is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) 990 files/folders.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) By the end of August, 1997.

Exodus from Defence Forces

1921. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than four thousand officers in the Armed Forces have put in their papers requesting relieving after mandatory period of service;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of such officers, service-wise; and

(d) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Construction of Airstrips in U.P.

1922. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether airstrips (run-ways) are being constructed/proposed to be constructed by the Government in some places of hilly areas (Uttaranchal) of Uttar Pradesh for convenience of the tourist;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide transit facility to passenger planes by expanding airstrips of Defence Ministry in the border areas of Pithauragarh and Garhwal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Allocation to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya

1923. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the financial allocation made to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya during the last three years;

(b) the monthly amount spent per student on the food;

(c) whether due to corruption in school management the students are deprived of proper meals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The details of financial allocations made for Navodaya Vidyalayas during the last three years were as under :

(Rupees in Crores)

Year	Non-Plan	Plan	Total
1995-96	56.39	192.09	248.48
1996-97	58.57	196.68	255.25
1997-98	61.65	166.84	228.49

(b) The expenditure on food during 1996-97 was Rs. 362/- per student per month. In 1997-98 an amount of Rs. 425/- per student per month has been allocated for food and in case of Vidyalayas located in hard and difficult areas, this amount is Rs. 450/-.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Coaching to Tribal Youth

1924. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tribal youth coached by the National Sports Authority, Patiala during the last three years;

(b) whether any reservation exists with regard to coaching of tribal youth;

(c) if so, the number of tribal players who have been beneficiaries of it;

(d) whether any scheme has been formulated for providing the employment to these trained players; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) During last three years, 48 tribal youths have been trained to become coaches under the Diploma course in coaching at Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala and other Sports Authority of India (SAI) centres. In addition, 694 young sports persons drawn from tribal areas are being coached under the Scheme of Special Area Games of SAI.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, upper age relaxation upto three years is available to tribal candidates during admission in Diploma Course in coaching.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, SAI helps outstanding players under its schemes in getting employment in Government departments and Public Sector Undertakings.

[Translation]

Spurious L.P.G. Cylinders

1925. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of L.P.G. cylinders produced in the country during the last three years, year-wise alongwith the names of companies engaged in its production;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding supply of spurious L.P.G. cylinders to consumers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) The total number of LPG cylinders procured by Oil Industry from the approved LPG cylinder manufacturers throughout the country during the last three years is as under :

Year	No. of cylinders
1994-95	6443067
1995-96	5684541
1996-97	7241298

(b) and (c) No complaints have been reported regarding supply of spurious cylinders. However, spurious cylinders are detected at bottling plants where such cylinders on detection, are segregated, deshaped, and crushed before final disposal.

[English]

Disputas between the States

1926. SHRI RAJA RANGAPPA NAIK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of disputes over the sharing of water between the States particularly between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and Maharashtra and Karnataka; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Two inter-state disputes, viz. (i) Cauvery Water

Disputes among Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry and (ii) Ravi-Beas Water Dispute among Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir are before the two tribunals constituted to adjudicate the disputes. In addition, State of Andhra Pradesh has filed a suit in the Supreme Court of India under Article 131 of the Constitution in the matter of violation of decision of Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT) by the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra. Similarly the State of Karnataka has filed a suit in the Supreme Court of India under Article 131 of the Constitution in the matter with regard to dispute between the State of Karnataka on the one hand and States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra on the other hand on the decision of KWDT. The states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Union of India are respondents in the Suit.

As the matter is already before the Court further action could be taken by the Central Government only as per the directions of the Supreme Court.

Shortage of Teachers

1927. SHRI KHELAI SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pay scales of Navyug School teachers in Delhi is higher than those of other Government schools;

(b) if so, whether there is acute shortage of teachers in these schools particularly in Peshwa Road;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the teacher of one subject is asked to teach another subject in which the teacher has a little knowledge; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate teachers in these schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) New Delhi Municipal Council has informed that the pay scales of teachers of Navyug Schools is higher than those of other Government Schools. They have further informed that there is shortage of teachers in these schools. The main reasons are the resignation of some teachers and upgradation of schools.

(d) and (e) Stop gap arrangements have been made by assigning responsibility to teachers who have had the relevant subject at the graduation level or as one of the teaching subjects at B.Ed. level.

The appointments against vacant posts were withheld due to a directive received from the National

Commission for SC/ST for providing the reservation quota for SC/ST. This has been sorted out and selection process has been initiated for recruitment/appointment of teachers.

Bridge on N.H. No. 17

1928. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the status of the bridge over river Zuari on National Highway No. 17 in Goa;

(b) the action has been initiated on the Mott MacDonald Report;

(c) whether the bridge is safe for traffic; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to build a new bridge on the river?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) The Zuari Bridge was opened to traffic on 14.4.1983. Due to corrosive atmosphere certain distresses were observed in Zuari bridge in 1988. Based on the recommendation of CECRI, special inspection, investigation and formulation of repair, proposal for the bridge have been called for from the consultant M/s Mott MacDonald of U.K. In the meantime, some cracks were noticed in spans on one of the piers which were also got inspected by M/s Mott MacDonald in April, 1997. The repairs plans and estimate etc. are yet to submitted by M/s Mott MacDonalds.

(c) On the basis of recommendations of consultants, only light vehicular traffic are being allowed to move over the bridge at present.

(d) There is a proposal to construct a new bridge across Zuari river on B.O.T. (Build, Operate and Transfer) basis.

Weightage to Subjects

1929. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi University does not give any weightage to Home Science/Painting/Physical Education as one of the five compulsory subjects while considering student's candidature for admission to various undergraduate courses, whereas these subjects are being taught as compulsory subjects in Government and private schools in humanities group; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to redress the difficulties being faced by the students who are forced to study these subjects as there is no other choice offered by these schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Desert Triangle Scheme in Rajasthan

1930. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rajasthan Government with the help of Japan, have prepared any 'Desert Triangle Scheme' for Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts and later on Jodhpur and Nagaur districts were also included in it;

(b) whether for the development of above cities, the said scheme has been sent to the Union Government for its approval;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in according approval; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) to (d) The Rajasthan Government has not prepared any Desert Triangle Scheme with the help of Government of Japan.

Rajasthan Government had prepared a proposal for Development of Infrastructure Tourism in the Desert Triangle Jodhpur-Bikaner-Jaisalmer for funding assistance from Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund, Japan in 1992. This was forwarded to Deptt. of Economic Affairs for consideration. As the proposal was not detailed enough, a revised proposal was submitted by Rajasthan Government in 1994 and the same was forwarded to Department of Economic Affairs. In 1996 the Department of Economic Affairs suggested that the Government of Rajasthan may submit the proposal to prepare detailed feasibility studies for the Integrated Area Development Plan for the Desert Circuit of Rajasthan through Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), Government of Japan under Technical Co-operation Programme. Accordingly, Rajasthan Government submitted the proposal in 1997 and the same was forwarded to Department of Economic Affairs. This includes districts of Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Barmer, Bikaner and Nagaur.

[English]

Promotion of Hindi

1931. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any

special scheme for the promotion of Hindi in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes taken up in the last five years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government are encouraging establishment of Hindi medium schools and colleges in West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government of India are implementing the following major schemes for the promotion of Hindi in the non-Hindi speaking States including West Bengal :

(i) Appointment and Training of Hindi teachers in non-Hindi speaking States/Union Territories.

(ii) Teaching of Hindi through correspondence courses.

(iii) Extension Programmes to promote Hindi.

(iv) Schemes for financial assistance to voluntary organisations.

(v) Hindi teachers training programme.

(c) and (d) Schools and colleges are generally established by State Government/private managements keeping in view the need for school and higher education in the particular area and infrastructural facilities available.

Liquid Fuel Supply

1932. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Liquid-fuel supply pact for power producers is ready" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated July 3, 1997;

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

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help to increase the oil pool account of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The model fuel supply agreement has not yet been finalised. Discussions are on with IPPs, Ministry of Power, Financial Institutions etc. on the basis of the draft model FSA.

(c) Pricing of liquid fuels for IPPs would be outside the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) and there will be no linkage, in any manner, with the oil pool account and thus there will be no impact of supply of power fuels on oil pool account.

Development of National Highway No. 23

1933. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of National Highway No. 23 from Rourkela to Ranchi and Rourkela to Banarpal is very poor;

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

(c) whether the Government have sent any proposal to Asian Development Bank or any other International agency for financial assistance for the development of these Highways;

(d) if so, the progress made in this regard so far and the time schedule for taking for the development of these Highways; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) National Highway No. 23 is being maintained generally in traffic worth condition within the available resources.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Emergency Landing by Air India Flights

1934. SHRI E. AHMED : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of emergency landing by Air India flights for the last one year; and

(b) the reasons for these emergency landing?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) During the period from 1st July, 1996 to 30th June, 1997, there were two incidents wherein the pilot had declared emergency or followed emergency procedures before landing as per the following details :

- (i) Air India aircraft while operating flight from Tel Aviv to Mumbai on 17/18.11.96 suffered failure of DC power at Djibouti. The components were replaced at Mumbai.
- (ii) Air India aircraft while operating flight from Singapore to Trivandrum on 15.12.96 developed multiple inflight defects at Singapore. Its generator control unit was replaced at Mumbai.

[Translation]

Yashpal Committee

1935. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

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

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action for implementing recommendations of the Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the States which have implemented the recommendations of the Committee by March, 1997; and

(e) the names of States which have disagreed to the implementation of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) In the 50th meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) held on 2.3.94, State Governments have expressed their broad agreement with the recommendations of the Yash Pal Committee. The consensus of such views was identified and the course of action to be adopted by the State Governments suggested to them. The implementation of the recommendations has been partially initiated by most State and Central agencies. The recommendations of the Committee are of two categories :

(i) Those requiring one time action; and

(ii) recommendations requiring long term intervention.

The Government has issued two sets of action points, one for States/UTs and the other for Central Agencies to facilitate implementation.

Implementation of the recommendations by the State Governments is a part of their on-going programme of development of school education.

[English]

BVEP in Assam

1936. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil India Limited is undertaking exploration and drilling activities for oil in Brahmaputra Valley Exploration Project (BVEP) in Assam;

(b) if so, whether a plan has been drawn up for such activities under BVEP;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether OIL propose to undertake drilling in the Bihpuria structure in North Lakhimpur district; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Oil India Limited has drawn up a plan for drilling six exploratory wells under its Brahmaputra Valley Exploration Project in Assam. The first well is in progress now. The other five locations are being prepared for continuation of drilling operations.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. OIL has planned to undertake drilling operations in Bihpuria in North Lakhimpur District and accordingly the first well Bihpuria-1 was spudded in on 16.6.97. The well has been planned to drill to a target depth of 4500m.

Petro-Fuel Power Plant

1937. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Indian Oil Corporation by the Government of Punjab for setting up a petro-fuel plant in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Punjab State Electricity Board for setting up 100-150 MW Naphtha-based Power Project at Bhatinda, Punjab. The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Mausoleum of Mirza Galib

1938. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mausoleum of Mirza Galib in Capital is in a dilapidated condition; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Mirza Ghalib's tomb which is looked after by Anjuman Taraqi Urdu Hind and the Ghalib Academy, is not in a dilapidated condition.

(b) Question does not arise.

[English]

Conversion of NH 47 Into Four Lane

1939. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert NH No. 47 into four lane;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present stage of the works undertaken so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) The total length of NH-47 is 416 Km. out of which a length of 36.452 Km. i.e. from Alwaye to Vytilla and Aroor to Sherthalai is being converted into Four lane. However, State P.W.D. has proposed for Four laning of a length of 233.76 Km. during the 9th Five Year Plan which is yet to be finalised.

(c) About 65% of the work is likely to be completed by March, 1999.

(d) It is too early to indicate a time frame for the entire NH 47.

Tourism Projects in Kerala

1940. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

the details of the Tourism projects at present under the Union Government's assistance in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Details of the Tourism projects in Kerala at present under the Central Financial Assistance are given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Waterside amenities at Vaikom	13.05
2.	Tented accommodation for Ponmudi	5.80
3.	Integrated development of Bekal	190.00
4.	Boat Train in Korakuram Tourist Camp	16.30
5.	Microlite equipment	4.20
6.	Water Sports equipment	23.21
7.	Tourism Complex at Kalady	63.08
8.	Tourist Lodge at Guruvayur	49.50

1	2	3
9.	Purchase of Mountain bicycles	1.50
10.	Floodlighting of Trivandrum museum	14.81
11.	Beach Resort at Paravoor	26.13
12.	Beach Resort at Cherthala	24.69
13.	Tourist Resort at Changanacherry	14.45
14.	Tourist Lodge at Kallar	14.90
15.	Tourist Lodge at Kuravilangad	14.23
16.	Golf Course, Trivandrum	36.00
17.	Wayside cafeteria Adoor	11.19
18.	Yatri Niwas at Alleppey	38.93
19.	Tourist Lodge at Aranmula	22.40
20.	Yatri Niwas at Calicut	41.14
21.	Yatri Niwas at Malayattoor	34.26
22.	Yatri Niwas at Peermade	34.98
23.	Purchase of Fibre glass tents, Periyar Lake	49.00
24.	Purchase of boats for Kovalam and Quilon etc.	17.65
25.	Yatri Niwas at Kondati (Mallapuram)	35.00
26.	Yatri Niwas at Kumily	35.00
27.	Wayside amenities at Nilambur (Mallepuram Distt.)	20.82
28.	Wayside amenities at Kumaragam	20.82
29.	Purchase of 2 nos. caravan for Cochin and Thiruvananthapuram.	42.90
30.	Purchase of 1 caravan for Kozhikode	21.00
31.	Assistance for Indira Gandhi Boat Race, 1995	15.00
32.	Assistance for Production of publicity material	3.00
33.	Restoration of Bolghatti Palace Kochi, Kerala.	49.60
34.	Resort at Munnar under equity scheme	7.00
35.	Renovation and Remodelling of Aluva Palace	48.00
36.	Waterside amenity at Kayamkulam	35.79
37.	Floodlighting of Vadakkum Nathan Temple	17.20
38.	Rice Boats	10.00
39.	Nehru Trophy boat race	5.00
40.	Wayside amenities at Angamali	18.90

Promotion of Languages

1941. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

the steps taken for the promotion and development of Nepali, Konkani and Manipuri languages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): Government have set up the Central Institute of Indian Language, Mysore, to promote and develop Indian languages including Nepali, Konkani and Manipuri. The CIIL has undertaken the following activities for the development of these languages :

Nepali : Pictorial glossary in Nepali published. Nepali-Bengali-Hindi dictionary and Nursery Rhymes under preparation. The script for propagation of Pronunciation Cassettes in Nepali prepared.

Konkani : Pictorial Glossary and Nursery Rhymes in Konkani published. Two training programmes for the Konkani teachers and one workshop-cum-training programme for the preparation of instructional materials for Konkani conducted, besides a workshop for the administrators in the use of Konkani in administration.

Manipuri : Manipuri Phonetic Reader and Nursery Rhymes published. Pictorial Glossary under preparation.

The Government is also implementing a scheme for providing financial assistance to individuals/NGOs for publication of books in Modern Indian languages including the above three languages. A scheme for the purchase of books published in Indian languages and their free distribution is also being implemented.

Accident Rate In IAF

1942. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Accident rate in IAF becoming cause for concern" appearing in the "Asian Age" dated June 30, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary of Defence Research to analyse comparative aircraft accident data in India and abroad, has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the main findings of the report and action the Government have taken or propose to take on the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have taken necessary steps to contain these accidents, and as a result, accident rate has declined as compared to the earlier years. The Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accident constituted under the Chairmanship of Scientific Adviser to the Raksha Mantri,

Dr. Abdul Kalam to analyse the causes of these accidents and to bring out remedial measures to avoid their recurrence, is yet to submit its report.

Educationally Backward States

1943. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide hundred per cent grant to educationally backward States;

(b) if so, whether J and K State is also included in this scheme; and

(c) if so, the target fixed for removal of illiteracy in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Grants are released by Central Government to all the States including educationally backward States under various Centrally Sponsored Scheme and Central Schemes on the basis of sharing pattern which varies from scheme to scheme. Programme like District Primary Education Programme, Non-formal Education, Total Literacy Campaigns in Elementary Education and Adult Education sectors have a focus on educationally backward States.

(c) The Government propose to achieve total literacy in the country by the year 2005.

[Translation]

Tourism Circuits in Madhya Pradesh

1944. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the tourism circuits identified for Madhya Pradesh by the Union Government;

(b) the funds allocated for the development of tourism circuits during 1997-98 and whether any more tourism circuit is proposed to be made;

(c) the funds proposed to be allocated for this purpose; and

(d) whether the proposal to extend the Indore-Onkareshwar-Maheshwar-Mandu-Ujjain circuit upto Ratlam-Mandsaur is under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) The following two travel circuits in Madhya Pradesh have been identified for intensive development :

(1) Gwalior-Shivpuri-Orchha-Khajuraho.

(2) Bhopal-Sanchi-Indore-Ujjain-Maheshwar-Onkareshwar-Mandu.

(b) to (d) In consultation with the State Government, the following projects in the above circuits have been

prioritised for central financial assistance of Rs. 153.00 lakhs during 1997-98 :

(i) SEL show at Orchha.

(ii) Water sports facilities at Khajuraho and Orchha.

(iii) Tourist reception centre at Sanchi.

(iv) Audio Guides for Sanchi/Mandu.

(v) Mandu and Orchha festivals.

The identification and development of new centres and circuits is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. There is no proposal at present under the consideration of Central Government to extend the existing circuits.

[English]

Irrigation System

1945. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank has approved 325 million dollar aid to the Union Agriculture Ministry for irrigation projects to boost Andhra Pradesh agriculture sector and revamp part of its irrigation system;

(b) if so, the projects for which this aid has been provided by the World Bank for development in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the total amount of aid provided to the State for this purpose;

(d) the projects which are likely to be undertaken in Andhra Pradesh from this loan; and

(e) the projects proposed to be undertaken in Nizamabad district of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (d) The World Bank has agreed to provide a assistance of US \$ 325 Million for Third Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project for completion of spill-over activities of Andhra Pradesh II Irrigation Project comprising Srisailem Right Branch Canal, and Sriramasagar sub-projects, agricultural support services, resettlement and rehabilitation, environmental management programme and Dam Safety Assurance Works.

(e) Sriramasagar sub-Project Command covers part of the Nizamabad District.

Grant to Tripura University

1946. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister, during his last visit to Tripura assured a substantial amount of grant to Tripura University for its development;

(b) if so, the steps taken to fulfil his assurance;

(c) whether Tripura Government has submitted any project for the development of Tripura University; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) Tripura University has been set up by an Act of the Legislature of Tripura and it is, therefore, primarily the responsibility of the State Government to provide adequate Plan and Non-Plan grants for the University. UGC, however, provides development grants, in accordance with the prescribed norms and pattern of assistance, to the eligible State Universities under various schemes programmes. The proposal submitted by Tripura University for allocation of requisite funds has been forwarded to UGC for appropriate consideration in the light of guidelines framed for the purpose for the 9th Plan period.

Air Services to Vizag

1947. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether consequent upon the industrialisation of Visakhapatnam, there would be more air and air cargo services to Vizag apart from night landing facilities in the local airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Operation of air services, either passenger or cargo, is decided by the airlines, keeping in view the traffic potential/economic viability. Vishakapatnam airport belongs to the Ministry of Defence and Airports Authority has no plans to provide night landing facilities at this airport.

Failure of Trishul

1948. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian missile development programme suffered a setback with the failure of Trishul surface to air missile;

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

(c) the total amount spent so far on this project;

(d) whether Russian made Tar Bak S-300 missile are cheaper than the amount spent so far on this project;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government are considering a second thought on the project; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Trishul is a command guided surface to air missile, with quick reaction and electroic counter measure capabilities, with state-of-the-art technology. It has number of subsystems and ground complex. These have been realised successfully. So far, 33 flight tests have been carried out with important results. Integrated flight system trials have commenced and will be continued till the system is offered for user trials. The missile system will be ready for production in 1998.

(c) The total amount spent on Trishul development so far is Rs. 104 crore.

(d) and (e) S-300, Tor and Trishul are different class of missiles. S-300 is 150 km range theatre defence missile, Tor is a vertical launched short range (12 km) theatre defence missile, whereas Trishul is a quick reaction short range (9 km) missile to be used against aircrafts. Comparison of these three systems is not correct.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Harapan Culture at Dholavira

1949. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Archeological Survey of India has done a commendable work in finding and developing the Harapan culture at Dholavira in Kutch in Gujarat;

(b) whether his Ministry has taken up the site on its tourism map of the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a great need for creating infrastructure for tourism facilities there; and

(d) if so, the details of the Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) The Department of Tourism has prioritised a project to provide Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 28 lakhs during 1997-98 for the creation of tourist facilities at Dholavira.

Criteria for Recruitment

1950. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the IITs are following uniform criteria for recruitment; and

(b) if not, the various criteria followed by different IITs for recruitment to various categories of posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The basis of recruitment to various posts through Open Selection is uniform in all the IITs. For all direct recruitments, positions are advertised and selections are made on the recommendations of the duly constituted Selection Committees.

Development of Anti-Submarine Torpedo

1951. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has successfully completed an indigenous development of anti-submarine torpedo which is an improvement on the Advanced Experimental Torpedo (AET); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to take off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) The indigenous anti-submarine torpedo namely Advanced Experimental Torpedo (AET) is in the final stage of development. It is expected to be inducted into the Navy by 1999. Preplanned product improvement is a continuous process.

Srirama Sagar Project

1952. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government prepared an ambitious plan to complete the Srirama Sagar Project and Srisailem Right Branch Canal under the Andhra Pradesh III irrigation project;

(b) whether the World Bank has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 1,300 crores for these projects;

(c) if so, the time likely to be taken to complete these projects; and

(d) the amount provided so far by the World Bank to the State Government for implementing these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Under the Agreement dated 3.6.1997 The World Bank has agreed to provide an assistance of US \$ 325 Million for Third Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project comprising of Srirama-Sagar Project and Srisailem Right Branch Canal subprojects. The credit closing date is 31.1.2003. So far no money has been utilized as the project is effective from 3.7.97.

Operation of Air India's Flight

1953. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :
SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are persistent demand to introduce direct flights from Calcutta to Hong Kong, Germany, Canada, Italy, USA, Indonesia and African countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Air India's flights to the above countries are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Requests are received from time to time for operation of direct flights from Calcutta to various international destinations.

(b) and (c) Currently Air India operates direct flights to Bangkok and Tokyo from Calcutta. Air India is at present unable to further augment international operations from Calcutta due to shortage of aircraft capacity. The situation is being monitored constantly and will be reviewed as and when additional capacity becomes available.

[Translation]

Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission

1954. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the districts of Madhya Pradesh in which Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission' is being implemented and the total financial provision made for each district for the year 1996-97, 1997-98;

(b) whether any evaluation has been made in regard to the work accomplished under the Shiksha Mission in the wake of the complaints to the effect that the purpose for which the mission had been started, is not being served and the financial provisions are being misused;

(c) whether the services of existing Primary and Middle School teachers are being availed for the programme meant for educating the adults under Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission and as a result, the studies of boys and girls are being affected; and

(d) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to improve the above condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Rajiv Gandhi Prathmik Shiksha Mission is the Society which is implementing District Primary Education

Programme (DPEP) in Madhya Pradesh. At present, the programme is being implemented in 19 Districts in the State of Madhya Pradesh. An additional 15 districts have been identified for coverage under the Programme. A statement showing the names of the Districts and the financial provisions made for each District under the programme during the Years 1996-97 and 1997-98 is annexed.

(b) Assessment of DPEP activities under Rajiv Gandhi Prathmik Shiksha Mission is periodically done by Joint Supervision Missions. As per reports of these Missions, the progress of implementation of DPEP in Madhya Pradesh is by and large satisfactory. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that the question of misuse of funds does not arise. A comprehensive In-depth Review of the Programme is scheduled in September-October 1997. The accounts of the society for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 have already been audited by the Chartered Accountant.

(c) and (d) The services of not only primary and middle school teachers, but also of all Government and non-Government persons who offered voluntarily without affecting their routine work were availed, hence studies of boys and girls remained unaffected.

Statement

Names of the Districts in Madhya Pradesh covered under District Primary Education Programme and the financial provisions made for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98.

S.No.	Name of the Districts	Financial Provision (Rs. in Lakhs)	
		1996-97	1997-98 (Proposed)
1	2	3	4
1.	Bilaspur	683.03	531.53
2.	Shahdol	585.77	655.51
3.	Mandsaur	466.43	457.03
4.	Ratlam	412.55	394.72
5.	Sarguja	730.38	536.94
6.	Raigarh	606.80	592.42
7.	Dhar	577.23	533.25
8.	Rewa	524.53	458.37
9.	Rajgarh	372.60	390.72
10.	Raisen	431.30	326.89
11.	Chhatarpur	445.83	415.98
12.	Guna	470.77	404.11
13.	Rajnandgaon	554.43	416.36
14.	Betul	404.50	365.78
15.	Sidhi	524.67	492.77

1	2	3	4
16.	Panna	271.62	255.64
17.	Satna	483.68	511.19
18.	Sehore	395.34	306.28
19.	Tikamgarh	356.65	405.89

List of additional districts to be covered under the Programme :

1. Mandla
2. Seoni
3. Shivpuri
4. Bhind
5. Morena
6. Bastar
7. Vidisha
8. Jhabua
9. Datia
10. Khargone
11. Dewas
12. Shajapur
13. Raipur
14. Khandwa
15. Damoh

(Financial provision for these districts is still under finalisation)

[English]

Four Lane and Bypass in Kerala

1955. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDARAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kerala has made any request to accord priority for any four laning of any of the stretches on NHs in the State :

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether there is any proposal from Kerala accord sanction for bypasses in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The State P.W.D. has proposed 4 laning of selected reaches of NH-47 (total length 233.76 Km) during the 9th Five Year Plan which is yet to be finalised.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Construction of Kollam bypass (Phase-II) and Tellicherry Mahe bypass (Phase-I) on

NH-47 are included in the Annual Plan 1997-98. The Technical Proposal for Kollam Bypass Phase-II has been received and is being processed.

[Translation]

Allocation for Development of Cantonments in Delhi

1956. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total allocation of funds during each of the last three years for undertaking development work of cantonments in National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) whether concrete steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to solve the problems of supply of water and electricity in the cantonments in National Capital Territory of Delhi; and

(c) if so, the schemes prepared for providing facilities to the cantonment boards so as to provide basic amenities to the people living in cantonment areas of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The following amounts were allocated for development works :-

	(in Rupees)
1994-95	3,11,64,726
1995-96	6,05,82,211
1996-97	5,37,72,990

(b) and (c) To ensure sufficient water supply to its residents in Delhi Cantonment, in addition to the bulk water supply received from Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the Cantonment Board has taken up schemes to provide and supply water through an extensive network of distribution lines connected to its tubewells, overhead tanks, sumps and pump houses. Electricity is supplied by Delhi Vidyut Board directly to consumers in Delhi Cantonment.

[English]

Air Safety Committees for Kerala Airports

1957. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee has been set up to review the air safety arrangements of all the airports in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of their report/recommendations made alongwith the shortcomings of each of these airports; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the report?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Removal of National Anthem and Song

1958. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it was brought to the notice of the Government that the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) has decided to do away with the practice of printing the national anthem and national song on the inside covers of every book meant for students from classes I to XII;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ascertained the reasons for removing the national anthem and the national song;

(c) if so, whether the Government approve the change initiated by the SCERT; and

(d) if not, the steps taken/proposed to ensure restoration of the above two songs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Privatisation of Cultural Projects

1959. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have evolved a plan to boost culture related projects by involving private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the share of the private sector to it?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) The Government of India have set up a National Culture Fund (NCF) in terms of a Notification published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 28.11.96. Copies of the Notification are already available in the Parliament Library. Notification mentioned also details a scheme for the administration of the NCF, which provides that the NCF may also accept contributions from statutory bodies created under the Acts of Parliament or of the State Legislatures, United Nations and its associate bodies, other international organisations, private and

public corporate sectors, trusts, societies and individuals, besides contributions from the Central and State Governments.

The NCF constitutes an important initiative for enabling institutions and public at large to contribute to culture-related endeavours, for forging meaningful inter-institution partnerships, for mobilising extra budgetary resources for culture, and for heightening awareness that culture indeed constitutes a crucial input to the overall process of development. It accepts institutions and individuals as equal partners of the Government in the management of the cultural scenario in the country and it will help overcoming the resource crunch in relation to culture-related endeavours.

(c) Contributions to the National Culture Fund will be voluntary.

Sports Federations

1960. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government or the Sports Authority of India accord any approval or affiliation to various sports federations;

(b) the authority to which these sports federations are answerable for the fairness of the sports events/competitions organised by them and for the funds etc. collected by them from different sources;

(c) whether the Government/Sports Authority of India has come across reports about financial irregularity and mismanagement of sports events by these federations; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government plan to improve the working of these federations and keep a check on their financial affairs?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India grants recognition to various Sports Federations.

(b) The National Sports Federations are autonomous bodies and follow the set of objectives prescribed under their constitution. In case of Federations which are affiliated to IOA, the IOA can take disciplinary action against the Federations for misbehaviour or any other undesirable activities. The accounts of the Federations are open to inspection by the Govt. of India. One of the conditions imposed by the Govt. of India on the Federations while granting recognition to them is that the accounts of the federations would be audited by a Chartered Accountant and the audited statement of accounts would be sent to the Govt. of India within six months of date of expiry of accounting.

(b) Yes, Sir. In two cases, the Government has received complaints of financial irregularities by the Federations!

(d) The Government has recently issued revised guidelines for improved functioning of the National Sports Federations. Under the revised guidelines, the National Sports Federations have been asked to upgrade their administrative and financial set up by appointing qualified personnel in finance, administration and coaching. The National Sports Federations have also been asked to prepare Long Term Development Plans for over all development of the sport they are concerned with.

Flight from Calcutta to China

1961. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered to negotiate with the Government of China to start air services between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to operate Air India's flight from Calcutta to China; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) During the bilateral negotiations held in May 1997, an agreement has been reached with China which will enable the designated airlines of each country to operate two flights per week between India and China and beyond to a third country. Air India has no immediate plans to start direct operations between the two countries due to shortage of aircraft capacity.

Grant to National Library/Asiatic Society

1962. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total grant and other financial support given to National Library, Calcutta and Asiatic Society, Calcutta under plan and non-plan heads during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) the utilisation of same;

(c) the number of precious books and manuscripts of National Library and Asiatic Society destroyed due to poor maintenance and stolen till March 31, 1997 since their inception;

(d) whether any enquiry has been ordered in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) and (b) The details of the grants and the utilisation thereof both

under Plan and Non-Plan during the Eighth Plan period in respect of National Library/Asiatic Society are given hereunder :-

(In Lakhs of Rupees)

Year	Plan		Non-Plan	
	Grants received	Grants utilised	Grants received	Grants utilised
National Library				
1992-93	175.00	171.54	295.00	293.21
1993-94	113.00	100.32	334.00	333.16
1994-95	120.00	102.02	310.00	333.58
1995-96	150.00	126.95	386.00	376.40
1996-97	150.00	119.58	412.00	402.85
Asiatic Society				
1992-93	58.40	58.20	90.00	89.95
1993-94	141.15	141.35	100.97	101.01
1994-95	200.00	200.00	124.00	124.00
1995-96	220.00	220.00	100.00	100.00
1996-97	221.14	217.56	103.00	103.00

(c) to (e) So far as the National Library, Calcutta is concerned there is no case of destruction of precious Library Books or manuscripts to poor maintenance.

As regards the case of theft it is stated that on 16.10.91 one Shri Utpal Mukherjee, Reader was caught red-handed while stealing a Spanish Book from the Slavonic Division of the Library and after interrogation he confessed that he had stolen a large number of books from the Library. Accordingly 54 Spanish Books of this Library were recovered from his house alongwith 19 Spanish Books of the J.L. Nehru University of Delhi. However, all the Spanish books recovered from the house of Shri Mukherjee have been kept under lock and key for a detailed enquiry in this regard, but till date no departmental enquiry or any stock verification has been ordered.

As regards the Asiatic Society, Calcutta approximately 20,000 books were damaged due to shifting of journals to Metcalfe Hall in September, 1996.

1,176 books worth Rs. 78,770/- were burnt in a devastating fire in Calcutta Book Fair 1997.

Some other old and brittle publications were damaged due to shifting of stock from 1, Park Street to the C.M.C. Building. The physical verification report is still awaited.

As far as the Museum Section of the Asiatic Society is concerned, the following loss is noticed.

- (i) Loss of Sahagaura Inscription was detected in May, 1977 and duly reported to the Calcutta Police and the C.B.I.
- (ii) Two folios of the manuscript 'Astasshasrika Prajna Paremita' were lost from the Society. At a later period, the Director Metropolitan Museum, New York, traced it with the help of Dr. Pratapaditya Pal and sent them back in January, 1996.
- (iii) During the verification of the manuscripts in the Museum it was reported that one particular folio of the manuscript entitled 'Rgveda Padapatha (C 6608)' was found missing.
- (iv) Loss of gold coins from the Museum of the Society is being investigated by the Calcutta Police.
- (v) The manuscript entitled "Bodhicaryavatara Panjika" (3830) under serial No. 49 and page No. 7 of catalogue volume I Buddhist manuscripts was lent to Professor Louis de la Vallée Poussin of Ghent before the war and the manuscript has not yet been returned.

By-pass at N.H. 52

1963. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the states of implementation of North Lakhimpur By-pass at N.H. 52;

(b) the financial allocation made for the project during Ninth Plan and the current financial year; and

(c) the target fixed for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Assam Public Works Department was suggested to examine the feasibility for alignment on the Southern Side of existing National Highway. Modified alignment plan is still awaited.

(b) and (c) There is no provision for North Lakhimpur Bypass in Annual Plan 1997-98. The 9th Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised. As such, it is too early to indicate a specific target for this work.

Teesta Barrage Project

1964. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 1318 of July 7, 1996 and state :

(a) the percentage of work completed in respect of Teesta Barrage Project in West Bengal;

(b) the area being irrigated by this project;

(c) whether the progress of work is not satisfactory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Presently Sub-State-I of Stage-I of Teesta Barrage Project (Phase-I) is under execution. The present stage of construction of different components of the Projects as on March, 1997 is as below :-

	Completed
1. Teesta Barrage	Completed
2. Mahananda Barrage	"
3. Dauk Barrage	"
4. Teesta Mahananda Link Canal	"
5. Mahananda Main Canal	"
6. Dauk Nagar Main canal	66%
7. Nagar Tangon Main canal	0%
8. Teesta Jaldhake Main canal	55%
9. Distribution system	25%

(b) to (d) Against an ultimate irrigation potential of 527000 ha. a potential of 99610 ha. was likely to be created by June, 1997.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects in Tribal and Backward Areas of Gujarat

1965. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2231 dated March 10, 1997 and state :

(a) whether the required information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir, and the assurance was fulfilled May, 97.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Two major and seventeen medium (enclosed as Annexure) and various minor irrigation works have been taken-up in tribal area of Gujarat during the last three years. Moreover various minor irrigation works have also been taken up in the backward area in the State of Gujarat.

No Central Assistance has been provided by the Govt. of India for Major & Medium Irrigation Schemes. However special central assistance provided for Minor Irrigation works in tribal areas of Gujarat for the last three years is as under :-

Year	Amount of Central Assistance (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95	200
1995-96	200
1996-97	200

The Minor Irrigation works in progress as on date are as under :-

S.No.	Name of Schemes	No. of Works
1.	Minor Irrigation Schemes	13
2.	Percolation tanks	8
3.	Check dams	34
4.	Lift Irrigation Schemes	6

The Medium irrigation schemes in progress are planned to be completed in the next three years of the IXth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), whereas all the minor irrigation schemes in progress as on date are planned to be completed during 1997-98.

Annexure**Tribal Area Sub-Plan Schemewise Details. Major-Medium Schemes**

(Rs. in Lacs)

S. No.	Name of Project	1994-95 Outlay	1995-96 Outlay	1996-97 Outlay
1.	Karjan Canal	1350.00	1150.00	1150.00
2.	Zankhari	50.00	150.00	140.00
3.	Sidumber	-	200.00	10.00
4.	Ver-II	100.00	100.00	110.00
5.	Machhanala	70.00	10.00	16.00
6.	Kelia	200.00	265.00	200.00
7.	Jhuj	300.00	225.00	450.00
8.	Harnav-II	50.00	5.00	16.00
9.	Umaria	50.00	5.00	18.00
10.	Men	1.00	0.25	1.00
11.	Ani	1.00	0.25	1.00
12.	Jaloda	1.00	50.00	1.00
13.	Singor	1.00	50.00	25.00
14.	Koliari	10.00	100.00	368.00
15.	Kabutari	40.00	-	-
16.	Welan	-	-	100.00
17.	Nani Barsan	-	-	5.00
18.	Wardha	-	-	5.00
19.	S.R.C.P.	8.40	11.40	11.40
		2232.40	2321.90	2627.40
Lakhigam			1.00	1.00
Edalwada			4.00	4.00
Baldeva			3.00	3.00
Pigut			2.00	2.00
Wankleshwar Bhey			0.40	0.40
Rami			1.00	1.00
			11.40	11.40

[English]

Central Water Commission

1966. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Water Commission has cleared the proposal for construction of 1,289 long masonry dam across the river Krishna near Pulichintala village of Guntur district;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has only granted Rs. 506.20 crore for the construction of Dam;

(c) the total storage capacity of this Dam;

(d) whether due to the large scale land including forests land, villages of Guntur and Nalgonda will be submerged;

(e) the steps taken by the Government for rehabilitation of the uprooted people; and

(f) the extent to which the construction of the Pulichintala Project will help in cultivation and providing water supply for irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) The Technical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources has found acceptable the proposal for construction of 1.289 km long masonry dam across river Krishna near Pulichintala Village of Guntur District in its meeting held on 03.04.96 at an estimated cost of Rs. 506.20 crores subject to certain observations such as clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests from environment and forest angle, clearance of Rehabilitation & resettlement Plans from the Ministry of Welfare. The total storage capacity of the Dam is 1296 Million Cubic Meters (45.75 TMC)

(d) Due to construction of the Project, 12,044 hectares of land will be submerged. Out of this 7155 hectares is Culturable Land and 975 hectares is degraded forest. 12 villages (7 fully & 5 partially) will be submerged in Guntur and Nalgonda districts.

(e) Provision has been made in the Project estimate for rehabilitation of project affected people. The State Government is however required to obtain clearance from Ministry of Welfare for Rehabilitation & resettlement Plans.

(f) The Project envisages stabilisation of existing Ayacut of 4,21,692 hectare under Krishna Delta and will facilitate early transplantation of Paddy thereby minimising crop damage due to cyclones and increase the crop yield.

Import of Crude Oil

1967. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of crude oil imported during each of the last two years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange spent thereon;

(c) whether the quantity of oil import is higher in comparison to the previous years;

(d) if so, the reason therefor;

(e) the amount of domestic production of crude oil during the last three years;

(f) whether the production is in the declining trend over the years; and

(g) if so, the steps initiated by the Government to boost the production of crude oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) to (d) Quantity of crude oil imported during the last two years and foreign exchange spent thereon is as under :-

Year	Quantity in MMT (Provisional)	Foreign exchange spent (Provisional) (\$ Million)
1995-96	27.342	3345.3
1996-97	33.906	5135.0 (Provisional)

The increase in crude oil imports over the previous years was mainly due to increase in crude oil processing and lower indigenous crude oil production.

The crude oil processing increased due to increase in refining capacity and higher capacity utilization.

(e) and (f) The crude oil production during the last 3 years was as under :-

1994-95	32.24 MMT
1995-96	35.147 MMT
1996-97	32.88 MMT

The production declined in the year 1996-97 due to unexpected reservoir behaviour of the Bombay High & Neelam oil fields, unfavourable operational conditions in the North-Eastern region and shortage of power in the Eastern and Western regions.

(g) Steps taken by the Government to increase production are :-

- Implementation of new developmental schemes of oil and additional development of the existing fields.
- Announcing of a New Exploration Licensing Policy to encourage investment in exploration of hydrocarbons.
- Encouraging the participation of private/Joint Venture Companies in oil/gas exploration and development.
- Intensification of exploration efforts in the proven basins as well as in the new areas and its expansion to the deep water and frontier areas.
- Adoption of specialised technology to improve the recovery factors like horizontal and drain hole drilling, long drift side track of well, stimulation of wells etc.
- 3-D seismic surveys for better understanding of the reservoirs.

[Translation]

Loss Suffered in Gujarat Due to Flood

1968. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fury of flood in various parts of the country is on the increase;

(b) if so, the loss occurred this year in various States particularly in Gujarat;

(c) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps for compensating the loss in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) There is no indication of increasing trend in the fury of floods in various parts of the country. Flood being a natural phenomenon, its intensity varies from year to year.

(b) Floods/heavy rains/land slides caused due to South West monsoon of 1997 claimed 624 human lives, damaged 2.34 lakhs of houses and crops in an area of 9.83 lakh hectares in 10 affected States of the country including Gujarat. In Gujarat, 193 lives were lost, 1.02 lakhs houses damaged and crops in an area of 1.98 lakh hectares were affected.

(c) to (e) Gujarat has been allocated Rs. 147.31 crores in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for the year 1997-98 consisting of Rs. 110.48 crore as Central Share. Three instalments of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 82.86 crore have been released to the State Government. A Central Team constituted by Ministry of Agriculture visited the flood affected areas in the State from 22-26 July, 1997 to assess the situation.

Ten Point Programme

1969. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of points out of the ten point programme announced by the Union Government for the Taj protected area which have been implemented and the time by which remaining points are likely to be implemented; and

(b) the time by which the supply of natural gas is likely to commence to the oil refinery at Agra and Mathura respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) Five points namely; supply of LPG for households, supply of unleaded/low lead petrol, preferential

allocation of LPG for industries, supply of Low sulphur diesel for transport and Natural Gas for Mathura Refinery have been implemented. The remaining points namely; intensification of Environment Management by Mathura Refinery, supply of natural gas for industries in Agra and Ferozabad area, supply of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for vehicles, and identification of alternative strategies for environmental management in consultation with Asian Development Bank are under implementation during the year. The project for setting up of Hydrocracker unit at Mathura Refinery has been approved in May, 1996 and is scheduled to be completed in 42 months from the date of approval.

(b) Whereas there is no refinery in Agra, Supply of Natural Gas to Mathura Refinery has commenced, with effect from 30.12.1996.

[English]

Performance of KVS Participants

1970. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are indicators of measuring performance of participants of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in different games and sports organised by the School Games Federation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the performance level of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan participants in games and sports organised by the School Games Federation of India during the past five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan participates as a State in School Games Federation of India and the student's achievements are the indices of performances. The details of achievement of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan during the last five years are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Achievements of KVS in School Games Federation of India (SGFI)

1992-93

AQUATICS EVENT

Sub-Jr. Girls	Age-Group	Position
1	2	3
50 Mt. Free Style	(U-14)	1st
100 Mt. Free Style	(U-14)	1st
200 Mt. Free Style	(U-14)	1st

1	2	3
TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP		
Sub-Jr. Girls		IIIrd
INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP		
Sub-Jr. Girls		1st
1993-94		
SWIMMING		
<i>Sub-Jr. (Boys)</i>		
50 Mt. Free Style	(U-14)	IIInd
100 Mt. Free Style	(U-14)	1st
ATHLETICS		
High Jump	(Jr. Boys)	1st
Hammer Throw	(Jr. Boys)	6th
Discus throw	(Sub-Jr. Girls)	4th
400 Mt. Run	(Jr. Boys)	5th
1994-95		
<i>Sr. Boys</i>		
100 Mt. Run	(Sr. Boys)	2nd
Shot Put	(Sr. Boys)	4th
<i>Jr. Girls</i>		
SWIMMING		
100 Mt. Free Style	(Jr. Girls)	2nd
50 Mt. Free Style	(Jr. Girls)	3rd
200 Mt. Free Style	(Jr. Girls)	2nd
<i>Sub-Jr. Boys</i>		
50 Mt. Free Style	Sub-Jr. Boys	2nd
200 Mt. Free Style	-do-	2nd
200 Mt. Ind. ML	-do-	3rd
<i>Sr. Boys</i>		
4 x 100 Mt. Free Style Relay	Sr. Boys	6th
4 x 100 Mt. Free Style Relay	Sr. Girls	6th
4 x 100 Mt. Free Style Relay	Sub. Jr. Girls	6th
CRICKET		
All India Vinoo Mankad Cricket Tournament 1995		2nd
CK. Naidu Cricket Tournament - 1995		4th

1	2	3
1995-96		
AQUATICS		
<i>Jr. Boys</i>		
50 Mt. Free Style	(U-17)	2nd
100 Mt. Free Style	-do-	2nd
200 Mt. Free Style	-do-	4th
ATHLETICS		
<i>Boys Group-II</i>		
100 Mt. Free Style	(U-17)	5th
<i>Jr. Girls</i>		
Discus Throw	-do-	5th
<i>Sub-Jr. Girls</i>		
100 Mt. Run	(U-14)	4th
400 Mt. Run	(U-14)	4th
All India Vinoo Mankad Cricket Tournament - 96		1st
C.K. Naidu Cricket Tournament - 96		4th
T.T. Girls	(U-19)	4th
<i>Boys Group-II</i>		
100 Mt. Run	(U-17)	5th
Discus Throw	-do-	5th
<i>Sub-Jr. Girls</i>		
200 Mt. Run	(U-14)	4th
400 Mt. Run	-do-	4th

[Translation]

Upgradation of Schools

1971. SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government schools upgraded under the science laboratory development programme during the last three years;

(b) the number of science and mathematics teachers trained in this programme; and

(c) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The details of the assistance provided to various States/UTs for upgradation of deficient science

laboratories in schools and training of teachers under the said scheme during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Number of Schools given assistance for upgradation deficient Science Laboratories and number of teachers trained under the Scheme, 'Improvement of Science Education' during the year 1994-95 to 1996-97.

S. No.	States	No. of Schools	No. of Teachers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	144	570
2.	Assam	16	1545
3.	Goa	26	880
4.	Karnatak	1463	5900
5.	Kerala	876	44
			Training Programmes (No. of teachers not indicated by the State Govt.)
6.	Madhya Pradesh	307	Nil
7.	Maharashtra	1492	8304
8.	Mizoram	28	507
9.	Nagaland	33	1344
10.	Orissa	534	1628
11.	Punjab	517	2720
12.	Tripura	33	800

[English]

National Water Resource Council

1972. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Water Resource Council has prescribed any guidelines for allocation of Inter State river water among States;

(b) whether these guidelines have been prepared for the resettlement of persons affected by Reservoir Projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) The draft National Policy guidelines for sharing of inter-State river waters and National Policy for Resettlement & Rehabilitation of persons affected by reservoir projects were considered in the third meeting of National Water Resources Council held on 6th February, 1996 at New Delhi. The National Water Resources Council decided

that these drafts should be reviewed and modified taking into account the comments of the Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories expressed during this meeting before further consideration and adoption by the National Water Resources Council.

Tourism in M.P.

1973. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of action plans included in the Eighth Five Year-Plan for promotion and development of tourism in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the amount allocated for this purpose;

(c) the achievements made in this regard;

(d) the concrete steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the details of ongoing Centrally sponsored tourism projects in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (e) The Central Department of Tourism sanctioned an amount of Rs. 79.96 lakhs for the implementation of 10 projects in Madhya Pradesh during Eighth Plan period. Out of these projects two have been completed.

L.P.G. Distributors

1974. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for the appointment of L.P.G. distributor in the States;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra has urged the Union Government to appoint L.P.G. distributors at the places where there are no L.P.G. distributors in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Requests are received from time to time from different States including Maharashtra for opening of more LPG distributorships in the State. These are referred to the Oil Industry for carrying out market survey. Locations found feasible are included in the Marketing Plan for opening of LPG distributorships there.

As per the existing policy, LPG distributorships are proposed to be opened in all towns having a population of 10,000 and above in a phased manner provided the town has adequate potential including that of the adjoining villages within 15 kms. radius to sustain an economically viable LPG distributorship.

[Translation]

Flood Control

1975. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred to control the floods in various States during each of the last three years; State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to control the floods occurring frequently in the last few years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Statewise details of expenditure incurred on Flood Management works for the last three years are enclosed in the Statement attached.

(b) and (c) Flood Management being State subject, such schemes are planned and implemented by the State Governments out of their own State Plan fund. In the last three years (1994-95 to 96-97) 137 schemes were received and examined in Central Water Commission/Ganga Flood Control Commission of Ministry of Water Resources. Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) and Brahmaputra Board under Union Ministry of Water Resources have prepared comprehensive plans for flood management for Ganga and Brahmaputra basins respectively and sent to the State Governments for formulation and implementation of detailed schemes. Union Ministry of Water Resources has set up Five Regional Task Forces in September, 1996 comprising senior Central and State Government officers to examine flood problems in five regions of the country, review existing remedial measures and to recommend solutions for controlling floods.

Statement

Expenditure in Flood Control Sector

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	State/UT	Actual Expenditure	Anticipated Expenditure	Anticipated Expenditure
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	55.75	30.0	10.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.48	3.22	3.85
3.	Assam	19.53	22.97	20.17
4.	Bihar	24.56	50.00	41.35
5.	Goa	0.22	0.30	0.80
6.	Gujarat	3.60	1.60	1.60

1	2	3	4	5
7. Haryana		9.08	10.00	11.00
8. Himachal Pradesh		1.49	2.04	3.54
9. Jammu & Kashmir		11.07	13.71	15.71
10. Karnataka		8.53	9.72	10.00 *
11. Kerala		26.19	21.00	35.5
12. Madhya Pradesh		0.57	1.00	1.08 *
13. Maharashtra		0.62	0.55	103.21
14. Manipur		6.81	5.00	5.94
15. Meghalaya		0.86	1.60	1.43
16. Mizoram		0.00	0.0	0.0
17. Nagaland		0.00	0.20	0.16 *
18. Orissa		7.90	8.80	13.00 *
19. Punjab		13.40	15.79	65.90
20. Rajasthan		5.50	22.41	43.45
21. Sikkim		0.12	0.34	2.34
22. Tamil Nadu		0.15	3.49	1.59
23. Tripura		1.88	2.04	2.04
24. Uttar Pradesh		14.71	13.23	16.70
25. West Bengal		38.65	43.00	35.00
26. A & N Island		0.01	0.71	1.00
27. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 *
28. Chandigarh		0.00	0.00	0.00 *
29. Delhi		8.97	14.15	24.00
30. Daman & Diu		0.32	0.35	0.35
31. Lakshdweep		2.35	1.85	1.86 *
32. Pondicherry		2.75	3.54	3.77

* Revised outlays as given by Planning Commission.

[English]

Drowning of NCC Cadets

1976. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
 KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
 SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :
 SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :
 KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :
 SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
 SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :
 DR. ASIM BALA :
 SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
 SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
 SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "11 NCC cadets

drown in gushing water" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* of June 8, 1997;

(b) if so, whether an enquiry has been conducted into the tragedy at Dehradun in which 11 NCC cadets drowned;

(c) if so, the findings of the enquiry, the persons who conducted the enquiry, and the persons/organisation held responsible for the tragedy;

(d) the action taken against those found responsible for the tragedy; and

(e) the relief provided to the families who lost their dear youngs in the tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) An enquiry into the incident is being conducted by a Brigadier. Action will be taken against those found guilty.

(e) Ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1.00 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased cadet has been paid by N.C.C.

[Translation]

Action Plan for Irrigated Area

1977. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
 SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any action plan for the irrigated area keeping in view the uncertainty about monsoon in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the production of foodgrains is likely to increase in the country by the implementation of the plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Normal rainfall is predicted over most parts of the country. From 1st June to 16th July, 1997 the cumulative rainfall was normal to excess in 26 out of 35 sub divisions and 64% districts of the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Grants to AIU

1978. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) is getting financial grants from the Ministry;

(b) if so, the financial grants provided to AIU during 1993-94, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) the amount of grant actually utilised, year-wise;

(d) the percentage of grants in total revenues of AIU;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the grants to AIU in coming years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement is enclosed.

(e) No proposal for increase in grant has been received so far.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Amount of Grants received by Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi from the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education and Department of Youth Affairs & Sports)

(Rupees in lakhs)

	Department of Education			Department of Youth Affairs & Sports.		
	1993-94	1995-96	1996-97	1993-94	1995-96	1996-97
	13.00	15.00	15.00	59.51	89.49	84.03
Grants received by AIU during the year 1993-94,	7.10 + 4.90 *	23.00	8.37 + 6.63 *			
	25.00	38.00	30.00			
1995-96 & 1996-97		* Unutilised amount from previous year				
The amount of grants actually utilised year-wise	25.24	34.18	28.22	59.51	89.49	84.03
The percentage of grants in total revenue of AIU	14.63%	13.27%	13.57%	*	*	*

Department of Youth Affairs & Sports extend financial assistance to AIU for implementing approved projects. These funds are expended for activities under the projects in Universities and institutions of Higher Learning.

Utilisation of Irrigated Water

1979. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are imparting training to farmers for the proper utilisation of irrigated water;

(b) if so, the schemes drawn up in this regard;

(c) whether such trainings are being organised in every State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes Sir. The Union Government provides financial assistance for imparting training to farmers for proper utilisation of irrigation water.

(b) to (d) Training is imparted to farmers on different aspects including proper utilisation of water for irrigation under various schemes of the Union Government. The details of such schemes are given below.

The training to farmers is an integral part of the Centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme which is under operation in the Ministry of Water Resources. This facility is available to 22 states and 2 union territories which are covered under the Programme.

Training to farmers is also a part of the Farmer Organisation and turnover (FOT) programme under the World Bank assisted Water Resources Consolidation Projects (WRCPs). This project is in operation in the states of Haryana, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

Training programmes for farmers are also organised through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

wherever State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes are located. There is no regular scheme of ICAR for such training programmes.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation of Ministry of Agriculture have several Central Sector schemes for training of farmers on water management. These include (i) Farmers Exchange Programme, (ii) Farmers Scientist Interaction Programme, (iii) Farmers' training on crop production technology including water management for different crops. These schemes are open for training to farmers in all the states of the country.

[Translation]

Barauni Oil Refinery

1980. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the full utilisation of the installed capacity of the Barauni Oil Refinery is not being done due to non-availability of raw material to it;

(b) if so, the time by which the required raw material is likely to be made available;

(c) the quantum of petrol and LPG produced by the refinery monthly;

(d) the names of by products of the refinery and the manner in which these are being used;

(e) the measures taken to prevent pollution caused by the refinery; and

(f) the contribution of the refinery in urban development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Crude Oil availability for Barauni Refinery would be augmented after commissioning of the new crude oil pipeline from Haldia to Barauni which is scheduled to be completed by July, 1999.

(c) The monthly average petrol and LPG production at Barauni Refinery during the year 1996-97 was at the rate of 11200 Metric Tonnes and 3300 Metric Tonnes respectively. However, after recent commissioning of Catalytic Reformers Unit, petrol production level has increased upto 18000 MT/per month.

(d) Besides production of petroleum products like LPG, MS, Naphtha, HSD, SKO, LSHS etc., Barauni Refinery also produces speciality products, like, MTO, RPC, CPC, Phenol Extract, Slack Wax and De Waxed oil-10.

(e) Barauni Refinery has taken comprehensive pollution control measures to meet the norms of Effluent Water Discharge and gaseous emissions stipulated, by the State Pollution Control Board.

(f) The contribution of the Refinery in urban development includes the following measures :

- Setting up of fullfledged township fo about 1974 quarters.

- Undertaking of comprehensive community development programme including Special Component Plan and a Tribal Sub Plan, the activities undertaken under the programme are :

Providing clean drinking water, health and medical care, expansion of education, protection of environment, welfare of Women, new opportunities for youth etc.

Protection of Land from Saline Water

1981. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land is becoming barren due to saline water in Shri Ganganagar and Hanuman Garh of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the area of land affected due to this water;

(c) the efforts made by the Union Government to protect the land from saline water;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to take a decision to provide any assistance to the State Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information received from Government of Rajasthan, an area of 17,220 ha is affected on account of waterlogging in the districts of Hanumangarh and Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan under Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojna.

(c) The efforts made by the Union Government in this regard are as follows :

An Indo-Dutch Network Programme for Operational Research on the Control of Waterlogging and Salinization in Irrigated Agricultural Land has been under implementation at Hanumangarh. Indian Council of Agricultural Research has also taken up water management project in Sri Ganganagar for Control of soil salinity and waterlogging. Government of India has prepared a manual on reclamation of waterlogged and saline lands and circulated it to State Governments.

(d) Fifty per cent Central assistance is available for reclamation of waterlogged areas under Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme.

(e) Question does not arise.

[English]

Water Sharing with Bangladesh

1982. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether talks with Bangladesh for sharing water and on other matters have been found successful; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the Thirty Second meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission held at Dhaka during 19-20th July, 1997, both sides hold discussions on the issues of mutual interest in the field of Water Resources common to both the countries. They agreed upon the immediate revival of Standing Committee and Local Level Committees to resolve issues of tying of embankments along the common rivers. Discussions also took place on review of implementation of sharing arrangements under the 1996 Indo-Bangladesh Treaty, Sharing of Teesta waters and other common rivers, strengthening the existing cooperation in the Flood Forecasting and Warning arrangement and Ganga Barrage Project of Bangladesh.

Tungabhadra Irrigation Project

1983. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has suggested conjunctive use of surface and ground water resources in the Tungabhadra irrigation project to mitigate water scarcity in the tail-end ayacut;

(b) if so, whether a survey has been conducted by the Central Ground Water Board which revealed that if implemented judiciously 85% of the water starved area could be brought under ground water irrigation; and

(c) if so, the other points made in the report and to what extent the State Government has agreed to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The survey conducted by the Central Ground Water Board revealed that 85.8 percent area in Tungabhadra command of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka can be brought under ground water irrigation by implementing conjunctive use plans judiciously.

(c) The other points made in the report include :

- (i) Formation of Farmers Cooperative Societies for raising of loans from financial institutions and farmers participation in implementation of the plans.

(ii) Deployment of experienced ground water specialists to select and pinpoint the sites of production wells within the potential zones and to follow the norms for spacing of wells meticulously.

(iii) Modernisation of channels by lining channels to minimise the conveyance losses.

(iv) Restricting the water allocation at the field head to the crop water requirements after duly considering the percolation losses.

Gas Prices for Power Plant

1984. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for fixation of gas prices for various power plants in the country;

(b) the details of price at which gas is supplied for Ramgarh Gas Power Plant in Jaisalmer Distt. of Rajasthan and it is same as fixed by the Government;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Rajasthan Government to review the price of the gas;

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering any plan to notify the concessional rate for the gas price in consideration to the desert terrain and small fields of gas;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the gas being supplied to Ramgarh plant contains high concentration of Nitrogen, which does not contribute to heat energy/power generation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) The price of natural gas is Rs. 1850 per thousand cubic meters excluding royalty, taxes and transportation charges. In the North-East, the price is Rs. 1000 per thousand cubic meters with the provision of discount of Rs. 400 per thousand cubic meters.

(b) to (e) Having considered the request of the Government of Rajasthan, the Government of India has allowed a discount of 15% in the price of gas supplied to the Ramgarh power plant for utilising gas from a developing field. The power plant is also entitled to a further reduction in price on account of the low calorific value of the gas.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Exploration efforts are being continued in order to find natural gas in Rajasthan with better composition.

[Translation]

Expenditure on NH

1985. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total length of National Highways in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on the reconstruction of National Highways in each State particularly in Uttar Pradesh during 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The details are given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) The details are given in the attached Statement-II.

Statement-I

Length of National Highway in Different States

S.No.	Name of States	Total Length (Km.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2888
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	330
3.	Assam	2296
4.	Bihar	2547
5.	Chandigarh	24
6.	Delhi	72
7.	Goa	229
8.	Gujarat	1631
9.	Haryana	698
10.	Himachal Pradesh	854
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	648
12.	Karnataka	1996
13.	Kerala	940
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2946
15.	Maharashtra	2918
16.	Manipur	431
17.	Meghalaya	472
18.	Mizoram	551
19.	Nagaland	113
20.	Orissa	1649
21.	Pondicherry	23
22.	Punjab	892
23.	Rajasthan	2931

1	2	3
24.	Sikkim	62
25.	Tamil Nadu	1896
26.	Tripura	200
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2733
28.	West Bengal	1638
Total		34,608

Statement-II

Allocation of Funds State-wise for the Development of National Highways during the Last two Years

S.No.	Name of States	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4010.00	3700.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
3.	Assam	1650.00	1700.00
4.	Bihar	1750.00	1500.00
5.	Chandigarh	25.00	24.00
6.	Delhi	400.00	400.00
7.	Goa	500.00	700.00
8.	Gujarat	4398.00	2800.00
9.	Haryana	5535.00	7900.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1600.00	1200.00
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	50.00	100.00
12.	Karnataka	2600.00	3300.00
13.	Kerala	3980.00	5000.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2020.00	1020.00
15.	Maharashtra	2899.00	1920.00
16.	Manipur	500.00	360.00
17.	Meghalaya	600.00	900.00
18.	Mizoram	-	-
19.	Nagaland	50.00	10.00
20.	Orissa	3304.00	5510.00
21.	Pondicherry	50.00	50.00
22.	Punjab	5860.00	5800.00
23.	Rajasthan	6070.00	4200.00
24.	Sikkim	-	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	1100.00	1905.00
26.	Tripura	-	-
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7670.00	7610.00
28.	West Bengal	3810.00	3410.00
29.	BRDB	5100.00	5300.00

1	2	3	4
30.	Jogighopa	2000.00	2790.00
31.	Ministry	1218.00	4455.00
32.	NHAI	2000.00	2400.00
Total		70749.00	75964.00

Security Measures at Airports

1986. DR. ARVIND SHARMA :
SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether security arrangements at the airports of the country are at par with the airports abroad;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the efforts made to bring about improvement in the security measures;

(c) whether the financial allocation made for the airports is satisfactory;

(d) if not, the measures taken by the Government for renovation of airports;

(e) whether renovation work is being carried out presently on some airports; and

(f) if so, the names of such airports and time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The security measures at International Airports in the country meet the requirements of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

(c) and (d) Renovation of airports is a continuous process. The works are taken up in a phased manner, depending upon the requirements and availability of resources.

(e) and (f) At present, renovation work is being carried out at the airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Thiruvananthpuram, Hyderabad, Tirupathi, Guwahati, Lilabari, Patna, Vadodara, Kargil, Bangalore, Calicut, Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Raipur, Imphal, Aurangabad, Dimapur, Bhubaneshwar, Agartala etc. The works at these airports are likely to be completed between the period from August, 1997 to January, 2000.

Pawan Hans Air Service in Rajasthan

1987. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to start Pawan Hans Air service in Rajasthan is under consideration of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the cities to which this service is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

National Highways in Tamil Nadu

1988. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of roads covered under the National Highways in Tamil Nadu, category-wise;

(b) the steps being taken for their development and maintenance;

(c) whether any additional funds have been allotted for improving these National Highways in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Total length of National Highways in Tamil Nadu is 2003.664 Kms. The break-up is as under :

(i)	Single/intermediate Lane	112.00 Kms.
(ii)	2 Lane	1824.664 Kms.
(iii)	4 Lane	67.00 Kms.

(b) to (d) Development and maintenance of National-Highways is a continuous process and National Highways are kept in traffic worthy condition within available resources. However, during 1997-98, amounts of Rs. 25.00 crores and Rs. 21.38 crores have been allotted to the State of Tamil Nadu for Original and Maintenance and Repairs respectively.

[English]

Airstrip in Mantalai, Jammu

1989. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken over the strategic private airstrip in Mantalai, Jammu;

(b) if so, the date of taking possession and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the airstrip is being used by private operators; and

(d) if so, the control exercised by of Civil Aviation authorities on the flight operation therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) The information has been called for from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, which is awaited.

(c) and (d) There are reportedly no civil aircraft operations in this area as of now.

New Cooking Gas Agency

1990. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in Kerala for which advertisements for allocating LPG agencies were made during the last three years;

(b) the number of applications were pending for sanction in the State;

(c) the reasons for delay in the selection of new agencies; and

(d) the number of new agencies proposed to be started during current year and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Forty Sight (48) locations are reported to have been advertised during the last three years i.e. 1994-95 to 1996-97 for opening of LPG distributorships in Kerala. Out of these, selection has been made in five cases. The remaining 43 cases are pending for selection.

(c) The delay in selection is on account of non-functioning of the Dealer Selection Boards.

(d) Selections of distributors for the pending proposals are to be taken up as soon as the selection process is reactivated. It normally takes six months to one year to commission an LPG distributorship after the LOI is issued.

[*Translation*]

Air Service between India and China

1991. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been reached to have direct air service between India and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions in this regard; and

(c) the time by which this agreement is likely to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) During the bilateral negotiations held in May 1997, an agreement has been reached with China which will enable the designated airlines of

each country to operate two flights per week between India and China and beyond to a third country. Air India has no immediate plans to start direct operations between the two countries due to shortage of aircraft capacity. The plans of the Chinese are not known as yet.

[*English*]

MCLR Aircrafts

1992. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India propose to buy MCLR aircrafts;

(b) if so, when the decision in this regard was taken;

(c) the follow up action; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Air India Board has been advised to take a decision in this regard on a priority basis.

[*Translation*]

Repairing of Bridges in Uttar Pradesh

1993. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bridges on National Highways damaged in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Western Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of bridges out of them repaired and the time by which the remaining bridges are likely to be repaired;

(c) the total amount likely to be incurred on the repair of these bridges?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) No. of bridges on National Highways reported damaged during the last three years is as follows :

1994-95	-	3
1995-96	-	3
1996-97	-	1
Total	=	7

Repair works on two bridges are complete. The work on the remaining bridges is targetted for completion by March, 1998.

(c) Total amount likely to be spent is about Rs. 79.00 lakhs on the repair of these bridges.

[English]

Lapses

1994. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of serious lapses committed due to negligent action of teacher (s) of some of the Public Schools under Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee (DSGMC) while reporting Practical Examination marks in Physical Education in respect of class XIIth students to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for preparation of their mark sheets during the academic session 1996-97 causing severe mental agony to innocent students and parents alike;

(b) if so, whether the CBSE proposes to take any action against erring teachers;

(c) if so, the details of action taken/contemplated against such teacher (s); and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) According to information furnished by Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi, no such complaint has been received by them.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Adult Education Programme

1995. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the literacy campaign being launched by the Union Government in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh under the Adult Education Programme has become completely unsuccessful;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether not even a single adult education centre has been set up out of the 19 proposed adult education centres in the city;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Literacy Campaign in Kanpur city is presently in preparatory phase. The teaching learning process under the campaign is yet to start.

(c) to (e) No Adult Education Centres are proposed to be set up under the volunteer based campaign approach adopted for implementation of literacy programmes. Under this approach, for each group of 8 to 10 identified non-literates, a volunteer is assigned the responsibility of imparting literacy skills to the learners at any place mutually convenient to the learners and volunteers. The question of setting up of any Adult Education Centre, therefore, does not arise.

The National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA) had approved Rs. 2,02,45,000/- for taking up literacy campaign in Kanpur city. The NLM share was Rs. 134.97 lakhs out of which Rs. 101.22 lakhs has so far been released to the Zila Saksharata Samiti for implementing the campaign.

[English]

Visit of Foreign Tourists to Maharashtra

1996. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign tourists visited the country during 1996-97;

(b) the percentage of tourists visited Maharashtra during 1996-97; and

(c) the schemes proposed to be implemented for development of more tourist spots in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) and (b) The number of foreign tourists who visited India during 1996-97 was 23,34,438. It is estimated that about 41% of the foreign tourists visiting the country visit Maharashtra.

(c) The identification and development of tourist spots in any State is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Department of Tourism provide financial assistance to State Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from them as per guidelines. During the year 1996-97, a sum of Rs. 187.69 lakhs was sanctioned to the State Government for various projects including tourist complexes at Kunkeshwar and Pinguli and Guest House-cum-Water Sports at Lake Dhamapur and construction of Konkani huts at Haribareshwar and Ganapatiphule.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects in MP

1997. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of irrigation projects proposed to be commenced in Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh during the Ninth Five year Plan;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure involved in these projects; and

(d) the time by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has not submitted Sector-wise (including irrigation) IX Five Year Plan Proposals to the Planning Commission so far.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Sardar Sarovar Project

1998. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work on the multi-State Sardar Sarovar Project came to a standstill in May, 1997 and the chances of its resumption continue to be slim;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the delay in the construction of the project has led to a cost overrun which is not in the interest of the States associated with it; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in the construction of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) No, Sir. Except for further raising of spillway portion of Sardar Sarovar dam beyond the effective height of EL 81.5 m since May, 1995, work on other components of the project is continuing.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main reason for the delay in completion of the project is the non-implementation of the Resettlement & Rehabilitation measures by the States pari-passu with the construction of the dam and also as the matter regarding further raising of the spillway blocks beyond the present level of 81.5 m is sub-judice in the Supreme Court.

[Translation]

Private Air Services on International Routes

1999. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private airlines have applied to operate on international routes;

(b) if so, the names of such airways and to whom the issuance of permits are considered;

(c) whether the Government have identified any such routes for operation;

(d) whether the Government has undertaken any study of the impact on the national carrier if such permission is granted to private airlines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e) Request have been received from M/s. Sahara Airlines and M/s. Elbee Airlines for permission to operate on international routes. Similar requests were also received earlier from M/s. East West Airlines and M/s. Modi Luft, who are at present not operating. For the present, the Government do not propose to designate any private airline for operation on international sectors.

[English]

Women Pilot in IAF

2000. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of women pilot operating the IAF aircraft;

(b) whether women cadets after undergoing training in the flying course have been dropping out; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Women pilots are 1.9% of the total pilots in the ranks of Wg Cdr and below.

(b) No women cadet after getting training and getting commissioned has dropped out of flying.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

Widening of NH No. 47

2001. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the proper

un keep of the Tamil Nadu part of the Kanyakumari-Trivandrum National Highway (NH-47) which is in bad condition;

- (b) whether the NH-47 would be widened; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Strengthening of weak two lane pavement from Km. 611/0 to Km. 625/0 and reconstruction of major bridge at Km. 604/4 across river Kuzhithurai on NH-47 in Kanyakumari-Trivandrum Section has been included in the Annual Plan 1997-98.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Discipline in Armed Forces

2002. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted a study on state of discipline in the armed forces of the country;

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

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) Government have not conducted any such study. The Armed Forces have adequate internal mechanisms for keeping a continuous close watch on the state of discipline and taking necessary corrective steps considered-necessary.

[Translation]

Education in Foreign Countries

2003. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of students sent abroad for education during the last two years; and

(b) the number of students getting education abroad, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) A large number of students go abroad for study on their own. They approach directly the educational institutions in the foreign countries for admission, and foreign missions concerned for visas. Therefore, reliable information on Indian students studying abroad is not available.

Some foreign countries offer scholarships for Indian students in their educational institutions. Ministry of

Human Resource Development (Department of Education) is associated with the selection. Information regarding Department of Education is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Number of students sent abroad for higher education to different countries by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education).

Country	1995-96	1996-97
1. United Kingdom	35	34
2. Canada	01	02
3. Newzealand	01	—
4. China	14	11
5. Japan	13	15
6. Israel	—	02
7. Mexico	—	01
8. France	02	02
9. Germany	16	10
10. Italy	02	04
11. Ireland	07	05
12. Korea (South)	02	01
13. Poland	01	—
14. Belgium	—	01
15. Australia	21	16
	115	104

[English]

Bridges/N.Hs in Assam

2004. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the bridges and National Highways constructed in Assam during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the work undertaken on these bridges and National Highways is behind the the scheduled time;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the corrective measures taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) 26 Bridges and 52 Roads Works with a total sanctioned cost of Rs. 39.95 crores were constructed/completed during the 8th Five Year Plan.

(b) to (d) Due to financial problems of Government of Assam and disturbed conditions in parts of the State, there has been delay in completion of Bridge

and Raods works. By constant monitoring and persistent efforts by the officers of the Ministry, the projects are being got completed.

[Translation]

Gas Authority of India Limited

2005. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

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

(a) whether several development projects under the Gas Authority of India Limited were under construction as on March, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the projects out of them which were running behind their original time schedule;

(d) the extent of cost escalation in each project in comparison to the original cost owing to the delays in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the construction work of each project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):
(a) Four major projects were under construction as on March, 1997.

(b) to (e) The details of the four projects are as follows :

Projects	Anticipated date of completion
i. LPG Recovery Project at Lakwa (Assam)	Oct. 1998
ii. LPG Recovery Project at Usar, Maharashtra.	Nov. 1998
iii. Gas Rehabilitation and Expansion Project	Nov. 1997
iv. U.P. Petrochemicals Project Pata, U.P.	Feb. 1998

The above mentioned four projects are running behind the original time schedule on account of various reasons like delay in making land available by the State Governments, delays in despatch of equipment and law and order problems.

(d) No cost escalation is anticipated in the above four projects as all orders were placed based on tenders at designated prices.

12.0½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Memorandum of Understanding between Bharat Dynamics Ltd. and Department of Defence Productions Supplies, MOU for 1997-98.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I lay on the table of the House a copy (both Hindi and English versions) of the MOU between Bharat Dynamics Limited and Department of Defence Productions Supplies, MOU for 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2227/97]

[English]

Annual Report and Review of the working by the Government of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi for 1994-95, etc.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :
On behalf of Shri S.R. Bommai, I beg to lay on the Table —

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 1994-95 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2228/97]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2229/97]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Science Museums Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Science Museums Calcutta, for the year 1995-96 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Science Museums, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2230/97]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2231/97]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2232/97]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1989-90.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1989-90, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1989-90.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2233/97]
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1990-91.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1990-91, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for the year 1990-91.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2234/97]
- Mercantile Marine Departments, Mumbai, Jamnagar and Mormugao and Regional Offices (Sails), Mumbai and Jamnagar (Group C and D Posts) Amendment Rules, 1996, etc.**
- THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : I beg to lay on the Table —
- (1) A copy of the Mercantile Marine Departments, Mumbai, Jamnagar and Mormugao and Regional Offices (Sails), Mumbai and Jamnagar (Group C and Group D Posts) Amendment Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 543 in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 1996, issued under proviso to article 309 of the Constitution.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2235/97]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 :
- (i) The Merchant Shipping (Sailing Vessels) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 129 in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 1997.
- (ii) The Merchant Shipping (Registration of Indian Ships) Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 155 in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 1997.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2236/97]

**International Copyright (Amendment) Order, 1996
and Annual Report and Review of working
Regional Engineering College, Durgapur,
for the year 1995-96, etc.**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :
On behalf of Shri Muhi Ram Saikia, I beg to lay on the
Table -

- (1) A copy of the International Copyright
(Amendment) Order, 1996 (Hindi and English
versions) published in Notification S.O. 170 (E)
in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 1997,
under section 43 of the Copyright Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2237/97]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and
English versions) of Malaviya Regional
Engineering College, Jaipur, for the year
1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English
versions) by the Government of the
working of the Malaviya Regional
Engineering College, Jaipur, for the year
1995-96.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing
reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned
at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2238/97]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and
English versions) of the Regional
Engineering College, Durgapur, for the
year 1995-96, alongwith Audited
Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English
versions) by the Government of the
working of the Regional Engineering
College, Durgapur, for the year 1995-96.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing
reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned
at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2239/97]

12.01 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Recommendation of the Governing Board of
Rashtriya Mahila Kosh**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :
On behalf of Shri S.R. Bommai, I wish to make a

statement on the recommendation of the Governing
Board of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh to permit the self-help
group to determine the interest rate of lending to its
members :—

The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh had been providing
funds to the voluntary organisations at an interest rate
of eight per cent for on-lending to the poor women. The
NGOs, in turn, on-lend these funds to the ultimate
borrowers at a rate of interest not exceeding 12 per
cent.

The National Bank of Agricultural and Rural
Development (NABARD) has been promoting credit
through Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The rate of interest
on the loans to the SHGs is at 12 per cent. The Self-
Help Group is permitted to determine the rate of lending
to the members of the groups on the basis of the decision
of the members of the Group on the basis of the decision
of the members of the Group. This allows the Self-Help
Group to charge rates higher than 12 per cent. The
difference between the rate of interest charged to the
members and the rate at which the Self-Help Group
borrows from the NGO remains with the Group for their
common benefit. NABARD had indicated to RMK that if
RMK has to be refinanced by NABARD, the terms of
lending by RMK should conform to the terms of lending
of the NABARD to the Self-Help Groups.

In order to harmonise the operations for SHGs with
NABARD, the Governing Board of RMK recommended
that :

- (i) RMK may lend its funds to the organisations/
NGOs at eight percent;
(ii) The organisations/NGOs may further lend to
the SHGs/directly to beneficiaries at 12 per
cent; and
(iii) SHGs may be left free to decide the rate of
interest to be charged from the ultimate
members/borrowers. Such rate should not,
however, exceed the lending rate of State
Bank of India on its unsecured loans during
the last financial year ending 31st March.

The Government have decided to accept these
recommendations.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur) : Mr.
Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the
House through you to a very urgent matter. Today is 4th
of August. Only ten days are left before the historic
Midnight Session of 14th August which we are about to
hold in this House. We are very happy that on that
occasion we will be able to hear the famous speech by
Shri Jawaharlal Nehru "Trust with destiny". We know
that Mahatma Gandhi was very sad on that day. He was
in Calcutta and he was shedding tears. But we have
been told that some appropriate speech of some
previous occasion will also be played.

This matter was raised in the National Committee for the 50th Year of Indian Independence that a few lines of an inspiring speech of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose be played on that historic occasion.

I would urge upon the Government to include a brief speech of Netaji. We shall be doing ourselves an honour if we do so...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : The entire House is with Shrimati Krishna Bose ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Can I finish? Let me finish.

We know we have been very lucky. We had a galaxy of leaders during our Independence struggle.

But I would maintain that Gandhiji, Netaji and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru were the three great leaders of our Independence Movement who were a class apart. So, we would like to hear their voices on that night. To leave one would be an unfortunate and glaring omission.

Thank you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think the whole House has already joined her by the acclamation. By acclamation, everybody has joined her. So, I do not think any addition is needed.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, through you, I would like to invite the attention of the Government and the whole House to the agitation taken up by the bank employees of the country. The Bank Officers' Associations and the bank employees' unions representing more than 13 lakhs of workmen in the country are undertaking a "Parliament March" today.

May I remind your honour that under your able leadership when you were the Labour Minister of India in 1993, an agreement was signed between the IBA and the Workers Union?

12.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The PBA which is representing the management of the banks in the country and the officers associations and the various unions had signed an agreement in 1993. This agreement was implemented as far as the Public Sector Banks were concerned. But this agreement, which is applicable to the Scheduled Commercial Banks of this country, is not being implemented. It is a gross violation on the part of the Government or on the side of the management. An agreement which was signed between the unions and the management in the presence of the Government is not being implemented even after four years! The year 1986 was decided as the effective period for pensionary benefits. But the people who retired in the last ten years

are waiting for their pensionary benefits. This is not being implemented. Today, it is only a token strike. They were already on strike in July. The entire workmen of the banks in the country have called a general strike on 28th and 29th of August. All these representations are falling into deaf years. It is very unfortunate that the Government is not taking a decision, the Government is reluctant to implement the decision taken in Tripartite Conferences. So, Sir, the entire financial sector of this country will come to a grinding halt if the situation is allowed to continue like this. There is a gross omission and negligence on the part of the Government.

So Sir, through you, I would request the Government to take a decision as early as possible to implement the settlement arrived at between the workmen of the banks and the IBA. The Private Sector Banks in the country may please be allowed, may please be permitted or please be granted the pensionary benefits as per the agreement.

There is also one more thing. The Government is now thinking of starting the Local Area Banks. So, the Gramin Banks, the Cooperative Banks, the Nationalised Banks, the Scheduled Commercial Banks and the entire banking industry is in a mood of agitation. It is quite unfortunate that the Government is keeping quiet on this issue. There is an agreement. It is not being implemented. So, I would request the Government to come forward to implement this agreement and redress the grievances of the bank employees in this country

[*Translation*]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : I have also given notice on it today.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Defence Minister to a very important issue. He has many times stated that our armed forces are fully capable to teach a lesson to Pakistan. I have just returned from Jammu. From Kathua to Chhamb — a border line stretching upto 150 kms, people are fleeing, leaving behind their homes and hearths. Pakistan has been bombing these areas continuously for last six months. The Defence Minister has said that our armed forces are retaliating the Pakistani army but the truth is that that our mothers sustained injuries while cooking and as many as 40 cattle have been killed as a result thereof.

Scores of people have been injured. Particularly in the Paragwal area which is surrounded on three sides by the river and on the fourth side lies Pakistan, 20,000 population is living in this town at the mercy of Pakistani rangers. The sort of situation created there, people at border are compelled to leave their hearth and homes. I would like you to pay attention to it and give instructions to our armed forces to retaliate Pakistani firing. People are quite agitated as Indian army is not retaliating Pakistani firing. Several villages especially

in Paragwal and border areas of Ranvir Singh Pur, Kathua and Hira Nagar where people are fleeing from their homes. Also there is thousands of acres of land where farmer's can not cultivate and have to sustain great financial loss. As the farmers go into their fields, Pakistani rangers start firing. This has pushed the farmers to starvation. I would like to Defence Minister to pay attention to it and pay compensation to the farmers...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Defence Minister is present here. You should ask him to give reply on it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have spoken to him. Normally several people desire to speak on a particular subject but only that person is called whose name figures in this list.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your name has been included, let him speak.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : This matter pertains to my constituency. I have given a notice on it. Why don't you give me an opportunity to speak on this subject. You can verify my name from the records*(Interruptions)*. As I have said earlier also that three border districts of Puncch, Rajouri and Jammu lie in my constituency and am elected from this constituency. As has been said by Shri Chaman Lai Gupta, for about last six months this areas has been witnessing Pakistani firing. The farmers cannot go in their fields nor is the fencing work being undertaken. I have stated it earliar also. I have returned from my constituency a day before. A woman who was working in her field got killed from Pakistani army's bullet a day before. A youth had also got injured before. Score of cattle are being perished. People are unable to work in their fields. They cannot sleep. They are thinking to move to safer places. Either you stop firing or give them convincing reply. You please speak to them. There is hot line between Pakistan and India. Why does not the Prime Minister speak to them on this issue? You speak to them and if they do not agree, then teach them a lesson. The manner in which you have retaliated in Kargil area is indeed appreciable. A large scale infiltration is taking place in Puncch and Rajouri Districts.

Afghani, Sudani and Pakistani terrorists are hiding in the hilly regions of Puncch and Rajouri Districts and have struck many a times. This area had been normal for seven years but now terrorism has spread there also. People living there are good and simple. That area is inhabited by Muslims but people are coming there from outside. Our forces have not been able to check their infiltration. Please pay attention to this problem and respond in a befitting manner.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of firing is concerned, this has not taking place there for the last six months. Firing has been taking place along the border for the last many years. This is

wrong to say that we did not retaliate. We do retaliate and we are retaliating to their firing.

As far the question of sowing of crops by the farmers is concerned, this is true that when firing takes place, it not only poses a problem to the Indian farmers but it poses problem to the farmers of Pakistan too. As the question of talks on the hotline is concerned, we did have talks on that. We talked on this issue and they were asked to immediately stop firing there. They were told during talks that if they would indulge in such nefarious activities, then there would be more firing from outside too. I would like to assure that if they do firing, we would resort to much more firing. But so far as the talks are concerned, these are going on and we want that relations between Hidustan and Pakistan should be amicable and for this reason only we do not want to make any such announcements in the House but we do want to assure that we will retaliate and we will retaliate in such a way that they are made to stop firing on Kargil.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Those who could not sow their crops what the Government does for such farmers? Either the Government should compensate them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : That is right.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : You say this every time but people are leaving their villages...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Guptaji, Please sit down.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very crucial issue through you.

Truck drivers and truck operatros have to face a lot of difficulties all over the country. They have been put to a lot of harrassment. They have been harrassed a lot in the cases of overloading, driving licences and due to different tax structure in different states. It is a matter of regret that the foodgrains which are sent from the Punjab all over the country, the drivers who transport the foodgrains all over the country, they are robbed on their way, they are robbed of their money and even then their case is not registered. If a dacoity takes place in any train, we talk about that and if any other thing happens as such, we discuss that but many a truck driver are killed and looted everyday but we do not talk about them. I think that there should be amendments in the All India Vehicle Act. A truck costs seven lakh rupees and its capacity is of ten tonnes. A tractor costs two lakh rupees and it has also a capacity of ten tonnes. If the looting capacity ranges from 14 to 15 tonnes, tax structure is uniform for the entire country and where trucks are manufactured, it would be better, if tax is levied at the door or factory itself. Tax levied for use of National Highways should also be uniform. Due to these problems, truck drivers feel harrassed. I want to draw attention of the Government towards the difficulties being

faced by truck operators and truck drivers and their harassment should immediately be stopped.

[English]

SHRI S.P. UDAYAPPAN (Ramanathapuram) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on 17.7.1997 five fishermen of Pamban were fishing near Vedaranyam well inside the Indian territory. All of a sudden, at about 5 p.m., the Sri Lankan Army personnel came there in a helicopter and started firing at their boat. As a result of this firing, two fishermen labaraj and Francis, belonging to Pamban, died on the spot and three others were seriously injured.

Sir, a large number of fishermen of Pamban and Rameswaram have been brutally attacked and mercilessly killed by the Sri Lankan Army and Navy in the recent months. The Sri Lankan Government have no right to kill them. If our fisherman had done anything wrong, they should have been arrested and an inquiry held but they should not have been killed on the spot. It is a strongly condemnable action.

I would, therefore, request the Government of India and the hon. Prime Minister to kindly convey our strong objections to the Government of Sri Lanka and save our poor fishermen from being killed. I would also request the hon. Prime Minister to consider this case sympathetically and sanction Rupees One lakh each to the members of the bereaved families.

[Translation]

PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR (Jalesar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir our country is lacking in the existing tourist facilities in our country, the tourism policy and rules pertaining to tourism. The Government also is not paying any special attention towards this aspect. Such officers are there in the Tourism Department against whom the cases of corruptions have been initiated and against whom the C.B.I. inquiry has been completed and whose names figure in the list of persons of doubtful integrity. He is holding the top most office and his substitute is being found. He is the only person who has been called for interview. I want to submit that the tourism industry is such a source of foreign exchange through which the economic condition of the entire country could be improved. Therefore, the high officials who are in the agreed list and against whom cases are pending in the court and who have blatantly been indulging in corruption atleast such people should be removed and the most qualified and bonafide persons should be brought in their place who can think of the interest of the country instead of their own interest. This is what I wanted to request the Government and the Minister of Tourism.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (Mirzapur) : The hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 50 years have elapsed since our country became independent. I would like to say something about myself here. I request my fellow

members not to object to it. I will not say anything about court's observation about me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak in brief.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI : I want to speak about myself. Sir, I had surrendered in 1983. What was I, what happened to me and in the past, I will not speak anything on these things. But I did surrender in 1983 with preconditions. The Madhya Pradesh Government had promised me that likewise the dacoits surrendered in 1972 which included Madho Singh, Mohar Singh, Tehsildar Singh and many others and that Surrender was made possible at the instance of Acharya Binobha Bhave. He was facing litigations in three states viz Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and all these cases were heard at the same place i.e. inside the Madhya Pradesh Central Jail. In the same way it had been promised to me also that my all cases may be in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and wherever they are, will be heard in Madhya Pradesh and in the same way as Dacoits had been liberated in 1972, similiary after 8 years 8 months, I will also be released. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I tolerated atrocities for 11 years and passed every single day with the hope that some day I will also get justice. I was put behind the bars for 11 years without any trial. I was not well and it was doubted that it may not convert into cancer. Then I was shifted from Gwalior Jail to Tihar Jail. At that time the popular Government came in power in Uttar Pradesh and decided that the cases against Phoolan Devi may be withdrawn and in the year 1984 the cases were withdrawn. So many years have passed after withdrawing the cases. Now the Government of Dalits and backwards have come in power and its Chief Minister is a woman, she has decided that the cases against Phoolan Devi may be started again. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not a puppet. If all of you have granted me pardon then excuse me, otherwise I will not live alive.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Self immolation should not be mentioned here.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI : I am facing a grave injustice where shall I go. To whom I may ask for justice. I was in jail for 11 years without trial. Today, this Government is starting the cases against me once again. It is not the injustice with me only but it is the injustice with 16 lakh people. I am unable to go to Mirzapur Bhadoi. Whenever I go there, people ask me, what happened to those which I made. I say that I am not well. I am unable to tell them that I am busy due to court. I am unable to say that to-day the Uttar Pradesh Police is searching me, that where is Phoolan Devi. The Police is searching me in trains that where I am. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, justice should be done to me. I am facing the gravest injustice. otherwise, I will self immolate on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of our independence.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please don't say anything about self immolation.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI : I will die at the door of Kanshi Ram. You please tell me that how is this dual low. All must get equal justice. In one case one person is released and the other is arrested. 250-300 dacoits have been released. I say that if I am guilty, low should punish me. I don't want to live alive. If all have excused then please excuse me. Let me live in the society and also to move in the society. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is my submission..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your name is not in the list.

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI (Gaya) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is the question of a woman. She is Harijan, she is neglected. Due to this, her cases are not being withdrawn. Then Phoolan you hold the gun and we will be with you. what is this, On the one hand one is getting justice and on the other one is being insulted. She is also a member.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during Zero hour I would like to draw the attention of the Members and the House to one important matter. During the last few days some terrorists boys were arrested in Punjab. During investigation they revealed that they have returned from Pakistan after receiving training. They have also stated the one terrorist was supposed to be used as a human bomb in order to assassinate the Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Prakash Singh Badal. Earlier also we have assassinated one Chief Minister of Punjab through a human bomb and about 10,000 people have been killed in Punjab. After a great difficulty and by the efforts of each and every one we have been able to establish the peace in Punjab. But in the past days these boys have revealed many things. Out of which 3-4 points are more important. They told that they got training in Pakistan and the ISI has given them full support and assistance there. They also told that they got shelter in Pakistan and use to visit Pakistan frequently. They also told that the ISI had trained them to hatch up a conspiracy against the Leaders of Akali Dal and Bhartiya Janta Party who are the ruling parties in the State. I think that this is a serious issue. One human bomb has been arrested and it is quite possible that some more human bombs might have come there. This question is not of any political party. Any leader can be assassinated. I had earlier also raised this question in the House. At that time the Prime Minister, Shri Indra Kumar Gujral has said that Pakistan is assisting to such activities and is helping the terrorists, we will take action against it and we will lodge our protest against it.

I want to put forth two demands through you to the Government. My first demand is that the leaders of all political parties in Punjab, Specially leaders of Akali

Dal and BJP and the Chief Minister of Punjab; Shri Prakash Singh Badal should be provided with foolproof security. Secondly, at the Pakistan border the people use to come and go frequently, so monitoring and vigil should be maintained, so that people may not come from there. My third and most important demand is that the Government of India should raise this issue with the Government of Pakistan strongly, mere protesting, writing letters and having serious conversation will not solve this issue. Otherwise the peace which has been established after a lot of efforts can once again be jeopardised and mischief can take place in Punjab and in this region, because the new feeling of fraternity of Hindu-Sikh unity and new Akali Dal BJP Government is installed, the efforts are being made to destabilise this Government. Due to this, the situation is aggravated. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards these activities.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House concerning a matter pertaining to my constituency. It is related to the workers of the wagon manufacturing unit of Burn Standard.

The Government gave a solemn assurance through the Ministry of Industry that till the matter was not disposed of by the BIFR, the revival package to support these industries like Jessop, Braithwhite and Burn Standard will continue. Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that the matter has not been disposed of by the BIFR, the package from the Ministry for Jessop and Braithwhite has been cleared. But the package for Burn Standard has been put into the dock till now, resulting in non-supply of wagon orders by the Ministry of Railways, affecting Burn Standard's further plans and programmes. For not clearing the package, thousands of workers, including those engaged in the ancillary units are in a crisis now.

I sincerely appeal to the Ministry of Industry not to make any divide and rule policy. There must be equal treatment and the package for Burn Standard must be cleared in line with that of Jessop and Braithwhite. I make a special appeal to the hon. Minister of Railways. He has introduced a new system. Now, wagon orders are placed along with a substantial advance in order to enable the Railways to execute the orders. The revised wagon order of Burn Standard must be met in order to save the unit and save the workers in my constituency.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, I support whatever has been said by my esteemed colleague. The hon. Minister of Railways is here. He should respond to this. He had himself given an assurance ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA (Bilaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the

House and the Government towards petrol pumps going on strike today which is very important issue. Price of petroleum products have increased during past years, charges of Bank Drafts have also increased and on account of this cost of petrol pumps have increased manifold in comparison to previous cost but their commission is not going to increase for the last 20 years. Their second demand is that petrol pumps are being challaned under Essential commodities (special amendment) Act and they are also being harrassed and exploited. Under the Essential Commodities (Special amendment Act petrol pumps are in amendment) Act petrol pumps are in full possession of Inspector's raj due to which they are in deep trouble.

On account of these two demands, petrol pumps are closed today all over the country. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to tell the House that our Minister of Food and Minister of Civil Supplies had given an interview in the last week and it had appeared in the Newspapers also and they had also told me that it has been decided by the Cabinet that this amendment would be extended only for a period of one year more and it was also stated that they would slightly amend it but the Bill under consideration before us is for five years instead of one year. Now what sort of decision has been taken by the Cabinet about which it had appeared in the newspaper earlier that they are going to extend it only for one year period but now it has come for five years. In this way we have been betrayed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today all over the country petrol pumps are closed. Situation is very critical. We would like to draw the attention of the Government through you that Ministry of Petroleum should consider about their problem. Ministry of Petroleum should think over all these points like increase in commission and involvement of cost factor. I would like to again draw the attention of the Minister of Civil Supplies. Today the owners of petrol pumps are only on strike but on 8th August traders from all over the country will be coming to blockade Parliament House. The whole country will be closed on 26 August in protest against the Essential commodities amendment Bill. This is a very important issue. The Government must pay attention on this issue so that legitimate demands of traders should be fulfilled and they may not resort to agitation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the petrol pump owners are responsible for spoiling petrol operated machines all over the country by adulteration and by selling adulterated petrol. They have created a cause of havoc through plunder in the entire country. Therefore, I request that their commission should not be raised...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for this purpose, there are different laws. If a person is caught for the crime of adulteration, he can be prosecuted and punished under the law but the matter

here under consideration is the issue of 3/7 ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanor) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Communications to an urgent matter of importance regarding the plight of ED employees who are working in the Department of Post. About three lakh persons in the Department of Post are categorised as ED employees. They got a very raw deal throughout these years. They have been treated as bonded labourers by the Department all these years. Time and again this matter has been raised on the floor of the House by the hon. Members cutting across political affiliations. Ultimately a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice Talwar. This Committee had submitted its Report some months ago. But, unfortunately, no action whatsoever has been taken by the hon. Minister to implement these recommendations. I appeal to the hon. Minister, through you, to implement the recommendations made by the Justice Talwar Committee without any further loss of time.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV (Godda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I am requesting to the Cabinet to take a prompt and appropriate decision in the matter of anomalies created by the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission in the pay scales of Translators/Assistant Directors working in Raj Bhasha Service. Fifth Pay Commission has revised the pay scale of Technical Assistants working in Central Translation Bureau from Rs. 1400-2300 to Rs. 1640-2900 but pay scale (1400-2600) of Junior Translators working in Central Secretariat Raj Bhasha Service has not been revised.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, similarly the pay scales of Hindi teachers in Central Hindi Training Centre and Senior Translators in Central Translation Bureau, whose present pay scale is Rs. 1640-2900, have been recommended for revised scale of Rs. 2000-3500 whereas the pay scales of Rs. 1640-2900 for Senior Translators working in Central Secretariat Raj Bhasha Service has not been increased.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Department of Raj Bhasha (Ministry of Home Affairs) is the Headquarter whereas Central Hindi Training Centre and Central Translation Bureau are its subordinate offices. It is obvious that equivalent officers working in Headquarter have been kept not only in lower pay scale in comparison to the offices of same rank working in subordinate offices of that Department but it also create a unprecedented anomalies by keeping the pay scale of Gazetted post (Assistant Director) of Headquarter at par with the pay scales of Non-Gazetted post (Hindi teacher and Senior Translator).

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it may be worth mentioning here that in the beginning, the pay scales of junior translator working in Raj Bhasha Service and Assistants of Central Secretariat Service were same and pay scale of Senior Translator was comparatively higher but this tradition of equality came to an end by an order issued in July 1990 by the Department of Personnel and Training and Court entrusted the responsibility to maintain this tradition to the Fifth Pay Commission-but due attention was not paid as a result thereof aforementioned anomalies have arisen.

[*Translation*]

Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request you to kindly refer this case of giving equivalent pay-scales of Rs. 1640-2000/-, Rs. 2000-3500/- and Rs. 2200-4000/- to junior translators, senior translators and Assistant-Directors of Central Secretariat Official Language Service, respectively to recently constituted high-powered committee urgently by taking personal interest in it so that the pay-scales of employees in head-quarter and subordinate offices may be brought at par and it may not be referred to the Anomaly Committee so that unnecessary delay in the matter is avoided.

Deputy-Speaker, Sir, they are compelled to go on mass casual leave. I, therefore, want an immediate action in the matter.

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the point raised by Shri Yadav is very important. Justice is not being done to Hindi translators. I can't understand how discrimination can be done in this regard. But the official language is being ignored, official language translators are ignored. We ourselves see here that the sittings of the House goes on and translators have to sit very late at night. At late hours, officers can easily reach at their homes in cars but translators have to run here and there in search of buses. If the plight of translators remain the same, we will not be able to have good translators and then the development of the Indian languages will get hindered.

Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want that this point should be considered in the light of recommendations of Pay Commission and the difficulties being faced by them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is a very important matter. The Government should pay attention to it.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee is on his legs. Please let him speak.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : On many occasions, the House sits late. It is true that the Members of Parliament and senior officers have transport facilities and other things. But apart from officers, we have employees and Parliamentary Reporters, many of whom are lady Reporters.

I have earlier also brought it to the notice of the hon. Speaker. Some inbuilt arrangement, not an *ad hoc* one, should be made that whenever the House sits late, the facility should be made available. It should be well-established.

Therefore, I am sure that the Chair will look into this.

AN HON. MEMBER : Some sort of a special conveyance allowance should be given...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like hon. Minister to say some thing in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Deputy-Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of official language is concerned, Official Language Act has already been enacted. In spite of all these things, the development of official language is not as much as it should have been. It is a matter of shame and regret for us that even after 50 years of independence, such a matter has to be raised. This question has just been raised by the hon. Member and also supported by the leader of the opposition and voiced by members of almost all sides. Therefore, we will certainly bring this matter to the notice of the Government and would see that the difficulties therein are removed...(*Interruptions*) If Government is not there then why are you sitting here...(*Interruption*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : You will convey it to the Government...(*Interruptions*). You are the Government...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Shri Ram Vilas Paswan needs to be told that he himself is the Government. Government is not something separate...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Who is the Government and whether Government is a separate entity? Shri Ram Vilas Paswan says that he would bring it to the notice of the Government. Where is the Government, where does it live and what is its name?...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please let Shri Thomas speak now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am speaking in the House now in the capacity of the Leader of the House. Speaking as a part of the Government. But Government is the Government.

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, I would like to bring to your notice a very very important fact.

Very valuable constitutional and basic rights of farmers in some parts of India, especially in Kerala are being violated by the actions of some people to grab the cultivations of farmers. In Kerala recently, an agitation was launched under the auspices of a party there; and the party which is ruling Kerala is lending all support to that grabbing activity. It is barbarian activity. When the cultivations of farmers become ripe, they find that some people, without any respect for law and order, forcibly enter the lands of farmers and cut off the cultivations completely.

Sir, lakhs and lakhs or crores and crores of amounts have been lost by several farmers in the recent past by an agitation which has been taken up by some people on behalf of the ruling party there. I am raising this matter here because it is a very basic constitutional issue. I want to know whether the farmers are also entitled to the protection of the Constitution of India. It is a very very pitiable situation where the Government of India is looking as a silent spectator. The Government is not taking any action. The police is only standing and giving all support to the grabbers and the cultivation of the farmers are being removed completely. A lot of damage is being caused. I would suggest that Parliament should take this into cognizance and the Government of India should take some action because this is an action which is cutting at the roots of the basic constitutional issue as far as the poor farmers are concerned.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Sir, though Shri Chacko has raised the general problem of bank employees as such, I would like to draw your attention first and then the attention of the House to a particular problem of the Gramin Bank employees. In 1987, on the orders of the Supreme Court, a National Industrial Tribunal was set up with Justice Obul Reddy as the Chairman and that Tribunal recommended parity of wages along with the sponsored banks. The same was confirmed by an Equalisation Committee headed by Shri Kotaiah. The Government had issued orders in 1991 for providing parity but in 1992, without any provocation, the Government referred the matter to the Reserve Bank of India which constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Mahalik who recommended separate pay scales for these employees. In protest, the employees have gone to the court; the Karnataka High Court has given a stay order on this matter and the employees are agitating now for parity with the employees of the sponsored banks. I request the Government to look into their grievances and stick to their earlier decision.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards the deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi. In the matter of crimes, Delhi is number one in the whole

country. If you go through the statistics of 1996, you will see that 59,871 heinous crimes were registered. The day before yesterday in Kalyan Vihar, a posh colony, in my constituency, five intruders entered the second floor of a building. They ransacked the house, took-off jewellery of ladies, collected all the money and slipped away unnoticed and that too in a broad-day light at 4.30 p.m. This is not only a case of Kalyan Vihar. In Mukherjee Nagar which also falls under my constituency, a dacoity took place. The dacoits could not be traced so far. In the same way some persons entered the first floor in Panjabi Bagh also but have not been traced till date. One shopkeeper was murdered in broad day light on main road in Roop Nagar. Killers were identified, their vehicle number is also known but they could not be apprehended as yet. At present, Delhi Police is under the direct control of Ministry of Home Affairs. Delhi Government has nothing to do with it. We level allegations against the Delhi Government that crimes are on increase in Delhi. But Ministry of Home Affairs now has to see whether it can check these crimes or not. If after any dacoity we try to contact the Police-Commissioner of Delhi, we are unable to trace him even in two days. He is not prepared to talk on telephone. The Commissioner of Police is not prepared to visit the areas where dacoity take place. God knows whether Home Minister comes to know about these incidents or not. The new Police Commissioner or the Home Minister has not convened even a single meeting so far with the seven elected Members of Parliament of Delhi.

The situation of Delhi is so horrible. We all the Members of Parliament live in Delhi. As long as Delhi Police remains under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs and this Government continue an indifferent attitude towards them, the Government of Delhi will be helpless. If the Government of Delhi cannot transfer a person and cannot hold the meetings, then you can imagine how the crimes in Delhi have increase.

During the last three months there have been incidents of theft of 3,133 vehicles, 326 cases of loot, 1247 houses were robbed off and the Delhi Police have hardly solved about 20 percent of these cases.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today lotteries and illegal liquor is being sold in connivance with Delhi Police and this is being sold under the nose of Ministry of Home Affairs. I would like that a special discussion should be held in the House in this regard. The Ministry of Home Affairs should ensure that either Delhi Police be transferred to the National Capital Territory of Delhi or the Ministry of Home Affairs should explain that who is responsible for these crimes.

The number of cases of Kidnapping has increased by 88 per cent cases of rape and molestation have also increased by 44 and 33 percent respectively and Ministry of Home Affairs is doing nothing. The union Ministers live in Delhi and their residences are in Delhi.

Delhi which was known as the safe place has now become a place where people feel themselves insecure and reason in only that Delhi has not its police force.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, reservation system for the backward classes in several states and particularly in Kerala is under serious threat. As we all know, the courts' insistence of the so-called 'creamy layer' is destructive of the entire system of reservation for the backward classes. There is a great tension. There is an agitation that is building up and the difficulties are coming up.

It is necessary that the Government take note of this tension - this agitation - and the fact that the introduction of the so-called creamy layer will be destructive of the entire system of backward classes in the various states, particularly in Kerala, as I have said, which the backward classes have been having for the past so many years.

Now, from Kerala, a representative morcha is coming to the Parliament tomorrow. I, therefore, rise 24 hours in advance so that the Government may prepare a statement, come before the House with that statement and let us know by tomorrow what the Government hopes to do, what measures it wants to take, including legislation, if necessary, including amendment to the constitution, in order to protect the system of reservations as it is in existence in several States.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Hon'ble Dy. Speaker, Sir today thousand of employees of rural banks are demonstrating in Delhi. Their procession is coming from Red Fort to Jantar Mantar, this Government is adopting the policy of discrimination against the employees of rural banks continuously. The National Tribunal Commission gave its award that they would be given salaries after removing the disparity. Today recommendations of the 6th Pay Commission have been implemented in all banks and they got the arrears from 1995 but for rural banks they make excuses that they are running in loss. Therefore, I request you that 11 banks out of 27 nationalised banks of central Government are also running in loss and inspite of it increased salary in being paid to their employees removing the pay disparity.

I request that employees of rural banks may be given pay equivalent to that of nationalised banks after removing the pay disparity as these workers are serving the villages actually and exercising their duties in right sense. Today they are demonstrating here. The hon'ble Minister of Finance may talk to them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, I only request that hon'ble Minister of Finance may consider over this matter. The issue of

rural banks is pending for many years. It would be better if Minister of Finance solves this problem after paying due attention to it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, today about 30,000 banks employees, including those of the Regional Rural Banks, have come to Delhi. They are agitating against the setting up of local banks which was announced by the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech. Already licences for setting up of three such banks have been issued. The unions of these banks have formed the United Forum of Bank Unions. They have come together with the employees of the Regional Rural Banks. They are demanding that local and private banks should not be set up. They are against privatisation of banks.

Sir, the employees of the Regional Rural Banks have been demanding, since a long time, for a parity in their wages. Why should there be any discrimination against them? Why should the pay scales of the employees of the Rural Banks be less than those of the employees of commercial banks?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You support the issue and the matter should end there.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, already the National Wages Tribunal has given its award on this and it has been mentioned that there should be equal pay for equal work and there should be parity in the wages. But in spite of that, after conclusion of six bipartite wage settlements three years before, this has not been extended to the employees of the Rural banks. Their wages have not been revised upto now. We have been raising these issues of the Rural Banks, the privatisation and opening up the insurance sector persistently.

Sir, today 30,000 bank employees have come to Delhi. We are demanding that there should not be any privatisation and the local banks should not be set up...*(Interruptions)* The wages of the employees of the Regional Rural Banks should be revised, as per the sixth bipartite settlement, as was done in the case of the employees of the commercial banks.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : (Monghyr) : Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would call your name. Let me say for a minute.

(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : The Award may be implemented.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Lodha ji, just a minute, first let me say. You also support it, right. I would like to

say that there are some such important issues about which one hon'ble Member has given a notice but everybody likes to speak on that.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me finish first.

[Translation]

If the leaders of party speak then it makes sense but if all the members speaks then it would be injustice with the Members whose names are listed.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I just rise to support the contention of Shri Jaswant Singh.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right. Your support has been recorded.

Yes, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, do you also want to record your support to this issue?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, I, on behalf of the Congress Party, share the concern of the hon. Members and I support it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, you should allow a Member to complete his sentence...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important question with regard to Monghyr District. There was personal quarrel at tari shop between villages of Gulalpur and Baank in Monghyr yesterday at 3.30 P.M. Gulalpur is the village of muslims and minorities and Baank is Jatavs village. Thereafter people were organised from Baank village and village of muslims was attacked. One muslim and one Jatav were killed. The dead body of the Jatav was brought to Daryapur and Monghyr road and that is still lying there.

The people of all Jatav villages are being organised for riots. Seven houses belonging to minorities have been ruined, four children are missing and there is no clue of them so far. In this regard, we have talked to the Home Secretary of Bihar, DIG Monghyr and IG of Bihar. But situation is very tense and riots may erupt between Yadav and Muslims. The situation is tense there and therefore, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister to make a statement regarding action being taken by the Bihar administration in this regard. On the one hand the houses of Mohammadans are raided...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is enough. Discussions are daily taking place on Bihar.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : On the other hand...*(Interruptions)* The bodies of mohammadans are lying in headquarters but they are not allowing to take the dead bodies. The whole Monghyr is tense. Therefore, Home Minister should give a statement on this issue. We appeal you to kindly direct the Home Minister to give statement in this regard.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the whole nation on this important issue that the incident of Jalian wala Bagh still inspires the whole country. Now, on the occasion of Golden Jubilee celebrations of Independence Queen Elizabeth alongwith 2 Englishmen, Dayar and others are coming. These Englishmen had killed more than 500 people in Jalianwala bagh and hanged great revolutionaries like Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Sukhdev Singh and Rajguru. Now some people are being visited.. This is a mockery with the nation. My submission is that as the Government of Japan had apologised to Korean Government for misbehaviour and several exploitation of Korean women, Elizabeth and the Government of Britain should also apologize to India in the same way...*(Interruptions)* and until and unless the Government of India do not pardon the Englishmen, they should not be permitted to visit India...*(Interruptions)* In Punjab, the nephew of Bhagat Singh has said that he will stage agitation against this and the sacrifice of Bhagat Singh will not go in vain. I urge upon the Government to be vigilant on this issue and ask them to apologize...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, they had called Chandrashekhar...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not allowed you. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, they had called Chandrashekhar Azad a terrorist. First ask them to apologise for that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your name is not there in the list. Please sit down.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of this august House to a very serious situation that has arisen on the export front of India.

In 1996-97, Rs. 4000 crore worth of marine products have been exported from India to different countries. About 20 per cent of them have gone to Europe alone. The European countries have now imposed a ban on marine products from India for the reason that a virus has been detected in them. However, the real reason is that earlier it used to be bulk quantities which used to go to Europe from India which used to be packed by

their labour and now value added products are being exported from India as a result of which they are losing their labour. So, under the pretext that they found a virus, they are now banning import of all marine products from India.

Out of these marine products, about half are going from the State of Kerala. The announcement of this ban has rendered lakhs of fishermen unemployed. Fishermen there are starving. Many factories have been closed. Apart from that it is going to affect the export opportunities of the entire country. As I mentioned earlier, Rs. 4000 crore worth of marine products have been exported last year. Unless the Government takes serious steps in this regard, unless the Prime Minister and the Commerce Minister take very serious note of it and talk to the European countries and see that these products are exported, there will not be any exports after 15th August.

13.00 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Practically, 15th of July onwards, the export trade is stopped, marine products have stopped, marine factories have stopped and fishing is stopped. It is a serious situation. The Government should come forward to do something in this regard.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : It is a very serious matter. Some response should be there...*(Interruptions)* The whole export is affected...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Sir, the recent devastating floods in Assam have caused havoc to a large number of villages including those of southern Assam. Not less than five hundred villages have been submerged and the grains in the paddy fields have been totally damaged. More than 17 lakh peasants have been affected by the floods and hundreds of dwellings units have been washed away.

Sir, in southern Assam-Karimganj, Hailakandi, Cachhar districts have been affected badly and the road communication remained suspended there for more than one week. The condition of the districts like Dhaamaji, North Lakhimpur, Tinsukia, Sibsagar in Upper Assam, Nalbari, Dhubri, Gopada in lower Assam is indescribable. The loss due to devastating floods is yet to be assessed but it would definitely surpass an amount of Rs. 250 crores.

Therefore, I urge the Government to take up immediate relief measures for the flood victims and at the same time, to implement the projects of the Brahmaputra Board and to construct Barak Dams on a long term measure to check floods in Assam, since Assam is a flood-torn province.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Item No. 7-Matters under Rule 377.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No Lunch Hour. You can have your lunch and come back.

Shri K.L. Sharma.

(Interruptions)

13.03 hrs.

RE : ENTRY OF RAILWAY MINISTER INTO MUMBAI

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is one very important matter which concerns the functioning of the Centre and the State. The present threat that has been given against our Minister of Railways by a leader of a political party in one State in this country is something unheard of. It has never happened in the past and it has been openly being said in Maharashtra by the leader of Shiv Sena, which is the ruling party. The alleged reason is that the Minister of Railways' decision to start the Konkan Railway trains from a particular station. On that count, his partymen have been directed not to allow Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to enter the State. I have never in my very humble experience - seen nothing like this. I have no doubt that the real reason is the Minister's statement after he visited those places where the *dalits* were tortured that there should be President's rule. Whether I agree with the Minister or not, that is different. Supposing the hon. Minister of the Union of India - in our country, anywhere for that matter expresses his views or even as a Minister, if he takes a decision ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : They have not opposed because of Dalits ...*(Interruptions)* That is not opposed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will have your say.

Let him finish.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : There is no Zero Hour and if somebody stands up and raises...*(Interruptions)* You must allow us. You must give us a chance...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : You should not speak on this matter. In Bihar when Laloo Yadav had threatened to stop the two Minister and they were attacked, why did not you speak at that time ... (Interruptions) The people of your party do not allow even Prime Minister to speak and yesterday they walked out. You should say something on this also.

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has not been allowed to enter the State. Here, we find that the hon. Member has not even been allowed to speak... (Interruptions) You allow him to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : What are you talking... (Interruptions) You are exaggerating what Bal Thackary has said... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had also gone there in a car and he was also stopped ... (Interruptions) People of that area are demanding ... (Interruptions) What were you doing at that time? When Paswanji was attacked in Bihar.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : If he wants, let him speak. But why should he shout at the hon. Member who is speaking? What Shri Pramod Mahajan said should not go on record... (Interruptions) If any leader in any State has said that a particular Minister will not be allowed to enter the State, we have every reason to raise it in the House... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : He is trying to provoke.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Maharashtra is not anybody's family property.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I shudder to think what is going to happen in Mumbai if in the House, this is the response before I have completed my sentence. If this is the response from the hon. Members of Parliament representing that State, I do not know what will happen in the streets of Mumbai... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : There could be tension in Mumbai again.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : With one or two more sentences, I would have finished my speech. If it had been merely political response of a leader of a political party to a political issue - even I cannot support that - one might have said that. I hear from Shri Pramod Mahajan saying that that party also said the similar thing. If a Minister's decision is being challenged by saying that he would not be allowed to enter the State... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (South Delhi) : If Minister does not work then there will be protest in the whole country... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Is it the way to protest? (Interruptions) Is it a way to protest that a Minister would not be allowed to enter the State... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : If Minister does not work then there will be protest all over the country. There is no community centre in our area, we will also protest... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana) : If any work is not done then it is but natural that there will be resentment.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Your party is in the Government there... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Chacko, please, let him conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, there is an instigation to take the law into the hands against a Union Minister... (Interruptions) Mr. Chairman, I feel that the House cannot ignore such things and I hope that such a situation will not be there. I must express my appreciation that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, our hon. Railway Minister, has accepted the challenge and has decided to go there.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana) : Let them say that challenge has been accepted. Why are you saying?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I want to express my concern on the matter which relates to the relations between the Centre and the States. It will create an imbalance in the functioning, therefore, I submit that when we are asking for...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Do you not want to say anything about Bihar?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You have Bihar-phobia and you have nothing else...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, I submit that this is a matter...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Somnathji, please also say something about the bomb blast in the meeting in Mumbai. Do you not want to say anything on that?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, our country has a sort of a quasi federal structure and the States and the Centre have their respective areas. Therefore, this is a matter which is a matter of concern which I wish to share with the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North-East) : The discussion is going on in regard to our state. Please allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, talking of a responsible leader irresponsibly itself shows that what a small hearted person he is. This is one of the examples about it. Mr. Chairman, it is a fact that Konkan Railway is in operation in Mumbai for the last one year and all its passengers want to board the train from Dadar or Boribandar. There is a demand for the last one year that the train which starts from Kurla, should start from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal or Dadar Station. We have requested about it to the Minister for Railways. We have raised this issue in this House also. Later on all the MPs from Mumbai have taken up this matter to the Minister of Railways. When the Chief Minister of Maharashtra came here, then he had also brought this matter to the notice of the Minister of Railways. It will be good if this train is started from Boribandar or Dadar. In this regard, an agitation of commuters is also going on in Mumbai. We have repeatedly told the hon'ble Minister that only two trains run from there. One train starts from Dadar. It will be in the interest of the people if the second one also starts from Dadar. For starting Konkan railway, not only the Government of Maharashtra and the Central Government have given the money but at the time of financial crunch

we had purchased bonds worth Rs. 350 crore from the cooperative banks of Mumbai and in this way had extended our help. Now when the people of Mumbai, MPs and Government are demanding that the train should start from there instead of here, then why Government is not conceding to it. There was a agitation also in this regard and even after the agitation the Government is not accepting it. I had also asked a question here on 30th August. I had asked in the question that

[English]

"Whether the Government was aware of public demand that all Konkan railway trains should run from Chatrapati Shivaji and Dadar terminals?"

[Translation]

In its reply it has been said that

[English]

"There has been a number of demands to start all Konkan railway trains from Dadar."

[Translation]

Only two trains operate. Here it has been told to mislead the House that there are many trains for that place. One train is operating from Dadar. Giving such type of reply in the House has annoyed the common commuters of Mumbai. There is some way in a democratic set up to raise a demand. They have resorted to agitation in order to get their demand fulfilled. To tell their point in an exaggerated manner...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It used to be said from the side of Congress CPM, Janata Dal and other parties that in Congress rule, Minister would not be allowed to enter the villages. Many such statements were given at several times. What is special with Ram Vilas Paswan ji that he is feeling it so much painful...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : There is a some way of launching an agitation. They want to tell them by blocking the path. They are going to launch an agitation in order to get their demands fulfilled. Now it is said that train will not be operated. What does it mean? They want to launch an agitation in a democratic way. There is no need to say much about this. You are having the phobia of BJP and Shiv Sena. Those who have phobia, talk like this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : The communist party had called for the Bandh on behalf of the State Government against the Central Government.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : What does it mean that Minister will not be allowed to enter the state...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Earlier it was said in a railway agitation.

[English]

It is not a general statement. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has visited Maharashtra twice in the last two weeks. Nobody has said so. He has every right to come to Maharashtra. But, as a part of the agitation, as he is not acceding to our legitimate demand, to say that "Unless you accept this demand, I will not allow you to come in my house"...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : The Fatwa has come in only after his visit...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It has to come from all democratic systems when the Minister is unresponsive...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, many people living in the area that comes under Konkan railways are agricultural labourers. They live in Dadar, Parel, Shivri, Lower Parel, Lal Bagh, Chinchpokli, Majhgaon, Ghorpdev, Kala Chowki, Parel Gaon, Prabha Devi, Vadala, Khera Bazar and Boribander. Konkan Railways was started one year ago.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : They have a right to ask for that. We are also supporting it. That is not a point. You are deflecting this issue. It is a question of Centre-State relationship. It is a question of democracy.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : All the members of Maharashtra have requested to Ram Vilas Paswanji about it. I myself met with Ram Vilas ji. I also met with the chairman of Railway Board. He said that a train could be started from Dadar but funds are required for this purpose. He said he would come to Mumbai to see it. Our Chief Minister had talked to Ram Vilas ji. I read in the newspaper that he had also demanded for it. You are also proposing to start a train from Dadar station. Now three trains are going to be started from Mumbai

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ram Naik has told about that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Please listen to me. Those trains are going to be started from Chatterpati Shivaji Terminal. We demand that these trains may be started from Dadar. That is why we are going to agitate. Earlier also when Maharashtra was united and our former Prime Minister Late Jawarhar Lal Nehru visited the State, all parties had given a call for the bandh and Congress had supported it...(Interruptions) ...whatever Shri Som Nath ji has said is very unfortunate. We respect him. When the Minister of Railways was attacked in Bihar

you did not utter a single word that they are attacking our Minister of Railways...(Interruptions) ..Were you afraid at that time? Do not make it a political issue. Communal tension can increase by talking against the downtrodden...(Interruptions) ..Therefore, I request that all the trains may be started from Dadar.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev please.

(Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have called Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. Nothing will go on record.

(interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev's speech.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am on a point of order.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under what rule?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : My point of order is that it was clear that the threat Shri Ram Naik mentioned for a ban on the entry of the Railway Minister was not as a dalit minister.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : What is the point of order?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : My point of order is that first you listen to me and then give your ruling. My point of order is that it has been made clear from the speech of Shri Ram Naik ji that they had challenged the entry of Minister of Railways Shri Paswan but not the the entry of a dalit Minister, Shri Paswan...(Interruptions)...but if what Shri Som Nath Chatterjeji has said in the House is published in tomorrow's newspapers then situation in Mumbai can be more tense that they are putting a ban on the entry of a dalit Minister. Therefore, I request...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Therefore, I request that this may be expunged from the record so that it is

* Not Recorded.

not published that entry of a dalit minister has been stopped...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. There is nothing objectional in what he has said.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Well, if it is in record, then you may please expunge it because there will be reaction to it if it is published tomorrow.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : She is absolutely wrong...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : The tape-recorder is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is nothing objectionable in what he has said.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Let it be played on. I do not mind.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : If he has not said, then it is all right.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have never said it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very unfortunate that he wants to speak like this.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats. I have called Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Shrimati Sushma Swaraj has brought it on record.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : You have brought it on record. He has not said it but you have brought it on record.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You have said it. I have heard it with my own ears...*(Interruptions)* and that the whole House was listening...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats. I have heard everybody.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : No. What I said is...*(Interruptions)* because he has gone there. In case of...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is nothing objectionable in his speech. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Chatterji has added it just casually.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You go through the records.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mohan Rawale, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : All of you kindly go through the record.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please have patience.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Nobody in this House can dispute about the demand of the public of Maharashtra that 'start the Konkan Railway from a particular point'. We all support it. The news item, which has come today whether right or wrong is another thing, has been a shocking news for all of us. Whether a Minister is a Dalit or he belongs to an upper class or a lower class, he is a Minister. His entry is being opposed by whom?

It is by a gentleman about whose conduct the Home Minister of this country has said in this House that in future he or his Party will not behave in that manner. Now, Shri Mohan Rawale has said that they have the right to be agitated. Nobody disputes it. But Shri Pramod Mahajan, who is a good friend of mine, a very eloquent speaker, has said, 'in my house whether he will come or not I will decide.' Mumbai is not your house, it is my house also....*(Interruptions)* That attitude of your Government must be changed. By winning election, do you think, Mumbai has become your personal property?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Please go through the records. I did not say that it is my house...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : What type of discussion has been started by Shri Ram Naik on this petty matter? Is it not a petty matter?

[English]

The Minister has the right to travel anywhere in the country. People have got the right...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Personal accusation has been made against members ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : You behaved like that...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

They may say anything and we may not reply to them?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : People have the right to demonstrate against us. When I was the Minister from Assam, the Assam Ganga Parishad did not receive me for two years; did not go to any meeting, but protested. They did not say that they would not allow me to Assam. I must say this to their credit.

So, if whatever has come in the newspapers, is a correct news and if it is said by that particular leader, I fully condemn it on behalf of my Party ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Police went to arrest one M.P. of your party...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : We did not disturb you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev is saying.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : We fully condemn it. That should not be the attitude. The proof of how the B.J.P. will behave will come on the 8th August when Shri Ram Vilas Paswan will visit there. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is capable of convincing the people of Mumbai whether this demand should be accepted or not. It has been said, very rightly, that there is a shortage of money and other things. I think, he can sort it out ...*(Interruptions)*. He has said yesterday...*(Interruptions)*

Incidentally, I would like to tell today in this house that a Member from Dibrugarh wanted to raise the matter regarding a train to be started from Dibrugarh, which was assured by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. He wanted to make *halla* here. I said, 'no'; the Minister is there, you go and hand over your memorandum. I will also go and speak to him'....*(Interruptions)* So, let us not protest the demand. I fully believe that nothing will happen in Maharashtra. But one thing I am learning from my sister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj is that in Zero Hour there is no point of order...*(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The chair would decide it whether it is a point of order or not ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter is over now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : This statement is regarding the Konkan Railway ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is the Leader of the House. He is one of the active and efficient Ministers in this Government. He should not be described to be a Minister of a particular section or a particular caste. If people take it so and if people say it outside, I can understand.

I shall request, through you, Mr. Chairman, to all our colleagues that he should not be mentioned as backward or *dalit* or upper caste in this House. I think, he might not have been listened properly. But Shri Somnath Chatterjee is one of the persons who ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolapur) : What I said was that the reason of this might be that he had gone to that place where *dalits* were tortured ...*(Interruptions)* I never said because he is a *dalit* ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : What was the need to say 'May be'? 'May be' means it could be possible ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You find out from the records...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Chairman, I say that if a particular statement has come in the Press and if it is causing some provocation in the minds of the Members here, he should not do anything that adds to that provocation or that situation. Very respectfully, I shall request Shri Somnath Chatterjee that he should not have referred to the *Dalit* problem in Mumbai ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Somnath Chatterji has not said any such thing.

[English]

It is very much on the record.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : If he has not spoken, and even if he has spoken and if he says that he has not said this, then it is the courtesy of the House that it should be taken that what he says is correct. This is the elementary parliamentary practice and it should be observed by everybody. I think that some observation has been made there in Mumbai. I hope that leaders on this side and my friends from the Shiv Sena will see that this will remain only a statement and we should not say that it will be tested, as my friend Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev said 'we will see how they behave on the 8th of August'. This language should be avoided in this House. We should not do anything which aggravates the provocation. I hope that as Shri Pramod Mahajan said, this is just the language to be used and not translated into action. This happens all the time in our political life and it has become more these days. But this should be avoided in this House. I trust that the statement that has been issued will be negated not only by House...*(Interruptions)* I think that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is very responsive to the demands of the people and if there has been a demand and as Ram Naik has said that they have been surfacing it for one year, we should not make it a prestigious issue. Three trains are going to be started and there is no harm if one train is stated at the place where they are demanding...*(Interruptions)* Have I not tried to suggest something to the Railway Minister? I am not raising the railway issue, I am just trying to pacify the issue. If you want that you should agitate on that issue, I have no objection. I said that this statement is very unfortunate and such statement should not be made, and if this statement has been made in the spirit in which Shri Mahajan said, we should not take objection to it and we should see that the situation is restrained ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this discussion is with regard to the Konkan Railways. We should, therefore be given opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There cannot be any regular debate on this.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are not given opportunity to speak in this House. We could not even agitate outside the House and we could not make any statement.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I request that the transcript of what I have said is sent to the Leader of the Opposition and to Shri Chandra Shekhar.

Secondly, Sir, now that the imputation that has been made on me is not correct, the Member should apologise here on the floor of the House...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : Why should we apologise, Sir?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Let a copy of what I have said be sent to Vajpayee Ji, let it be sent to the Leader of the Opposition and let it be sent to Chandra Shekhar Ji...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Chatterjee has said that he has not used the word on which objection is being raised. We accept his views and the matter should be closed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Ram Naik ji, you have said that it is a matter of meanness. It is not unparliamentary. But if you agree beyond this matter also then...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : I would like to thank you. This is not a matter of meanness but it is a matter of large heartedness, I don't have any objection in it. I have only said that it is like a jaundice. He is seeing from that angle and it seems to me there is nothing unparliamentary in it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : No. This is not unparliamentary, but...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, what has been said by Shri Pramod Mahajan and Shri Ram Naik only reiterates the attitude revealed here...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we should also be given opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I would like to say on important thing about Konkan Railway...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, you please take your seat.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : The Minister of Railways is ready to listen...*(Interruptions)* you please give me one minute...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the Leader of the Opposition is sitting here. On similar occasions earlier he had condemned when such threats were given. But now I find that he is sitting here. It is unfortunate ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rupchand Pal, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have allowed Shri Mohan Rawale from your party. Now the hon. Minister of Railways will speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, our leader has spoken. If you allow them we also should be allowed ...*(Interruptions)* We must be given a chance to clarify ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will allow Shri Suresh Prabhu for one minute.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Konkan Railways is for the people of entire country. Kindly listen to me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Shri Ram Naik ji and Mohan Rawale ji have expressed your views. Please take your seat...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Sir, the then Minister of Railways was present there on the inaugural day of Konkan Railways. He has said that the demand of the people is genuine and he will take immediate action in this regard. He has given this assurance on that occasion. One year has elapsed for this assurance and in the meantime whenever we get opportunity inside or outside the Parliament we have been reiterating this demand. But inspite of all this, the Government is not taking any action in this regard. In these circumstances, it is a duty of every political party to say something about the demand of the people. If the entire House altogether raises objection on any issue then I request him to concede this demand. Mahatma Gandhi had taught us that if our genuine demands are not accepted, we should follow the path of satyagrah movement ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Kindly tell us something about the threat he has given...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chavan, have you any new point? I will allow you for one minute.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, this is not a railway matter. Our leader has very clearly stated and supported the demand. The attitude on the Centre-State relations is the point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. When you spoke, he did not disturb you. Let Shri Chavan complete his point.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : It is not that the Opposition leader is speaking. The person who has made the statement is running the Maharashtra Government. He is an extra-constitutional authority. He is a 'remote-control'...*(Interruptions)* The person to whom the statement has been attributed is virtually controlling or ruling the State. I want to get an assurance from him

that protection will be given to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan...*(Interruptions)* There are many issues in Maharashtra...*(Interruptions)* Shri Indrajit Gupta, the Home Minister visited the place...*(Interruptions)* So many issues of Maharashtra are there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat now.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. The Minister of Railways will tell whatever you want to say...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say one important point about Konkan Railways...*(Interruptions)* I will not take more than one minute. Kindly give me a chance prior to the Minister of Railways...*(Interruptions)* I am demanding for it since the discussion took place on railway Budget ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, please listen to us for a minute...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not allow. I have allowed Shri Mohan Rawale and Shri Suresh Prabhu from your party. You were not there. You came just now and are asking for it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I will not allow you. I have allowed Shri Prabhu and Shri Rawale. Will I have to allow all of you? I cannot allow you.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, my humble submission is that you please listen to us and then I will sit down...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Shri Sarpotdar, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I have not allowed you speak. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I have allowed two Members, Shri Mohan Rawale and Shri Suresh Prabhu, from your Party.

Now, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan will speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Ever since the passage of Railway Budget, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete has been pressurising on this point which Shri Ram Vilas Pawan has not taken into account. He

has not paid any heed to his demand. Since Shri Anant Gangaram Geete is an MP from Konkan area, he should be allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan knows his demand.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : The discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) is coming up...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Supplementary Demand is likely to be taken up the next week, then he can speak. At that time, you can express your views.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister is about to reply and once he replies what will be the use of speaking.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is not going to reply just now. He will speak later on over Supplementary Demands. This discussion is not on the Supplementary Demands. This discussion pertains to the statement. Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the hon'ble Minister starts the Konkan Railway, every problem will be solved...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, nobody except Shri Ram Vilas Paswan would speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow him to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I am not going into the details of what the leader of a particular party stated. As I have said, I will visit that place on 8th. Whatever is going to happen will happen. We, who are in public life, are not afraid of threats, such tactics wont work...*(Interruptions)*

That is different issue. Emergency is a different issue. The matter is being raised to score a point. Hon'ble Chandra Shekhar ji and Atal ji are present here. I do not want to state about anybody else. I want to say

about myself that as a Railway Minister I do not belong to any party or any place. Mr. Chairman Sir, You may be aware that Rawale Sahab visits Railway Board or Ministry of Railway thrice a week. Many hon. members visit there. I on behalf of these hon. members plead their case before the officers of Railway Board and the Ministry of Railway as an opposition leader and invite their wrath but get their work done.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Minister, for that, We praise you.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Hon. Chandra Shekhar ji and other hon. members sitting in the House know that I at once try to take action on the issues raised by them. Some new trains have been introduced. Chandra Shekharji asked whether any train is to be introduced via Ballia? I am pleading his case in the Ministry but everybody in the Board and Ministry is opposing me on this issue, still we are trying to get the work done. Hon'ble Nitish kumar ji, Kumari Uma Bharati ji threatened me that they would stage Dharna. I have done my best to get their work done as they want. I can state with full confidence that if anyone belonging to their party had been Railway Minister, he also could not have been able to construct Singrauli-Lalitpur rail line but I have made my best efforts in this regard.

Hon. Patilji is not present in the House but Smt. Rajni Patil is here. Beed rail line as demanded by them could have never been completed. Likewise, there is a rail-line from Dansa to Gangapur demanded by Smt. Girija Vyas or there is any other issue, I never play any party politics in any matter...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chaiaman, so far as this matter is concerned, Shri Ram Naik, Pramod Mahajanji and Prof. Ram Kapse are always ready to speak and remind me. I fail to understand as to how a person has knowledge of entire episode when he has no information in this regard? He is an expert. Now this matter pertains to Konkan Railway. In Railways, the most prestigious train is Konkan train and the most prestigious route is Konkan route and in this regard, all the parties including BJP, Shiv Sena, Congress, Samajwadi Party, CPI and CPM demand that any new train should be started from main railway station. I have introduced a number of new trains on the occasion of Golden Jubilee celebration but these are being started from Nizamuddin Railway station. Who does not like that these trains should be started from New Delhi Station instead of Nizamuddin. Now, we are constructing platform No. 15 and 16 at New Delhi Railway Station but the Hon. Members from several parties came to me urging me not to take any decision on the ground that there are Jhuggis. I talked to state Government. Any how, the platforms are being constructed and the next platform will be constructed after the completion of the first one. I also want that every train should start from New Delhi. The same situation is in Mumbai. The number of platforms can be increased in Delhi but in Mumbai there is no possibility

of increasing the number of existing platforms. Some other arrangements can be made in this regard. The leader of every party came to me for two minute stoppage of every party came to me for two minute stoppage of every train at Thane. I thought there would be no difficulty in doing so since the big leaders want it. I wrote to Railway Board. Railway Board replied that it was ready to obey my orders but I should go for a while and see their problems. I called most of the leaders. They started emonstrating the position on the computer. Computer showed running of the train upto Nagpur. The train came and slowed down and when this train picked up speed again, the two suburban trains could not be accommodated on the route. Then the officials asked me whether we want to stop the train for two minutes and discontinue these two trains. Then, all the leaders stated that this decision would create a greatness. It affects five thousand passengers. Therefore, do not change the schedule of this train. Sometimes it so happens that we want to take political decision and because of technological hurdles we are not able to take these decisions.

There was the case of Kurula. All friends said that Dadar would be better than Kurula and we also want that the train should be halted at Dadar. For this, we told the General Manager that we are prepared to provide extra fund. If there is need of making expansion of the Platform and if that can be done, we are prepared to do that also. I think that you people and the Chief Minister have talked to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan for more times than to any other Minister of Railways in the past. Probably, no one pressurises the officers more than us. You cannot blame our intention. Our Chief Minister had came five days ago. We said that you tell us that we would send it to our General Manger. We would give it to all operating incharges. There, you can sort out this issue. If it is possible, we would be the happiest. There is this demand that Dadar Railway Station should be named as 'Chitbhumi'. We have written to Home Ministry also in this regard. That ministry is not doing it. Then how we can do it. I want to say that we are prepared for it but we are being told that you can remove the train coming from Punjab. Keep it in place of that. We did say that a prestigious train is coming there. Today, if we cannot give an extra train we also cannot withdraw existing train. You can hold a meeting and if any train is to be removed, you can do that and add it. Discontinue the train of Bihar, the train of U.P. and add that. We are prepared for the extra arrangement to be made for this purpose, but if our operating Incharge says that it is not possible and if you do it you would have to do it by withdrawing some train, then, it is not possible. We would have to make expansion of the Platform only then we can do something. If we are threatened that we would not be allowed to enter into the Railway Station, I don't know

as to how this country would function, how this House would function...(Interruptions) I am not saying anything on what he said and what he did not said...(Interruptions) I have put the reality, facts in this regard. I want to assure the hon'ble Members not only in case of Dadar but the whole country, when I go from here, you see what happen to us. I never close down my six number office. Whenever any one comes to me, I talk to the officer and ask him to sort out his problem. What more can we do? I can not do anything it inspite of it I am threatened.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I have requested you...(Interruptions) I have given you a proposal...(Interruptions)

[English]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given a proposal to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that all of us should go to Dadar and Kurla, have a survey and assess the situation there.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would go to Kurula and Dadar on 8th. Whatever we can do, we would do but I want to tell you one thing that no one can force me to yield by threatening. You note it.

13.50 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to set up an L.P.G. outlet in Mohanlal Ganj, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PURNIMA VARMA (Mohanlal Ganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is not even a single LPG outlet in Mohanlal Ganj, Parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh. Whereas there are more than one L.P.G. Outlet at many places in the remote areas of the country. People are facing lot of difficulties in my constituency due to the shortage of fuel.

Therefore, the Government is requested to take immediate steps to set up an L.P.G. outlet in Mohanlal Ganj constituency in Uttar Pradesh.

- (ii) **Need to overcome the problem of shortage of Foodgrains in the drought affected Districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : I represent the backward and underdeveloped districts, Barmer and Jaisalmer, of Western Rajasthan.

The Government may be aware that a major portion of Western Rajasthan, that is, about 70 per cent of the districts, was under the grip of drought in the year 1996-97 as a result of which the people of this area were badly affected.

There is no water and fodder for the cattle. There is no employment for the people of this area as a result they are migrating to Punjab and Gujarat. The main source of income for the people of this area is through cattle breeding. But due to shortage of cattle feed, a large number of cattle is dying. There is acute shortage of cereals at the Fair Price Shops of the Public Distribution System.

Sir, I request the Central Government to take immediate action to solve this acute shortage of foodgrains in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan.

- (iii) **Need to declare Patna-Hajipur-Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi-Sursand-Bhithamod road as a National Highway in Bihar.**

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the total length of National Highways in Bihar, which is the most backward state in the country, is 2118 kms. Since 1974 no approval has been accorded by the Government of India for the construction of any new National Highway in the state whereas during this period approximately one thousand kilometers have been added in the National Highway Network in the whole country. National Development Council had recommended to declare Patna-Bhithamod (bordering Nepal) road as National Highway but the Government of India has not taken any decision in this regard. After the devastating floods of 1987 the Government of India had given assurance to provide assistance for its reconstruction but it has also not been fulfilled. The Planning Commission has included this road in the 9th Five Year Plan.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to declare Patna-Hazipur-Muzzafarpur-Sitamarhi-Sursand-Bhithamod road as a National Highway in the year 1997-98 and the work on it may be started.

- (iv) **Need for early execution of gauge conversion work at New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-Allpurduar Junction**

[English]

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : Sir, I like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the gauge conversion work for New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-Alipurduar junction line has not yet started. It is a long standing demand of the people of the area. The economy of the Jalpaiguri fully depends on this railway

line. The scheme has already been included in the 1997-98 Railway Budget but no step has yet been taken for its implementation.

I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and take necessary steps for execution of the scheme at an early date.

- (v) **Need to reintroduce Public Health Care Scheme in the Country**

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, 'Jan Sawasthya Rakshaks' were appointed at Village level in 1977, for the development of Ayurvedic system of medicines and also for public welfare. Their services proved very useful for the primary medical care of the people. But for the last few years neither medicines are being provided to these Rakshaks nor their services are being taken. As such, these Rakshaks are facing a lot of difficulties in pulling on the livelihood and not in a position to foster their families, consequently they launched an agitation at State level in order to find out a solution to this problem as a result of which there is large scale resentment among the people.

Therefore, I urge that the genuine demands of these Rakshaks should be considered seriously and solution to this problem be found out to safeguard the interests of these Rakshaks as well as the people.

- (vi) **Need to provide more facilities at Dharagaon Railway Station, Maharashtra**

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL (Erandol) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my Parliamentary constituency Erandol (Maharashtra) has Dharagaon Railway Station. The population of this area is about 50 thousands. 25 villages are located nearby it. Thousands of people of this area travel from this station daily as a result of which rail department earns the income of thousands of rupees per day but there are inadequate facilities at this station, the people of this area have launched agitation for these facilities. The officers of railway have given assurance to provide these facilities. This railway station has the following problems :

1. At least 20 seats be reserved in passenger trains from this station.
2. Stoppage should be provided to the express trains passing through this station.
3. The level of the existing platform should be raised and it should be further extended.
4. Proper and bigger shed should be constructed for the passengers with increased capacity.

5. Potable Water facility should be provided there.

6. Residential accommodation should be provided to the railway employees.

Therefore, I request the hon'ble Railway Minister, through you, that keeping in view of the above facts order by issued to provided these facilities.

13.58 hrs.

MOTION RE: ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON DALITS IN MUMBAI, NAGPUR AND OTHER PLACES IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY - *Contd.*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are still 11 hon. Members to speak. The debate has to be concluded today. Already 11 hours 7 minutes have been taken for this discussion.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South) : Mr. Chairman, take up it after lunch hour...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Shri G.M. Banatwalla to continue.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : If you indicate the time of the reply of the Home Minister, that will help hon. Members. Otherwise, somebody will raise the issue of quorum again.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are 11 hon. Members to speak.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Home Minister reply at 5 o'clock?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes. I think so.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane): Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The bell is being rung.

14.00 hrs.

The bell has been rung. Since there is no quorum, the House stands adjourned till 2.45 p.m.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Forty-Five Minutes Past Two of the Clock.

14.53 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifty-Three Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR in the Chair]

MOTION RE: ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON DALITS IN MUMBAI, NAGPUR AND OTHER PLACES IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY — *Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we take up Item No. 8 of the List of Business. Shri G.M. Banatwalla to resume his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was stating that the act of desecration of Dr. Ambedkars statue should be condemned strongly. In regard to this incident, I would like to submit that it is a matter of shame and real culprit should be identified and dealt with sternly. It is said about such incidents that it's the handiwork of I.S.I. Whosever is involved in these incidents., We least care for them.

So far as the matter of I.S.I. is concerned, I request to the Government that a White Paper should be issued in this House highlighting the nefarious activities of I.S.I. in the country and we should be informed about the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard. I think that the entire country would support the Government in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we talk about the police firing and the people killed therein, it is said that such incidents have occurred before as well and many people were killed therein too. I was reminded that many people have been killed in such incidents and there is no doubt about it that such incidents have occurred. It is a matter of regret that today these things are mentioned for the sake of political benefit, saving their Government and State Government but today this demand is not being made that justice should be done to the departed soul of the persons killed in these incidents. I can mention a number of such incidents. I would like to mention such incident which would give you shiver. Then there comes the gory incident of genocide by police/PAC at Hashimpur in Meerut. Ten years have passed since then but the PAC responsible for the said genocide could not be punished so far. If I go in detail, my point will remain unexpressed. The question is not of police firing in Mumbai and at other places, but the question relates to the anti minorities policy adopted by Maharashtra Government and the Government's anti-Dalit and anti-minority steps, we will have to consider over it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 800 cases of atrocities and offences against Dalits have been withdrawn during the tenure of present Maharashtra Government.

[English]

The question therefore is a wider question concerning the rule of law.

[Translation]

The question which has arisen in Maharashtra today is related to the Rule of Law and Order. We will have to think it over. The Article 46 of our Constitution envisages that it is duty of the Union Government to strive for ushering in the progress and development of Dalits and weaker sections of the society. But the present Maharashtra Government is likely to send back Rs. 450 crore meant for the development of Dalits, unutilised.

15.00 hrs.

Now, I would like to know from the Government as to what more grounds it needs to sack the Government especially when it does not bear the responsibility of furtherance of Dalits as enshrined in Article 46 and refunds Rs. 450 crore released by the Union Government for their development? There is such an inactive Government in Maharashtra that even the Union Government fails to fulfil its responsibilities there.

There is no security of life or property in Maharashtra and media persons whether they happen to be from 'The Maharashtra Times', 'Mahanagar' or any other paper are being beaten blue and black indiscriminately. Such a situation is prevailing there and if our Government turns a blind eye to it, how will the system work? Not only this, even Judges find themselves unsafe in the courts. I cite an example... (Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Please tell us as to what is happening in Bihar.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We are concentrating on Maharashtra... (Interruptions). Will you please justify that? There is no way out but for condemnation. I just want to cite an example. A case in which Shiv Sena Supreme was involved was pending before a judge. At that time, the Court was taken for a ride by shouting slogan and threatening. Sir, let me tell you that I have Express Line of 'Indian Express' dated 19 Feb. 1997. It mention that Judge fed up with the case states-

[English]

"It seems to me that the present Government does not want justice but merely wants to show that a system of justice exists."

[Translation]

When Court states like this and the Government of that State does not show any interest for asserting the truth and the Home Minister turns blind eyes, and states

that there is no ground for sacking the Government, well, then there is no befitting world of condemnation of this Government. In the Times of India of the same date the Judge states-

[English]

"If the Government is not interested in fearless justice, they should close down the courts, why carry on a force?"

[Translation]

The judge asks-

[English]

"Why carry on a force?" But here, our hon. Minister of Home Affairs is carrying on a farce"

[Translation]

Therefore, the attention should be paid towards the statement given by the Court. What other evidence should I present, There is no wayout other than sacking the present Government. Even judge is also concerned about his safety and security. I am quoting the same judge and the same date-

[English]

"Given such threats, what is the guarantee that I will reach home safety?"

[Translation]

Judges also do not find themselves safe. That is the rule of Law. When the Constitutional machinery breaks down to such a level that the courts want to know as to how long the farce would go in their name, then it is indeed a pity. The Constitutional machinery has broken down to such an extent that not only Dalits and the opposition leader of the Legislative Council but a Magistrate also starts stating that there is no guarantee that he will reach home safety. When the Hon'ble Home Minister told the Union Government that there was no ground to sack the Government then what more ground he needs other than these already available ones. This should be pondered over.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since you are in the Chair, you must remember Bihar.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I remember the time.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Chargesheet has been filed in case of Bihar. Resignation was the demand, what is happening in Bihar? The Minister is chargesheeted of murder but he is not ready to resign reveals his intention fearlessly in the court of Judge. There can be no greater mockery of democracy than this one when the house of the leader of the Legislative Council was attacked, the hon. Home Minister stated that the attack was so serious that if the Leader of the Opposition had been present in the house, he could not have survived, but he was not there. The

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

Government itself states this, still case has to be started against the attackers of offence under Section 307 of IPC.

At present, there is no rule of Law. We should pay attention towards this side. We should step forward with full might so that the Constitutional machinery can be maintained and the Government may carry out its responsibilities under Article 46. I hope, when the Government replies these points today or tomorrow, the attention should be paid to the rule of law and impartial policy. I do not want to go further on the issue of Dalits any more. Dr. Ambedkar is being levelled with the allegation of a British Agent and traitor through a book. Arun Shourie's book, "Worshipping false Gods" has already been mentioned. Much has been dwelled over it. No amount of condemnation of this book will suffice. If a demand is made that this book be banned then I would request the Government to concede to this demand.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can see your restlessness. I believe the hon. Chairman would not allow himself to ring the bell. I do not want that you should ring the bell for me. I want that the Government should wake against the Maharashtra Government and assuage us by sacking the Government so that the democracy in true sense could be restored there.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my deep resentment, anger and protest against the police atrocities or the excesses committed by Mumbai police on Dalits.

I may also like to draw your attention to the fact that my statement has also been earlier corroborated by some of the Members representing Mumbai. They have also agreed, as far as I understand them, that there had been perpetration of police excesses.

So far as the Government here is concerned, the hon. Home Minister had made a statement. In that statement also, he has not tried to conceal the state of affairs and the immensity of the atrocities or the immensity of the police excesses. I would like to refer to certain paragraphs of the hon. Home Minister's statement. He said :

"However, the fact remains that the act of desecration of the statue of Dr. Ambedkar and subsequent police firing resulted in several deaths and injuries is extremely disturbing."

I asked the hon. Members to know their reaction. I again would like to draw your attention to the eleventh paragraph of the hon. Home Minister's statement where he said :

"Even as the State Government will hopefully bring the criminals to book and prevent the recurrence of such incidents, Members would agree that incidents such as the one in Mumbai are indeed a matter of great concern"

The question still remains whether Article 356 should be applied or not. In this case, the Government as of today is seriously considering the application of Article 356. More than one hundred times, Article 356 has been used. I know that Shri Banatwalla has also joined us in our voice to say that in most of the cases Article 356 has been misused, and misused for the partisan interests of the ruling parties at the Centre. Therefore, we really want that the misuse should not be repeated and that the misuse of Article 356 is to be ended.

Sir, you may not agree with this, insofar as Bihar is concerned. But Bihar is not the only State nor Mumbai is the only place about which we are worried; apart from Bihar, there is this rest of the country. You cannot impose bureaucracy; you cannot impose autocracy; you cannot negate the democratic rights of the rest of the country simply because something happened in Mumbai or in Patna which is undesirable. However, we can separately deal with the issues of Mumbai and Patna. Sir, you will also agree with me that the misuse of that Article is to be ended. Therefore, we should be very cautious to recommend for the application of Article 356.

I am coming to the other part of my speech now.

Now, let us understand that recent years have witnessed waves of unrest, protest and awareness among the Dalits. Somebody may say that it is a danger to social stability. Some may not like it. But I differ with them. I take that this awakening of the Dalits, this awakening of the most under-privileged section of our society, down-trodden segment of our society, constitutes the overwhelming majority of our country. If you go into the statistics, you will find, which I will not indulge in, the awareness about the identity of the Dalits. What are they struggling for and what are they asking for? They are asking for their social identity. Every man and woman in this country have got the right to protect, preserve and enhance his or her identity. If it is not a crime for other segments of the society, it cannot be a crime or sin for the Dalits. Dalits have also the right to search for their identity, to struggle for the preservation of their self-respect and I support it. There are some segments of society who do not like it and who always want that Dalits should ever remain Dalits, socially, educationally and politically. This is the result of that. We shall have to consider this aspect of Dalit uprising.

You know that Dalit consciousness, which I will consider as collective consciousness, represent an overwhelming majority. Dalit consciousness is an aggregate of the consciousness of the Dalits, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other backward communities and the minorities. Further, the Constitution of our country realised the very basics of historical dynamism. Therefore, in their wisdom, they offered certain privileges which I call or characterise as positive discrimination. They have been exposed to ruthless exploitation for ages and decades together. They should be compensated for and for that, there are certain articles

enshrined in the Constitution of our country which we call in our political parlance as affirmative discrimination. I know that there are certain segments of our society which call it an indiscrimination. They call the Government's position or the constitutional position as offensive to them, as inimical to them and this raises a conflict between the collective consciousness of the depressed and the consciousness of a few to perpetuate their rule, their predominance, their economy, politically and socially. If we view the Dalit uprising from that point of view, many of the problems which we are suffering from can be resolved.

Regarding discussion of statues, some of the very distinguished hon. Members of the House have said that many statues are built or erected but are not properly maintained. Even birds do nuisance on their heads. It is true but that does not explain the responsibility of the society, of the Government and of those who are there to enforce law and order. The desecration of the statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar is nothing but an affront against the *Dalits*. This is nothing but an insult to the Constitution of our country. This is nothing but a body-blow to the sense of self-respect and dignity of the collective consciousness of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the minorities along with those saner sections of society which have an abiding faith in secular democracy. Therefore, I cannot but condemn, with all the emphasis at my command, and protest against this anti-social activity. I think, the entire House would join me in condemning these anti-social activities. The Governments of all the States should also be aware of this emotion of the people.

Some questions have been raised regarding the role of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. One of the columnists of our country has written a book about which mentions have been made. I have little time at my disposal to go through it. But I quote the following lines :

"The theme of the entire book is to prove that Dr. Ambedkar was a supporter of British Government, anti-freedom movement, opposed the Indian Nationalists especially Gandhiji, supported Dalits for his personal gains, helped the formation of Pakistan, was planted by the British Government in the Constituent Assembly, helped the Britishers conquer India, not the sole leader of Dalits, a job seeker and selfish person, etc."

If one of the framers of the Constitution is sought to be depicted in this light, does it add to the glory of the country? Does it add to the magnanimity of the Constitution of ours? I protest against it. I think, the entire House should protest in the way they like. We should know once again what Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was and is to us. This country is indebted to him.

I want to quote two or three sentences with your permission. I know your difficulty. Sometimes I have also to stop you when I am in the Chair while you are speaking. Today, it is fortunate for me that you are there and I am here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You take your own time.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Thank you very much. He says :

"Where will the centre of political power be? Who will have it? Will the depressed classes be heirs of it? These are the questions that form their chief concern. The depressed classes feel that they will get no share of the power unless the political machinery for the new Constitution of a special make."

Our Constitution has been of a special make because it exercised its affirmity, against the discrimination of the *Dalits*, the exploited and the neglected and the underprivileged. He goes on further to say and, I think, you will take a note of it :

"In the Constitution of that machine, certain hard facts of Indian social life must not be lost sight of. It must be recognised that the Indian society is a gradation of castes forming an ascending scale of reverence and a descending scale of contempt - a system which gives no scope for the growth of that sentiment of equality and fraternity so essential for a democratic form of Government."

Therefore, when he spoke that, he spoke not only for the *dalits*, a particular section of the society, but he spoke also about the hopes and aspirations of all the exploited, down-trodden of our country; not only of our country but also, in my view, of other countries.

Sir, lastly, he said in the Constituent Assembly and I quote :

"We must have a Government in which the men in power will give their undivided allegiance to the best interest..."

Sir, I have lost the relevant papers. Anyway, he said that unless there is a social upliftment, unless there is a re-fashioning of the society, the fruits of this Constitution cannot be available to all sections of the society. This is what Dr. Ambedkar said. If you call Dr. Ambedkar merely as a representative of a particular segment of the society, then it will not be doing justice to him; but it will be doing injustice to him. He is the beacon's light of all the oppressed, all the suppressed and all the down-trodden. Therefore, from that point of view, desecration of the statue of Dr. Ambedkar is an insult to us...*(Interruptions)* Your voice is heard; you are also known and you are also identified.

There were differences between Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Ambedkar on the very sensitive issue of untouchability. I will just take a minute to quote him. The attitude of Gandhiji has been explained by this simple paragraph. On the eve of the passing this Bill on separate electorates for the depressed classes, Gandhiji decided to fast unto death. He declared and I quote :

"What I want; what I am living for and what I should delight in dying for is eradication of

[Shri Chitta Basu]

untouchability. This is in order to achieve this dream of my life for the last 15 years."

But Shri Sitaramaiah, who wrote a history on Indian National Congress, described this statement of Mahatma Gandhi that it is more a personal attitude of Mahatma Gandhi, more borne of religiosity for the religious sentiments. But here, Dr. Ambedkar differed. Dr. Ambedkar was a sociologist. He considered this problem of untouchability from that point of view of the reasons of origin of the caste system in our society.

Therefore, Dr. Ambedkar was a sociologist. He described and analysed this society and tried to develop a programme through which untouchability could be removed from this society lock stock and barrel.

The difference between Gandhi and Ambedkar has been shown by this author. Here I would like to comment that the difference between Ambedkar and Gandhi is not the same as shown. I have differences with Gandhiji's philosophy. Subhas Chandra Bose had differences with him. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had differences with him. But that does not mean they were not patriots. That does not mean that Netaji was unpatriotic. If some columnist writes that the difference between them in the approach to politics, social mobility and philosophy are the same, that is over simplification. I condemn this attitude.

Whether this book will be banned or not I leave it to the Government. But I also want to remind our Congress friends to just refer to an article he wrote in the year 1929. He said :

"It is a dangerous power in the hands of the Government the right to determine what shall be there and what shall not be there. Some of us may be happy today to ban a particular book but tomorrow my book and my conscience may be also suppressed."

Lastly, today I read in the newspaper that the Minister of Social Welfare, Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia - he is not here - made a speech in Chandigarh criticising the attitude of certain sections of bureaucracy. He said :

"In so far as certain sections of the bureaucrats, their attitude is constrained, unhelpful, uncooperative in so far as dalits are concerned."

If the Social Welfare Minister of the country makes such a public statement, I think it is a matter of great concern and it becomes the duty of the Government to rectify the position. This kind of attitudinal approach is dangerous and it is violative of the Constitution of our country.

I hope that the entire House would agree with me in expressing condemnation at the police atrocities perpetrated, not in Patna, but in Mumbai. With these words I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Mr. Chairman, I condemn the incident of assault and firing by police on unarmed dalits in Mumbai. I consider it a heinous crime. There has been a lot of discussion on this incident in the House, but the reaction of the Members of the opposition parties, whether they are Senior leader or speakers of Shiv Sena or B.J.P., they have very much pained me. On one hand, instead of feeling sorry for it, they repeatedly compared it with the incidents of other states or incidents of firing, Whereas on the other hand, as for the incident of 13th July, it was emphasised that people are not discussing the incident of assault on the leader of Republican Party, Shri Athavale by the crowd.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell this House that there is qualitative difference between the incident involving Shri Athavale, and the incident of 11th July or 15th July. In the incident of 11th July an unarmed crowd was assaulted without any provocation and reason. It is correct that the State Government has constituted a commission which would inquire into its various aspects. Its terms of reference are to find facts from the point of conspiracy and what were the reasons leading to it? But the people who went there, including our Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Railways. All citizen commission, Non-Governmental organisations, retired Judges and the reports of the newspapers say that there was no reason for provocation. The rules of Police Manual have been violated. Such a heinous incident could have been avoided if Police had acted prudently. But it was not done.

Sir, on the other hand the Congress leader, Shri Bhujbal was assaulted in such an area which is otherwise very safe area, the area of V.I.P's and Ministers and where the policemen were present in adequate number. He was assaulted by armed volunteers of the ruling party at his home and about the incident of 11th July it has been said that the crowd there had become so excited that it would have burnt down the oil tanker, which was there, thereby the whole of the area would have caught fire, if the Police had not taken action. Therefore, Police opened fire as a precautionary measure to prevent big loss of life and property. Fifty round of bullets were fired, but not a single target was missed. Fifty persons were injured and more than 11-12 persons were killed. All hon'ble members in this House have given statement about these deceased persons. Therefore, I don't want to waste time by repeating that. On the other side, there is the incident of 15th July where the violent crowd of Shiv Sainiks assaulted a leader of opposition and the same Police remained inactive whereas on 11th July, it promptly opened fire. The miscreants went to the House of the said leader. He was searched but he escaped somehow with his gunman. The whole of his belongings were burnt down. After that, the Minister of Home Affairs gave statement that the Supremo of that Party has

given assurance to me that no such incident would recur. But it has been published in the 'Dainik Jagaran' dated 19th July, that Bal Thakeray has said that for the past some time Bhujabal had been saying ill founded things against the Government and Shiv Sena. While opposing the Government he transgressed all the limitations, which acted like kerosene in further stoking the sentiments of Shiv sainiks. He blamed Bhujabal also for the insult of the Statue of Ambedkar...(Interruptions) what you did there, I would tell you that later on. Keep patience. I want to say that...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have been speaking on Mumbai. Don't take up the issue of Guest House.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : They want to derail me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : They want to derail you.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : I would stick to my issue. It is their statement. Shri Sarpotdar, who is very responsible and is the speaker of Shiv Sena, has also said so. Sarpotdarji has said in this House, in this very debate that the assault of 15 July was the result of the personal changes levelled by him. This was a planned assault. It was to teach him a lesson. Therefore, I want to refer to one more incident to substantiate my this argument and point in this House which is related to a former Municipal Commissioner, Shri Tinayekar. What their Supremo has said about that. He had also given same statement against their Government. I quote...(Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : In which Newspaper it has appeared.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : I don't have newspaper at the moment but I am quoting from the newspaper with very much responsibilities...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Tell the date of its publication.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : It is not the question of time. I am telling their mentality as to how his mind works. He has said.

[English]

"Had Chatrapathi Shivaji Maharaj been alive, he would have thrown Mr. Tinaiker from the top, but people in Shiva Sahi will offer mild punishment and he will be beaten up by chappals."

[Translation]

I want to say that this is the mentality of the people who are in power there...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDRA YADAV (Khalilabad) : Tirke is not a Police Commissioner. You must have read some other name by mistake.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : I am not saying it by mistake. I am saying it with full responsibility. If you call it untrue, give the proof...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : After him, Shiv Sena member Shri Mohan Rawale would speak. Please listen to him. After that you can speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Mumbai-South) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not stopping him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not stopping but you are interrupting his speech.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : There is no Police Commissioner named 'Tirke'...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is speaking with full responsibility and if it is wrong, there is provision in the rules in this regard. You exercise that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Not only this, I would like to tell about them that there was a film 'Bombay'. The Cinema hall was set at fire in which this film was being screened. These people made allegation against Shri A.K. Hangal, who is a famous actor that he had participated in a programme held on 14th August in the office of Pakistan High Commission. The Cinema hall was set at fire in which 'Sholay' film was being screened because he had played a small role in this film. In 'Illustrated Weekly' an article was published against him. They issued 'Fatwa' and at last Congress party which was in the power requested to the Editor of this magazine that unpublished 'Illustrated Weekly' may not be released in the market.

I would like to submit that 'Shiv Sena' Supremo believes in dictatorship. He does not believe in democracy of any kind, whatsoever. He works as an extra constitutional authority and therefore he has created this atmosphere in Maharashtra, particularly in Mumbai and thousands of families of my constituency work in Mumbai. We are aware of the riots which erupted there, in which workers of Shiv Sena in nexus of Police played havoc. Not only one but dozens of examples can be cited in this regard. It is very serious matter. It is not a simple incident of police firing on any leader or worker of Congress but it is a serious matter because this violence was instigated at the behest of the chief of a political party and it may lead to disintegration of the society or country.

Communalism is an evil but we should know that communalism of majority community is more dangerous as compared to the communalism of minorities but a bit of communalism can be the contribution of the Government which is more dangerous as compared to the communalism on large scale from the side of minorities—hence the communalism of the Government which is in the power affects the collector, commissioner,

[Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari]

its boss and Police. Minorities or weaker Section consider themselves insecure.

Secondly, the issue of Ambedkarji has been raised in objectionable manner. I have high regard for Ambedkarji. He does not belong to a particular caste but he is the leader of India. If he is insulted, India is insulted but there are some forces in the country which deliberately, intend to insult Gandhiji, freedom fighter and martyrs.

I would like to mention an incident of Uttar Pradesh. Recently, Gandhiji's Statue has been desecrated and sabotaged in Sitapur and when the workers of Samajwadi Party raised hue and cry, they were prosecuted under Harijan Act and in which manner Shiv Sena is carrying out propaganda against Gandhiji, attention should also be paid towards that. Today these forces declare Chandrashekhar Azad as terrorist and they compare Ambedkar with Gandhiji and other people. There are fundamentalist forces having the design of disintegration.

I would like to point out in the House that the danger from these fundamentalist forces is more grave as compared to the danger of Hindu-Muslim tangle. If these forces succeed in their objective, I can say that the country would disintegrate into state countries and countries based on castes and communities because the Unity of the country can not be maintained. When the people are willing, only then the unity of the country can be maintained. Fundamentalists can not create this willingness, rather they create hatred. Today many people call themselves well-wishes of Dalits. I do not consider them even that, rather I take them as manipulators who make provocative statements here and mislead the people. I would like to submit that if such ideology and conspiracy succeeds, it would produce dangerous results. What pitiable conditions are prevailing in the country. Ambedkarji himself had stated in his speech in the Constituent Assembly that after thousands of years such situation has crept up wherein we have emerged as a United Nation. Ours is the most ancient country in the world but it was not in the form of United Nation earlier. It was divided in provinces and castes and now we have achieved independence. We have framed our own constitution, our own Parliament and we have united the entire country. If we repeat the same mistake, the country would ultimately disintegrate and unity would be disturbed which we have achieved after thousands of years. We are facing this danger today, hence the House should consider these points. There is no need to compare the figures of fatalities in each place. But the views of the Government which is in power, the conduct of its Chief and propriety of its supporters should be considered. If discipline is not maintained and efforts are made to suppress the weaker sections by misuse of the power, it would have ill effects on our set up. I do not take it as such, but it is not the people ruling for a few months

or a few years rather it is the people of the country and the historians who would decide as to who was in fact the great leader and who were the Martyr?

People evaluate the persons, Leaders and Great men after hundreds and thousands of years. Therefore they will decide it. Hence there is no need to worry about it. But cutting across the party line, a voice should be raised in the house against those who are trying to disintegrate this country and the society by misusing their power because we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of our independence, therefore, no compromise should be made with such forces. When these fundamentalist forces get defeated, they take the cover of liberalism and at the time of test, these forces show their true colour. The supermo of these forces gave assurance to Home Minister, which was discussed in the house as well. But he warned Railways Minister not to enter Mumbai.

MR. CHAIRMAN : A discussion has taken place on that issue for one full hour. You should make your submission.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : I want to point out that they have no right to issue 'Fatvas' and threats or show such conduct. He himself while releasing the book on Hitler had said that Shri Narasimha Rao, an incapable Prime Minister, must be replaced by a person like Hitler in India. The person who praises Hitler, speaks for Godse, believes in dictatorship never have faith in democracy. To defeat those forces, we must work unitedly to empower the country and make it united.

With these words I condemn the incidents of Mumbai and demand that as they can never give justice to those who are apprehensive of violence, Who are exploited, who are sufferers, it would be better to dismiss such a Government and stern action should be taken against such people so that they can be discouraged, not encouraged.

SHRI RAJARAM P. GODASE (Nasik) : I am also Godase, tell about whom he has said?

SHRI RAM NAIK : He is right. His surname is also Godase.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can very well understand about whom he is referring to.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The name of Nathu Ram Godase must be there on records, it would be better.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down, he is joking.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You yourself are wasting the time of your own Member. Shri Mohan Rawale.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai-South Central) : First of all, on behalf of Shiv Sena, I pay my tributes to the Dalits killed in the recent police firing in Ramabai Nagar of Mumbai.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so many misgivings are being spread in the House. Tiwariji has misled the House. He has mentioned about one Mr. Tirke, as commissioner. I want to say that there is no such commissioner there. I belong to the region from where Dr. Ambedkar had contested. The leader of the Congress Party in the House had said that Dr. Ambedkar fought for the self respect of the oppressed and the exploited and his thoughts and ideology have given a feeling of self confidence in that community. Now, they have started speaking against injustice and atrocities committed on them. This is a big change that has been seen in the country but they only feel the change. The area from which I got elected has a large number of Dalits and also, it is the same area from where Dr. Ambedkar had contested. But the love of those Congress people who have contested in the name of Dr. Ambedkar for Dalits is a sham ...*(Interruptions)* In 1978, riots had started on the same day in the evening when Sharad Pawar ji had said about this and a resolution was passed. The houses of Dalits were attacked. Some sections of the society were not in favour of linking the name of Dr. Ambedkar. All parties except Shiv Sena had given support to this and tried to implement this Resolution. Much about Bal Thackeray's thinking was said and it was stated that Shiv Sena advocated to expand the name to Baba Sahib Bhimrao Ambedkar Marathwara. It will be beneficial in two ways. Firstly, word 'Marathwara' will be added to the name of Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar and secondly, feeling of Marathwara people would also be honoured. Earlier, riots were being provoked there. Those congressmen were involved in these riots, who are making allegations against us today. They were involved in those riots and were leading the people indulging in riots. They attacked the Dalits. Marathwara had suffered losses due to these agitations and Morchas. Shiv Sena never opposed the Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar's name.

After Baba Saheb Ambedkarji, Thackeray ji has appealed and there was peace and no agitation has taken place, no one has been killed. All this happened due to Mr. Thackeray. Ex-Chief Minister of that state is not present here. He has also appreciated Bal Thackerayji. He repeatedly said on phone that only you can maintain peace in Maharashtra. Today many misunderstandings are being publicised about the Chief of Shiv Sena. We have "Samna" newspaper there. They have tried to raise false matter here but the truth has never been told. While holding Ambedkarji in high esteem our "Samna" has written that Ambedkar was not respectable only for one section but by the entire world. There is great respect towards Chhatrapati Maharaj Shivaji in their mind. Shiv Sena can never do such a heinous work which defames it. It was the work of selfish people to defame Shri Thackerayji. It is the handy work of the same Congress which can never tolerate to remain out of power. Mr. Bal Thackeray had said that whenever there is Legislative Assembly session in Maharashtra, that time these people always search issues. When they did not find any such issue, they started burning and garlanding with chhappals the

statue of Baba Saheb Ambedkar just to provoke dalits and they instigated dalits. The dalit brothers who were killed in this incidents...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Whose speech is this?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : You have repeatedly told about Thackerayji, there are the views of Thackerayji, that is why, with the permission of the chair I am telling in the House that from the very beginning he has paid tribute on behalf of Shiv Sena to the dalits killed in this incident and deplored this incident. He has conveyed heartfelt condolence towards the families of those killed. Many a times Baba Saheb Ambedkar and Chhatrapati Shivaji have been defamed in Maharashtra.

16.00 hrs.

Such incidents have taken place in Malegaon and Shrirampur and all the people arrested in these incidents belong to Republican Party. Congress has always been using dalits and sacrificing dalits. They are shedding crocodile tears and want dalit sympathy. After that the attack on Chhagan Bhujbal has been condemned.

Our hon. Chief Minister had also condemned, that a bandh was observed on 11th July to mark protest against the firing that took place on 10th of July. Shiv Sena Chief, Shri Bala Sahib Thackeray and our hon. Chief Minister had expressed their solidarity with them.

16.01 hrs.

[PROF. RITA VERMA *in the Chair*]

We have sympathy with those who were killed. We do not want any more riots to take place. They supported bandh with their own sentiments. On 16th July Bala Sahib Thackeray had made an appeal to keep patience and to resume their work, as there had already been enough rioting. The people should go to their respective work for the development of Maharashtra. The riots had caused heavy loss to the public property in Mumbai and in Maharashtra and has consequently impeded the development of the State. In the face of ongoing riots, there is no time for the development of dalits. Many good schemes have been lying standstill. There would be no further development due to these riots and the opposition would say that the Government is not doing any work. Bala Sahib Thackeray had appealed that we should maintain peace even in the face of instigation.

On 18th July some people set the public property on fire in Mumbai and Maharashtra. Only they can tell what sort of political mileage they derived out of that, but the loss took place due to it. Shiv Sena Chief, Bala Sahib Thackeray had said that all of us should work peacefully. Earlier, there was Congress throughout the country. People of the country are aware of their double standards. We have wiped out Congress in Maharashtra. Congress has been rooted out in other places in the

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

country. There is not even a single member from Maharashtra...*(Interruptions)* You have the leader of opposition. Tell them that Maharashtra belongs to all. I am saying that the whole country is for you.

I would like to inform about the places where atrocities have been committed. Atrocities were committed in Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Gujarat, Bihar, Kerala and at other places. I would like to present some figures in this regard. Atrocities were perpetuated on 1050 persons in Andhra Pradesh, 1630 dalits in Karnataka, 500 people in Kerala, 400-700 in Rajasthan and 1200 people in Tamilnadu. Atrocities were committed on 7600 dalits in Uttar Pradesh, 1200 dalits in Maharashtra. Atrocities have been perpetuated on the dalits throughout the country. I would like to ask one question from Shri Sharad Pawar ji as well as all other leaders. Recently, I had been to Madurai. I saw a poster on a bus that 10 dalits were murdered. The bus in which we were travelling was diverted. On being asked we were told that ten dalits had been murdered. More than 100 dalits had been killed in Andhra Pradesh since 1983. Were they not aware? Today Sharad Pawar ji is saying that we murdered the dalits. I would like to know from all of them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : How many were killed in police firing...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Please listen, I am coming to that. You did not murder dalits. There was Congress rule in Maharashtra on 10th October, 1989. Rioting took place in Chembur. Women named Alka Jadhav, Suhas Kambli and Nanware, these three dalits were killed, were these dalits not killed during Congress rule?...*(Interruptions)* He is asking about the killings of the dalits. We have sufficient previous data also in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

You have heard that more than 24000 people have been killed in Bihar. He does not remember about the entire nation. You have asked about Mumbai. An enquiry is being conducted in this regard. We have accepted the demand for a judicial enquiry. They gave us two months time which we accepted. Did such a thing happen during their regime. We are taking two months time. Whosoever is found guilty, would be punished. As Sharad Pawar ji had said the day before yesterday that the tankers were brought from outside. Mollaha ji, who is present here, had condemned his statement. Mollah ji had said that tankers were there for repairs for the last 15 days. Mollaha ji is a responsible Member and he had said that his team visited that place. He had said that the people there speak so and he did not know if there was gas in the tanker or not. The Leader of the Opposition is saying that tankers were brought there. Today, there are still many more people asking as to how the incident of firing above the waist took place. I would not take anyone's name. Sharad Pawar ji spoke, the communists

spoke, Chowdhary ji spoke, Mollaha ji spoke and prior to them many speakers spoke. I would like to know when Mamta ji took out a procession in Bengal, the 13 people who were killed - so were they not fired above the waist? The 105 people have given their lives for United Maharashtra. There was one man named Ramlu from Andhra Pradesh. He sat on a hunger strike for Andhra people and the Union Government had accepted the linguistic and state level differences. Later on an agitation was launched and 105 people were killed. Were those 105 people not fired at above the waist level? At that time, you did not say that the Congress had terminated their Government. The Congress was in power in the Centre also. Just now some of our hon. Members, Sarpotdar ji, Ram Naik ji and Shri Pramod Mahajan have thrown some light on this fact. They showed the photograph of the riots that took place day before yesterday. A corporator of the Congress party was seen petting stones. Had they asked for an enquiry into the firing incident, we would have accepted their demand but instead of maintaining peace, they resorted to inciting the people. How can one expect these people to quell the fire since they themselves are responsible for igniting it?

When there was the Government of Shri Virendra Patil in Karnataka, they took to rioting there to protest against his sacking. They resorted to rioting to remove the Chenna Reddy Government in Andhra. When Sudhakar Naik ji was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Hindu-Muslim riots took place in Mumbai in December, 1992-93. They say that now he is not the leader. He is a very influential leader of Maharashtra. He had commented about the riots.

More than 318 people were killed. As he is not present here today, I would not like to mention his name. He had said that those who were asking for Sudhakar Naik ji's resignation are behind the riots i.e. the Congressmen were behind the riots. Sudhakar Naik ji had said in Sambhaji Nagar that the Defence Minister from Maharashtra should go to Mumbai. He had said so in Sambhaji Nagar and in Aurangabad that those who have been elected the leader of the House should not have been elected the leader of the House, should not have been allowed to get even the membership of the Congress. Perhaps he was the member of your executive committee. He had been the former Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much more time you will take?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Madam, Chairperson, I am speaking after a gap of one year.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Speak about Mumbai.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I am coming on to Mumbai...*(Interruptions)* Those people who speak about others' mentality, what is their own mentality, I am telling about that. We have respect for Shri Vitthal Gadgil in our hearts. He is the spokesman of the Congress. During

the Congress rule, I don't remember whether Sharad Pawarji was Chief Minister or not at that time, the Congress workers attacked Gadgil. The law and order situation had worsened there at that point of time. Why the Article 356 was not used then? There was an attack on Shri R.K. Dhawan. His Personal Secretary was hospitalised. How is Shri R.K. Dhawan, I don't know. Did the law and order situation not deteriorate then? Did anybody not feel insulted then? This is the mentality of the Congress workers.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : You should tell about Mumbai also.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I am coming on to Mumbai...*(Interruptions)* Punjab was quiet. Many of our fellow MPs know that. But they disquietened Punjab. They incited Bhindarawale to dislodge the Akali Dal Government; they gave him support. We have great respect for the late Indiraji in our hearts, but she became a martyr in that process. They did all these things to split the Akali Dal...*(Interruptions)* I am talking all this to bring out their mentality. I am talking about the crimes they have committed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : What sort of talks are going on here. Do they relate to Mumbai of the Maharashtra Government? What he should talk about, he does not know even about that. Where has Punjab come in the picture? You should tell about the plight of dalits in Maharashtra.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Chavan Saheb, you give the reply later on. Rawaleji now you please conclude.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I am telling about their mentality...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No cross-talks please. Rawaleji, please conclude now.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Madam, Chairperson there was an agitation in Mumbai over border dispute. You had said why did they not hit below the belt. The agitation had lasted for 4 days from February 8 in 1967. We were of tender age at that time. Firing took place then in Mumbai during the Congress regime and many people were killed. The former Chief Ministers of the Congress be it Pawarji, Sudhakar Naikji or Antuleji, they had said that the dispute must come to an end. But they had resorted to firing. That time also firing was above the belt, it was not below the belt. At Parel in Mumbai where I live, there lived a girl named Veena Samant while she was sitting in the second floor of the building, they had killed her with bullet. What was all that?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You address your speech to me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : The President of the Congress Sitaram Kesriji had also made some demand. There was an attack at the house of Chhagan Bhujabal. All had condemned that act. The Chief Minister of

Maharashtra had also condemned that. You should have heeded the appeal which he had made for maintaining peace. A march was taken out and it was demanded through that if their point is not conceded, they would enter people's houses forcibly. What had said the Leader of the Opposition, they don't know about that...*(Interruptions)* I just want to reveal their mentality.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Any Leader of the Congress might have incited...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rawaleji, Please conclude now.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : No body had disgraced Ambedkarji...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Madam, Rawaleji is giving a good speech and raising his point again and again. It is alleged that when the house of Bhujbalji was attacked, he was present there. Was he present there or not? He should prove it that here because this is a good chance to prove it. The Hon. Member should clarify whether he was there or not?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : The mentality of the leader of the Opposition should be seen. I have respect for late Rajiv Gandhiji and Indiraji in my heart. But when they, by taking the name of Balasaheb Thackeray misuse it, anybody can get enraged at that. If they show disrespect towards our leader, we will not tolerate it. The feelings of the people should not be hurt. Their feelings are flared up if Thackeray is humiliated. The attack which took place on the Leader of the Opposition reveals their mentality...*(Interruptions)* I will reply to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rawaleji, it is more than half an hour since you started speaking. You conclude your speech within two minutes.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I want to place two issues ...*(Interruptions)* I will give a reply to your point. What is in writing with me, I want to ask about that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rawaleji, you have spoken for a long time. Please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE (Kopergaon) : Madam, the charge which Mr. Chavan has just labelled, is not true. He was asking Rawaleji just now whether he was there or not? Neither he was there nor the police report says so.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He himself could tell.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I will speak myself about me. Earlier, Sharad Pawar had asked whether the I.B. Inquiry was being conducted? I want to ask him, when a man died in police custody in Mumbai, he was gunned down by the police when he was admitted in a hospital; Police was on watch duty outside the hospital and a policeman was killed. As per my information the criminal is under the protection of Sharadji when he was Defence Minister, can you give a reply to it?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : This is now an old story.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : So what if it is old. We are not coward. I had gone there with Shri Suresh Nawale, the Health Minister and a boy named Chimman was with me, he is from my sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Madam, I went there, just adjacent to the way was Shri Chhagganji's house. I was standing there but got away within 5-10 minutes. Now all the leaders have named me. If the House think that I was involved in it then, I am prepared to surrender. Get it probed by the Police, I am emphatically saying that I was not there.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Are you talking of Maharashtra police or the CBI?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Madam, I have been elected there twice. The police know me well. If any of police personnel says that I was there in the procession, I would resign forthwith but the leader of the opposition of the state will have also to resign. I would like to tell you that one youth named Iqbal had defeated Shri Chhaggan Bhujbal. Now these people are out to implicate me. If the House or the Home Minister wishes so; I am prepared to surrender. I have no connection whatsoever with it. I had gone to see Suresh Navale and police men were with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now within two minutes. You have been speaking for long.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : As per my information all Hindus and Muslims live together there. I would like to tell you what Maharashtra Government has said about it. It is a matter of great sorrow that this unfortunate incident happened. Maharashtra is not the lone state to have had these kind of incidents. Such incidents have occurred in several parts of the country. We should see these things on the national level. If the riots trigger out every where and the police will be responsible for firing. The figures, I have given if 5-6 thousand people die in the riots, the entire blame will fall on the police. If the riots are not controlled in time, they may spread everywhere.

Madam, I have news reports of two newspapers of Maharashtra stating that the leader of opposition has no other job but to incite riots.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rawale ji, you please conclude within a minute otherwise I shall call the next speaker.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : He tried to incite the people for riots instead of controlling them. Therefore, the riots broke out and our Government said that 2000 statues out of total 9000 statues of Dr. Ambedkar in the state of are in Mumbai. These statues were

desecrated causing tension in the society. Riots also occur due to this in which property and lives are lost. Therefore, some foolproof arrangements should be made to protect these statues. If somebody or a group wants to take political mileage out of it, I would oppose it.

But our Government has kept a control over it. Our Government is trying to maintain the law and order situation. People used to respond to the appeals made by Mahatma Gandhi, J.P., Acharya Vinoba Bhave and V.P. Singh then what is wrong if our Home Minister met Balasaheb Thakeray for issuing an appeal. He restored the confidence and I am saying that it helped in maintaining peace in the state. There have been no excesses against dalits from our side. No one has mentioned the name of Shivsena in relation to desecration of the statue of Dr. Ambedkar. Therefore, I vehemently oppose the imposition of Article 356 in the state. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Madam, it is a matter of regret that Shri Sharad Pawar ji, who moved the resolution, did not attend the debate even for an hour. In any case, he has to give the reply.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : I would like to give one small clarification. Shri Sharad Pawar is undergoing an operation today and, that is why, he is not here.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rest of the members are there. They are jotting down. You please go ahead.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : I was born in Uttar Pradesh but I have had close links with Mumbai. I went there in 1951 for the first time. Several things have been mentioned here. A mention has been made of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Gandhiji and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar I for the first time saw Pt. Nehru in 1952. I do remember that Pt. Nehru had criticised Dr. Ambedkar for half an hour in his one hour long speech. I had known Dr. Ambedkar for the first time through Pt. Nehru and I also established a link with this city from then onwards.

Let me first come on to the issue that Maharashtra had, for the first time, lit the light of hopes in the form of Jotiba Phule to dispel the darkness of ignorance the state where Chhatrapati Sahuji was born who being a king had supported the dalits to open stalls and he himself took tea and drinks to eradicate untouchability and the state where Dr. Ambedkar was born who launched a ceaseless struggle against the age old dogmas and ills of our society and succeeded to a large extent, why dalits were killed in such a state? I do not believe that the dalits were killed by police during the regime of Shivsena or BJP and these parties should give their clarification here. I do not subscribe to this kind of approach. But this has been the system

of one society, Allamah Iqbal a great philosopher of the country has said,

"Takdir ke Kazi ka ye Fatwa Hai Azal Se
Hai Jurme Zaifi Ki Saza Marge Mafaazaat"

The question is that why in Maharashtra where awakening has been created amongst Dalits and backwards, the dalits of Maharashtra are weak? They are weak because at the political level they are divided. Otherwise such big incidents might not have happened there.

Madam, in the world those who are weak always have been the victims. It is not a new thing. I narrate one small incident to you. I never took much time. Today also I will not take much time. One renowned poet of Persian Abu Alah Mohrari was vegetarian. He was muslim but he never ate meat. He had a friend, and at his residence a very delicious meat of Partridge was prepared and he sent this at his residence as a gift, there after seeing the meat of partridge - he said that had you been hawk then you might not have been sent to me. Today, your fate would not have been this. You were partridge so you were killed and roasted. So the Dalits of Maharashtra may think that the place from where the light has come, why are they weak today? This motion has been moved by the Congress. Today the number two leader in the Congress is Shri Sharad Pawar. This motion has been introduced by him, who has been the Chief Minister of Maharashtra not only once but three to four times. As his reference has been made, I felt that perhaps Congress has changed its mentality and I understand that a person can change and the mentality of a person can also change. The mentality of the group also changes. The last points were repealed, I told to my friends of Shiv Sena that it has been correctly said that you attacked on news papers. You also attacked on Gujarati people. Some times you attacked on South Indians. They told that that was the time of movements. Today we are in power and we should be held responsible for the deeds done by us. This point was correct. He was the same Bala Saheb Thackeray who expressed happiness at the demolition of Babri Masjid. The same Bala Saheb Thackeray has made two statements that the country has suffered a great loss due to communalism. Now, the country is on the verge of devastation. The economy of the country is deteriorating. Now, we have to work for the reconstruction of the country after forgetting every thing. He is the same Bala Saheb Thackeray whose statement has been read by me twice in one or two months. The person changes. But whether it is correct that the Congress is changing. The Congress which has become the well-wisher of dalits and also the supporter of dalits, is it actually changing ...*(Interruptions)*. If it is actually changing, then we all should support the Congress. We want to confirm that the mentality of Congress is really changing. But I don't understand so...*(Interruptions)*

Those leaders of the Congress who established the Manuvadi system in this country after one thousand years, they are being praised by the present leaders. So I don't understand that Congress is changing but keeping in view its pitiable condition some affection has developed in them with the hope that our vote bank may increase...*(Interruptions)* Madam, when Shri Venkatswamy was speaking...*(Interruptions)* I am not advocating anyone. I am revealing the truth. Whatever I thought, I spoke. I am not advocating anyone. When our senior leader Shri Venkatswamy was speaking, I interrupted in between. You will remember that one couplet came to my mind, the couplet was like this- 'Don't air dust so much during the journey, which makes difficult to breath even after reaching the destination.' I interrupted and said that you have suppressed the historical facts in your regime of 50 years. Don't disturb them otherwise when the curtain will be drawn then many people who are revered, their secrets will be disclosed. I don't want to go deep into it. We are going to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our independence after a few days. But I don't want to go deep into it. But I would like to say that all the members of the Congress who are present in the House and who are not present in the House that you have described in detail about the Pune pact of 1932, it appeared that these leaders have concluded the pact. I would like to ask that why the Simon Commission came to India in 1927. Simon Commission came here to study the social system of this country and to devise means to establish humanity in this country. Who was against it, who gave the slogan- 'Simon Go Back', which was the force which created disturbance throughout the country, which was the force who termed Dr. Ambedkar and others as traitors who appeared before the Commission. Some day this question will be raised. If it will not be asked today, then the coming generation will ask that when after the presentation of the report of the Simon Commission, the Round Table Conference was called in London to examine the report, which was the force, who were the leaders who opposed Dr. Ambedkar for attending the conference and said that only Hindus and Muslims say, be allowed to attend the Conference. I would like to know that who wave the persons who threatened that if Dr. Ambedkar was invited to attend the round table conference, the Hindus will boycott it. I will boycott it. Who were the persons who implemented the call of boycott and didn't participate in the first round table conference.

I understand that my voice will reach to Shri Venkat Swamy and I would like to ask him that at any occasion, you reply to my questions or when Shri Sharad Pawar replies to this discussion, he should tell the names of those persons who tried their best to prevent Dr. Ambedkar from participating in the first round table conference. All the muslim leaders were invited in it and they were told that the interests of muslims would be signed on plain paper on behalf of the Hindus but don't try to invite Dr. Ambedkar in the Round Table

[Shri Iliyas Azmi]

Conference. The humanity's conscience will ask the question, that who were those people, which were those forces, you have to tell about it, who are becoming the lovers or Ambedkar for the sake of Dalit Votes?

He attacked on the one part of the speech of Hon'ble Kanshi Ram and said that on the statue of Dr. Ambedkar several birds make droppings. He felt sorry for it. I say that there is no such temple, mosque, Gurudwara or Church in the country where the birds don't dropping. But nobody runs after those birds, because the intentions and mentality of the birds is not to insult him but when human beings insult them, then human feelings are aroused. I would like to ask as to what point Kanshi Ram ji has made in which he took 15 minutes.

If not today you will have to tell about it, tomorrow that when it was decided in the Second Round Table Conference by Sir Ramse Macdonald that they would work for the welfare of humanity in this country and for those who were deprived of their rights, at that time who apposed him and said that he would prefer to die than to see Dr. Ambedkar's idea fulfilled. If you do not tell today then the conscience of humanity will ask this question from you tomorrow. Every part of the country will shout and you will have to spell out about that force which was fighting the battle for continuance of the thousand year old social system, opposed the Simon Commission compelled Dr. Ambedkar to sign the Poona Pact.

Madam, I have told and narrated the misdeeds of Congress...(Interruptions). No amount of condemnation of the killing of ten people would suffice. I can tell with full faith and confidence that clarifications given by Shiv Sena people are not acceptable and everybody know that the police which was deployed there used more force than required, otherwise there was no reason for ten casualties. I condemn that killing and demand from the Shiv Sena Government that all those police officials who were involved in that incident should atleast be put under suspension and merely suspending one or two persons will not do. But who are shedding crocodile tears on this incident?

I was present in Mumbai on that day when the Muslims had taken out a procession against Salman Rushdie's book. That was not a very big procession, it was a small procession and the processionists wanted to go upto the office of the British Deputy High Commission. Which power was ruling the State who stopped the procession at Crafford market crossing? Thereafter within five minutes, I too reached there and saw dead bodies with my own eyes. People told me that police has not permitted to go beyond that place.

People were pushing each other in the procession. They wanted to go. Police told the processionists that whosoever would come forward would be shot by them. A youngman came out, take his cloths and asked the police to shoot him. Police fired and he died. Thereafter, firing on them started and as a result of which 12

persons died and 25 were injured. Whether these fascists have paid even 5 rupees? Not a single police officer was suspended and even judicial inquiry was not ordered. They consider themselves secular and sympathiser of dalits. Those were the second class citizens if they died then it makes no difference. There are many persons who have always tried to supplies the facts.

Madam, I want to ask which party was ruling Arval in Bihar. In Arval, some dalits were holding a meeting. They were holding the meeting in a field which was surrounded by wall from all the four sides. The meeting was totally peaceful. There was no procession and slogans shouting. They were discussing their problems peacefully. The then congress Government of Bihar cordoned off that area from all the four sides and climbed on the wall and started firing. Fifty people were killed. All of them were dalits. Whether Article 356 was not there in the Constitution at that time? Whether Article 356 was added later on? I would not speak anything if it has been added subsequently but no body uttered a single word about this incident. Article 356 is a very big affair.

Madam, I would like to state that discussions might have taken place in this House in 1987. At that time, I was not a Member of this House but the Meerut incident might have been definitely discussed in this House? I want to say with full confidence that ever since the establishment of democracy and rule of law there have been only, two Government who had dragged out and killed their citizens. One of them was Hitler who taken out a section of people from their homes and put them in a gas chamber and they died within two minutes. That type of death was not less painful because person died within two minutes in a gas chamber. The Congress Government has ruled over Delhi once and at that time, the Congress party was in power in U.P. At that time hundreds of people belonging to one section of the society living in Hashimpurva and Maliyana of Meerut were dragged out from their houses and taken to the Police Station. There they were given a heavy beating and they were loaded in trucks and were taken to the banks of Hindon river and Ganges Canal and thereafter, bullets were showered on them. The dead bodies were thrown into the Hindon river and Gang Nahar. A big section of the dead persons were living on the banks of Hindon river and Gang Nahar. So this canal was put under heavy security from all the sides so that nobody could take the dead body and buried them. Thereafter, these dead bodies were buried under the earth in the forest situated on the banks of river. Out of them four persons who escape death were admitted to the hospital in Ghaziabad. But the security in the hospital was so tight that none of the news reporter and none else was allowed to meet these people.

Madam, to what extent should I narrate their story of fascism, even Hitler in his grave will be put to shame. The fascist Government of this country was rooted out by the people of the country. For this, I want to

congratulate the people of this country and hope that they will never commit such a mistake again so that Congress Government should not come to power again.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Look Azamiji. Only two hours were allocated for this discussion but we have already discussed this issue for 13 hours. All parties have consumed their time. So I would request all of you to finish your speech in ten minutes time.

Azami Saheb, you please finish your speech in two minutes. You have taken enough time.

SHRI ILIYAS AZAMI : Madam, I will finish in two minutes only. I have narrated the misdeeds of Congress, disclosed their hidden secret of fascism and it itself is an example which reflects the distorted mentality of the Congress. I consider that Congress Raj is in existence from 1885, not from 1947. People might consider Congress Raj from 1947. I want to say that Congress party was actually founded by Britishers to rule this country. Congress party has been ruling this country since 1885, except for some months from 1977 to 1979.

In the year 1989, it was thrown out of power for some time. Then, it again came into power but I am fully confident that this time, it will not come into power. This does not exactly mean that Congress had committed greater crime than Hitler in Maliyana and Hashimpur. Any of the successive party which came into power after Congress should not say that Congress had killed 70 people but we are killing only 5. Atrocities should be condemned wherever it takes place and the Members of the ruling party should demand exemplary punishment to the erring policemen and raise their voice against the atrocities so that the police force may not commit such mistakes in future. The police force in Maharashtra is the same. I remember one incident. Some days ago when we were sent to Belgium, the Foreign Secretary told us to answer queries with regard to human rights and C.T.B.T. after considering all the aspects. I asked the hon'ble Deputy Speaker to give me a chance to give reply to such questions. In my reply, the first thing I said was that our police force was constituted by them and thus they better know as to what has been taught to them about the human rights. I am saying that only about 2-3 percent police force of Maharashtra may have been recruited during their period and who have been imparted training during their regime and remaining police force certainly would have been recruited and trained during their regime. They had imparted them the training of firing bullets and killing human beings. I had mentioned only the incident which occurred on 12th but on 7th December, 1992 when firing took place on dalits, 90 people were killed in the police filling at a distance of one kilometre of Gavandi area of Beganwadi. They admitted the death of 30 people only. I can say with certainty that they had killed 90 persons at a time by opening fire at them and here in the House they are talking about humanity. While concluding, I would like to condemn strongly the

incident in which five or seven people were killed and appeal to the Government of Maharashtra as well as the Members of ruling party to get punished all those police personnels who opened unprovoked firing, and that too beyond limit, a common man feels that excessive firing was resorted to by policemen and all those should be punished. Judicial inquiry has been ordered. You have given two months' time. But I am sure that the enquiry report will not be submitted within two or four months. Conducting an inquiry is a different matter and you can punish them till then. But if they acquitted in the trial, then they will be reinstated. So, they should be punished. I would like to state very clearly that on many of the points, my views have not been different from the Shiv Sena for B.J.P. But whatever had happened there in which 300...*(Interruptions)* The whole country is hearing and watching this.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : There is no difference between you and the Shiv Sena.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Were you delivering your speech there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please address the Chair.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : 20 days ago there appeared a report in newspaper "Dopahar". The Shiv Sena Cadre did the offence of attack 'Mahanagar' newspaper in Mumbai. I do admit that it was wrong on their part. Shiv Sena must have beaten some journalists during their movement. This was absolutely a wrong act on their part. These people got excited over the two articles appeared in the newspaper 'Dopahar' in which they appreciated the Uttar Pradesh Government and Kumari Mayawati. They totally destructed the office of the newspaper. The editor of the newspaper 'Dopahar' belongs to U.P. Shri Nizam Rayani is the resident of Kayamganj. These people thrashed the proprietor of the newspaper so badly that he had to be hospitalised for several days ...*(Interruptions)* They were the people of Samajwadi Party...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not indulge in cross-talk.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : If I am wrong then reply to it. The 'Gundaraj' which was initiated by you in U.P. has now been extended by you upto Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please address the Chair and conclude.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : The culture of Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*. The newspaper 'Dopahar' ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You, give reply when your turn comes.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this. You please take your seat. Don't indulge in cross talks. Azmi Saheb, you please conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Before concluding I do suggest before the entire House and the whole country that such a condemnable incident should not be allowed to take place in any part of the country. While sending the police force to disperse any type of mob whether it is of political or religious nature or any other nature, it should be provided with rubber bullets instead of bullets made of lead. If the entire country agrees on this suggestion, I think that such incidents, which took place in Bombay during the regime of Congress party would not recur...*(Interruptions)*

I am very much thankful to you and the Parliament. My speech would certainly have hurt some people but I am thankful to them that they listened to me very patiently.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would like to make an appeal to all of my colleagues that a lot of time has already been spent. Please do not take liberty of even one second more than ten minutes. Please keep this in your mind.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : For how long this debate will go?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Six members have still to speak.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Madam, Chairperson, the discussion on this subject is going on for a long time. I would like to submit my views with regard to its other aspect. My friend Shri Sharad Pawar is unwell today and therefore, he is not present. But Congress is responsible for these atrocities on Dalits. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 was formulated by Shri Rajiv Gandhi and it was enacted simply to fetch dalit votes in favour of the Congress party. This legislation is as abnoxious as TADA, MISA and 'RASUKA'. In these legislations, attempt has been made to violate various provisions of the Constitution to fetch votes in their favour. The adverse affect of that Act was - that the congenial atmosphere between Dalits and non-Dalits and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was vitiated. When a person of one village used to go to another village and happened to see the daughter of a dalit of that village, he used to give his blessings to her after enquiring about her well-being. But the legislation enacted by Shri Rajiv Gandhi created the atmosphere of bitterness among them and gave the weapon in the hands of corrupt officers and it became the means of earning money illegally and to create enmity among them. In this context, I would like to say that social enmity, mutual hatred had been created by such a legislation.

It would have been better if Shri Mulayam Singh ji were here. He was present before lunch but when my turn has come he has already left the House. Our leaders

of Samajwadi Party shed tears for Dalits of Maharashtra and other States. But their leaders in Uttar Pradesh are going from village to village and town to town saying that if Shri Mulayam Singh ji is made Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, he would not implement the Dalit Act. I would like to ask him or any other member of his party as to whether there is any provision that if the Central Government legislates a law, the State Government can stop its implementation. By saying so he is creating communal tension. Besides, they try to get riots broken out by provoking communal and social feeling...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonla) : He is misleading the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : I am not yielding. You please listen to me first.

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : You have asked me to give reply. So I am standing to reply...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Please listen to me now, you can reply later. Yes, I am saying that it has been said. If the Minister of Defence has such moral courage, then he should deny it on the floor of the House and I will agree with you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Saravraj Singh ji, please take your seat. Please don't disturb.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : And it is being published in all the newspapers. The Minister of Defence has also said that he would give the reservation to muslims after abolishing the reservation for Dalits and thus Dalits-muslims riots took place. Due to his utterances the riots have broken out between Dalits and Muslims. You are not aware of the speeches being delivered by the Minister of Defence...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Saravraj Singh ji, you please take your seat. You don't indulge in cross talks. I will not allow you to speak, only the speaker would speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Such an unharmonious atmosphere has been created in the entire Uttar Pradesh. At every nook and corner...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You take your seat. Don't disturb, you reply when your turn comes.

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : He has quoted him.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : It is difficult to bridge the gap between Dalits and non-Dalits. Riots have broken out.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat, I am telling you.

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : He has quoted the Minister of Defence and he has said that he may reply if he is present here. We are ready to reply.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : I have mentioned the name of the Minister of Defence. I would like to know from the Minister of Law and Home Affairs as to whether there is any provision that the Government of Uttar Pradesh can stop the implementation of the provisions of this law? Whether the implementation of any law enacted by Central Government can be stopped by any State Government in the federal system under the Constitution? I am categorically saying that Shri Mulayam Singh ji has said it in his speech delivered in 'Sur Sadan' in Agra...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are interrupting repeatedly.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : A tape is available with me. If he has moral courage, he should deny it. I am ready to show and play the tape for you. He also said that when he was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, he had abolished the Section 37 in the interest of traders. There is provision in the Essential Commodities Act in Uttar Pradesh that they can stop the notification of certain things. He is trying to mislead the people of Uttar Pradesh on that ground.

I am saying this thing because the workers of Samajwadi Party are provoking the people in every nook and corner and creating problems.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rawat ji, you speak about Maharashtra.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Tears are shed for Dalits. If the people of Samajwadi Party, United Front are shedding tears...*(Interruptions)* I am worried about Dalits who were robbed off in Agra and Uttar Pradesh. It is not necessary that it only happened in Maharashtra.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Tell about the persons who have been killed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : I will speak about Maharashtra also, but I would not allow atrocities on Dalits of Uttar Pradesh, who are innocent, at the cost of Dalits of Maharashtra. I would not tolerate that people of entire State are provoked by creating tension between Dalits and the upper castes.

Therefore, I want to expose those persons who speak some thing here and something different in Uttar Pradesh. The Leaders of United Front say something here whereas partner of United Front Leader of Samajwadi party and Minister of Defence says something different when he goes to Uttar Pradesh. He is doing this in every district of Uttar Pradesh. He has gone several times to Kanpur. Even yesterday or day before yesterday also he had gone to Kanpur and called upon the youth to get prepared? Caste bitterness is being created by spreading upper casteism. I would like to say that if he is honest then he could bring an

amendment or the United Front could bring an amendment so that the shortcomings in this law which is made by Rajiv Gandhi could be assessed. It may be ascertained that what is contrary to social justice, how a gap is being created between upper castes and scheduled castes and how the corrupt officers are exploiting the people. But in today's 19 or 10 hours discussion nothing constructive is discussed. Therefore, I would like to say that whatever Shri Mulayam Singh says in Uttar Pradesh, is not proper. I invite him for this. My saying is that clause 4 of section 3 of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention) of Atrocities Act gives right of extortion to officers. I am specifically quoting - 'It creates gap between scheduled castes and general class. It violates fundamental rights of equality enshrined in the constitution'. This provision may be amended to this effect only.

17.00 hrs.

That before the enforcement of this provision general law will be followed and if anybody commits crime even after the action taken under the provisions of general laws, then he will get punishment under Scheduled Casts and Scheduled Tribes (Preventing Atrocities) Act. If this much is done, oppression of these people can be stopped. We want that they may get justice, they may share the fruits of progress and create social-harmony. But in the name of creating social harmony, officials are misusing constitutional laws and provisions. You have given powers to those persons who are misusing it. Many officers, who under the influence of Samajwadi Party, are misusing it and they are charging Rs. 5000 from the people of scheduled castes for giving lease. Such cases have happened in Agra. Downtrodden people have informed us that Rs. 5000/- were taken from them for giving lease. Whereas, it is said to the farmers and upper class people that their conduct was not good they would challan them. On this basis in some cases a bribe upto Rs. 20,000 has been taken.

This House is a supreme body in the country. I would like to ask that whether we really want to give them justice or not? When such type of atrocities are committed on them then it increases only differences in the state and the country.

The process of consolidation of land is going on in Uttar Pradesh. But where denotification has not been done, there also officers are saying that they will give lease, whereas they don't know the location of gramsabha land. In Act, there is a provision that if the Deputy Collector once expresses his desire that they are going to give lease, then, after taking money he can give it to the people belonging to scheduled castes or if he does not give to them then, even he can get it done through someone. Such type of procedure will have to be rectified. Therefore, I would like to say that the Government should either bring an amendment to this House or may set a committee up to assess the situation arisen after the implementation of this Act and

[Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat]

a committee bring whatever amendments are thought necessary. Only then the welfare of Harijans and scheduled castes and upper class people can be done and mutual differences can be eliminated. Only then the feeling of brotherhood, which we talk about, can emerge. I would like to make an appeal to the people of Samajwadi Party who are working in the villages that if the social harmony is to be maintained then it cannot be maintained by oppressing the downtrodden. Such law should be enacted that people may get justice. You rather spread upper castism nor dalitism but make such an arrangement where all the people can live in peace and get justice. But here you shed crocodile tears and in Uttar Pradesh you provoke people to commit atrocities on downtrodden and create enmity among communities. This is not proper. Riots took place with Dalits at Mantola in Agra because of provocative speeches given by the leaders of Samajwadi Party. In these riots one person of minority community was killed and property worth lakhs of rupees belonging several people of minorities and dalits was gutted. Not only this. Even in the villages around Agra and in Western Uttar Pradesh efforts are on to first spread riots among the people and then say that there is no law and order in the state and therefore, State Government should be dismissed under Article 356. On the other hand, their leader Mulayam Singh ji is saying that if the Government of Uttar Pradesh do not comply with this law then the result will be that Union Government will say that this is a law of the Union. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is not following the central law and therefore, it should be dismissed. Democracy and Constitutional provisions are being violated.

I appeal to my friends in the Samajwadi Party that it is not proper to provoke the feelings in the State and the whole country and eliminate the dalits and start a class war. This way you are harming the people of upper class also. Then, you will sit at home and police atrocities will begin and people will suffer. It will destroy communal harmony. Therefore, I appeal to the United Front Government to look into the matter. Why this is happening that one leader of their party is saying something and the other leader is saying something different. They should clarify the position. The United Front Government should review the statements of Mulayam Singh ji published in newspapers and Prime Minister should clarify that what exactly is the policy of Government of India.

With these words Sir, I conclude.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : If you are challenging Socialism, then we are ready to give its reply...*(Interruptions)* you give us an opportunity, we will give its reply...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sit down. you sit down.
(Interruptions)

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : Here you are asking to sit down and they have...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You sit down.
(Interruptions)

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : In this way, how the House will transact its business?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the House conduct its business.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : If the Minister is not present then we can give its reply ...*(Interruptions)* we are his party men....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name is not here, therefore, I won't call you.
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY (Amalapuram) : Thank you, Madam.

For the last 48 years, the State of Maharashtra has been known for its industrial development and for its cultural development. It is a great centre for financial structure, an embodiment of the development for any other State. Who has given all this? It is the Congress Government which has given all this.

17.05 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

We are going to destroy that culture; we are going to demolish that institution which has been created by the great Congress party. I am very sad to see the lines on which Maharashtra is going.

The Sub-Inspector who has opened fire has been charged under the PCR Act for having called his Deputy Commissioner of Police by the caste. He has been sent to open fire! The Maharashtra Police is not known for this kind of a culture. The present Maharashtra Administration is trying to destroy that. In the whole country, it was a superior one. Under whose guidance was it? It was under the guidance of the Congress. Now, they are trying to demolish that kind of an administration, by sending people who are casteists, who do not have any consideration for the Dalits, who do not have any consideration for poverty and who do not have any consideration for equality being established in this country. The person who is charged under the PCR Act took charge of this crowd and did not take any precaution, but shot them. Out of the 50 bullets used, 49 have resulted in the death of those people.

There was some discussion about the notification issued by the Maharashtra Government by making the 100-point roster into 200-point roster. There was a discussion that there was no damage to the Scheduled Castes in the process. What I would like to submit to you, Sir, is that there is going to be a tremendous

damage to the Scheduled Castes because under the 100-point roster, the Scheduled Caste vacancy would be number one whereas under the 200-point roster, it would go as number seven. Is it not a damage? If you think that it is not a damage, I am sorry, I have no other explanation to offer.

In Maharashtra, the present Government is trying to divide the Scheduled Castes. There are 50 or 60 odd sects in the Scheduled Castes. Now, they are trying to divide them as it is happening in Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh, the Chief Minister has divided the Scheduled Castes into four categories as A, B, C and D. He says that A is the least advanced; B is less advanced; C is also less advanced and D is the most advanced. If there are less advanced castes among the Scheduled Castes, you should concentrate on them by spending 95 per cent of the money. Why do you want to create this unnecessary conflict among these subjects? Let God save your party! God will not tolerate this kind of a thing. You are trying to demolish a community which wanted to stand on its own, struggling still to come out of oppression.

We are celebrating the 50th Year of Independence. Do you think that it is the 50th Year of Independence for them? It is 50 years of oppression for the Scheduled Castes. Any party may be in power, but presently the party in power is repeating these things in greater strength in Maharashtra. How many SC/ST Collectors have you posted in Maharashtra? The Congress Government used to have 10 or 15 Collectors and 10 or 15 Superintendents of Police. How many of them, do you have now? You have got four Collectors and three Superintendents of Police and not more than that.

You also have a Special Component Plan. Twenty two per cent of your Annual Plan is supposed to go towards the development of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Are you implementing that? You are not implementing that. The rural development programmes used to reach 50, 60 or 70 per cent of the Scheduled Castes under the Congress Government.

How much is reaching now? The rural development programmes are reaching only 20 per cent of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and not more than that. Then, you are not taking up any development schemes where Scheduled Castes are there. You are taking them up wherever it is suiting you. The Congress Government had spent Rs. 900 crore for abolishing scavenging. What have you done during the last two years for abolishing scavenging? Have you abolished dry latrines? Have you made sure that all those scavengers who are carrying that manually on their heads do not carry it any more? It is a shameful act. As a citizen of the country, I feel ashamed that our brothers and sisters are forced to carry the night soil on their heads even now in this century.

The *Hindustan Times* says that Shri Bal Thackeray and Shri Arun Gawli have come to an agreement now. I do not know about these two different poles coming together to establish peace. It is very good if you

establish peace as long as peace prevails there. And Shri Gawli is a notorious gentleman of the underworld. If he is prepared to give you peace, it is most welcome. Go ahead with it.

Now, about Shri Bal Thackeray, I am not going to say anything. Why do you pick up Dr. Ambedkar's statue for desecration? Why do you not pick up any other statues? My dear friend, if Lord Rama were attacked or if Lord Krishna were attacked, how do you feel about it? Dr. Ambedkar is like a God to those people. Shri Arun Shourie says he is not a God. He is a false God. Who is this man to say that he is a God or false God?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : They are levelling allegations that they have found effigy of Dr. Ambedkar...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You answer at your turn.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : I do not want any interruption. I have never interrupted you. No, I do not want to sit down...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will also get a chance and then you can reply. No interruptions. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : You are telling about Balasahib Thakray that he has found effigy of Dr. Ambedkar. How you have said this...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let him speak. You will get a chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : I am not criticising Maharashtra alone. I am criticising all that is happening to Indians in this country. I am highlighting a great State, a State about which I am proud of. I feel that Maharashtra has done a lot to the industrial development of this country. All other States are copying Maharashtra. It is a great financial centre. All the States rush to Mumbai for it. Now, you are destroying that. My appeal is, please do not destroy that in the name of communalism...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati) : We are developing, we are not destroying...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No interruptions please.

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : I would like to make my friends happy by taking the name of Andhra Pradesh. Pulletikurru is a place in my constituency. A series of desecrations of Ambedkar statues went on. Two boys belonging to the Scheduled Castes have been tonsored; hair was cut off; eye brows were removed and they had been shaved. What a shame? Do we live in a country which is sovereign? Do you call it a sovereign country? So, my dear friends, do not be taken away. It is so not only in Maharashtra but in other States also, it is happening. Since this is a discussion on Maharashtra, it is my right to point out what I feel about Maharashtra in particular.

In Andhra Pradesh, an MLA arrested under PCR Act was treated as a lord in the jail. Food came to him from his house even in jail and then he came out and met the Ministers in the R & B bungalow. This is the law and order in India! I feel ashamed. It is a disease of not tolerating the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. I would like to say that every Hindu has this disease. I would like to quote Swami Vivekananda as to what he said hundred years back. quote :

"Do you mean to say that"

"I am born to live and die as one of those caste-ribben, superstitious, merciless hypocritic cowards that you find only amongst the educated Hindus."

I am very sorry. Have we changed from this description of Swami Vivekananda: 'merciless and hypocritic'? Please see the type of Hindu society in which we are living and a symbol of that is there in this incident in Maharashtra. When something happens and the upper caste people are involved, there is no firing. They treat them very well. If a bus is burnt by an upper caste man, nobody is taken into custody. Even if he is taken into custody, it is only under a bailable warrant. If a boy belonging to a Scheduled Caste is involved, it will be a non-bailable offence.

Let me tell you that even the Police has been completely politicised in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Short of wearing Shiv Sainik uniforms in Maharashtra and short of wearing Telugu Desam yellow shirts in Andhra Pradesh, they are hundred per cent politicised. Whatever the local MLA says, that is the rule. My respected Minister of Home Affairs is here. Does the Home Minister's writ run there? It does not run at all. Does the Chief Minister's writ run there? It does not run there. It is the party's writ which runs there. This is how you are humiliating these unfortunate people in the States.

An Additional Coroner belonging to the Scheduled Caste was attacked in his office. Has anybody condemned that incident? He says that he was attacked by the Shiv Sainiks and they can be Mumbaitea. Can there be anything worse than that?

There was a Conference of Chief Minister when Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister. They passed several resolutions. One of them was about the atrocities. They said, "Every atrocity should be inquired into by a special court." No State Government has an interest in appointing special courts. Now, you have appointed a judicial inquiry. What happens to a judicial inquiry? It goes on for two or three months. A report comes. Everybody forgets about the incident. Then, the whole thing is closed. That is the fate of most of the judicial inquiries and magisterial inquiries. My request is charge them, charge the Sub-Inspector and those Constables who have fired and killed ten people - under section 302 of the IPC - put them in Jail and proceed against them. That is what we want. That will be the real justice and not the judicial inquiry.

I know how many persons have been raped. Arson has been committed. Houses have been burnt and still nothing has come out of that. Ninety-five thousand cases of atrocities are pending throughout the country. What is happening to them? My dear friend is saying about the Atrocities Act. The Union Minister of Defence said, "It should not be there" It is unfortunate. It should be there because in spite of the Atrocities Act, the punishment is only for 10 per cent. And 90 per cent of the people, who have been accused under this Act, have been let off. That is the sincerity with which these people are proceeding. You come to rehabilitation. You consider their life is worth Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 2 lakh or Rs. 3 lakh. Think of something more innovative. Let the whole family be rehabilitated. Let the children be put in residential schools. Let them be taken care of till they come to graduation, post-graduation or whatever they want to study. Give them land if it is available. Give them Government employment because it is a sign of superiority. That should be the type of rehabilitation and not doling out Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. 2 lakh and putting it into the Treasury or whatever it is. This caste war should stop.

Now, I would like to come to Shri Arun Shourie, what He says in "worshipping the false gods." We burnt the book outside the Parliament House. It was torn to places inside the Parliament House....(Interruptions) Shri Arun Shourie was interviewed...(Interruptions) He says, "I have said only what Dr. Ambedkar had said." The Government of Maharashtra has published all the 14-15 volumes. I have not said anything more."

He is my God. He is the God of all the dalits. If I say that Lord Krishna was a false God, would he agree? If I say that Lord Rama was a false God, would he agree? Now, is it not more than that? He said that it was a myth. He said that Dr. Ambedkar's writing of the Constitution was a myth. I would like to quote what Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the President of the Constituent Assembly said about Dr. Ambedkar, I quote :

"I have realised as nobody else could have with what zeal and devotion the Members of

the Drafting Committee and especially its Chairman, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in spite of his indifferent health have worked. We could never make a decision which was or could be ever so right as when we put him on the drafting Committee and made him the Chairman. He has not only justified his election but has added lustre to the work which he has done".

But Mr. Shourie says that it was a myth; his writing of the Constitution was a myth. It was unfortunate for Shri Shourie to have said that.

Dr. Ambedkar was a great nationalist. He said that Dr. Ambedkar could not have been a Congressman. He was a traitor rather than a Congressman. He had quarrels with many Hindus including Mahatma Gandhi. Yes, Dr. Ambedkar said that he did not hate Mahatma Gandhi but he disliked him because he loved his country more than Mahatma Gandhi. That is why he disliked him. He had the courage to say that. Tell me, which Indian has the courage to say that? Which Indian has the courage to resign from Government service? That was the calibre of Dr. Ambedkar. He took a vow to lay down his life in defence of his country. That was Dr. Ambedkar. Let me quote what Tagore said :

"So long as the society remains unjust, there could be no justice in politics".

Do we have justice here?

Shri Shorie said that giving *Bharat Ratna* was wrong. He said that he had said nothing but has only quoted what Dr. Ambedkar had said in his books and for that people are burning and doing all sorts of things. It is unfortunate. He said that Dr. Ambedkar encouraged a brigade which demands and denounces. When I am talking in favour of Dr. Ambedkar, he calls it a "denouncing brigade". Shorie says he was trying to speak the truth - nothing but the truth. He was speaking what all has been said by Dr. Ambedkar, nothing more than that. He was repeating what has been done by Dr. Ambedkar for the country, nothing more than that.

Shri Shorie says that the statues of Dr. Ambedkar outnumber those of Gandhiji. Shri Naryana Guru, the spiritual leader of Kerala, does not have so many statues as Dr. Ambedkar. What can one do about it? If people erect statues on their own, we cannot make them erect the statues of Mahatma Gandhi or of Shri Narayana Guru.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you that no political party is encouraging any villager to erect statues of Dr. Ambedkar. They are doing it on their own. For instance, in my own constituency, every habitation which has more than 200 or 300 people, has a statue of Dr. Ambedkar. If they are not erecting the statue of Mahatma Gandhi or that of Narayana Guru, I am sorry, we cannot force them to do it and this Shorie called as something which is not very correct.

Take for example Mahatma Phule, the great Maharashtrian leader. He, said revolt against caste - caste denined human rights for all the members and he was fighting for that. Mahatma Gandhi said that without removal of untouchability, *Swaraj* is a meaningless term. That is what Dr. Ambedkar said precisely, Gandhiji said that without removal of untouchability; without establishing equality; without considering every Indian as an Indian; without giving him all the opportunities to develop, *Swaraj* is meaningless. The same words were said by Dr. Ambedkar and Shri Shourie said that Dr. Ambedkar was not a national leader. He also said that he has deceived...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : Sir, I would conclude now. There is one such instance in Chennai also. A transport company of the State has been named as Sundaralinganagar Transport Corporation and the Hindus have refused to get into that. God bless them!

Lastly, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to quote what Dr. Ambedkar said in the Constituent Assembly.

"We must remove that contradiction at the earliest possible moment. Or else, those suffering from inequality will blow up the structure of political democracy."

If you continue this inequality too long, those who are suffering today will blow up this political democracy.

"There can be no gainsaying that political power in this country has too long been a monopoly of a few and the many are not only the beasts of burden but also beasts of prey. These downtrodden classes are tired of being governed. They are ambitious to govern themselves. These ways of self-realisation in the downtrodden classes must not be allowed to devolve into a caste struggle or a class war."

Let us all join together in the ambitions of Dr. Ambedkar to make this country a united country, to make this country one country. As Swami Vivekananda had said, 'the Vedic brain and the Islamic body' is the character of this country. I think all of us right-meaning people, well-meaning people of this country have a right to follow those observations in their true spirit. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion which is moved by Congress Parliamentary Party leader. Shri Sharad Pawarji in the House. Due to miserable condition of Congress in Maharashtra, this Motion has been brought in the House. Shri Sharad Pawarji is responsible for this miserable condition of Congress in Maharashtra. I would like to remind that if Maharashtra...(Interruptions) I am not levelling any allegation against him. The motion

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which has been moved in the House by Sharad Pawarji and the miserable condition which the Congress faced in Maharashtra, for this Sharad Pawarji himself is responsible. I would like to remind him that if Shri Sudhakar Naik had not been removed from Chief Ministership in Maharashtra then perhaps this day might not have come, perhaps this situation may not have arisen and under Rule 184 this discussion regarding Maharashtra might not have been initiated.

Shri Sharad Pawarji was Minister of Defence of this country. I don't want to go into its details. It is their internal matter. When Maharashtra Congress, was ruled by them it is their internal matter whether Sudhakar Naik or Sharad Pawar wants to become Chief Minister. I don't want to interfere in their issue under what circumstances he was forced to quit Chief Ministership, under what circumstances he was removed and what was his mistake? His only mistake was that he had initiated action against big Mafia's of Mumbai. He had initiated action against Mafia named Pappu Kalani and Bhai Thakur. At that time Sudhakar Naik was Chief Minister. After that I don't know, what happened suddenly? I don't know what they had conversed? But Sudhakar Naikji was working in a right way and Sharad Pawar created hindrance in his working...*(Interruptions)* You listen. Sudhakar Naik ji was removed from there. Our Defence Minister became the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

I would like to put forth before the House and yourself the mentality behind moving this censure motion regarding the incidence in Maharashtra.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you why this motion has been brought before this House? I would like to tell you about the miseries of Congress in this regard? When Shri Sudhakar Naik was removed from there then Sharad Pawar took over as Chief Minister. He became Chief Minister for the fourth time. Today, what is the position of Congress in Maharashtra? Today, Sharadji is the leader of parliamentary Party. In the Legislative Council of Maharashtra, Chagan Bhujbal is the leader of opposition. Shri Prithviraj has stated that Chagan Bhujbal used to work as green grocer and today he is the leader of opposition in Legislative Council. He has not told truth yet, he has told half truth. He has not told that earlier he was in Shiv Sena and considered Hon'ble Bala Sahib Thackeray as his father. Bala Sahib made him Corporator of Mumbai Corporation later on he was made MLA and Mayor of Mumbai Corporation twice. Therefore, the Bhujbal who was an opportunist, you are thinking him as Gandhian. Earlier he was in Shiv Sena but to become a Minister he joined Congress. He could have never thought that one day Shiv Sena will come to power. Those who have put forth this Motion have their history of purchasing MLAs, breaking party and grabbing power. It has been the tradition of these people. Bhujbal, one of the

opportunists has left Shiv Sena to become a Minister. I know that Bhujbal is a Gardener which is a backward caste. Even I belong to backward caste. He used to say in meetings that Bala Sahib is my father and if someone has given respect to Bahujan Samaj it is Bala Sahib who has given respect to it.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not correct to say anything about a person who is not present here...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : He is also the leader of an opposition. You should take his name with some respect...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him continue.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : This is not an allegation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Many members have taken his name here.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am uttering his name with great respect...*(Interruptions)* I am explaining the actual position. I am telling as to how he ditched the Shiv Sena party in order to become a Minister. He has committed an act of treachery...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the word 'Gaddar' is unparliamentary which should not go on record.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, beyond any doubt he has committed an act of treachery, that too against the Shiv Sena Chief, Bala Sahib...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit before the House the actual position of congress in Maharashtra. Bhujbal is the leader of congress in Maharashtra. Is there not any other leader in congress who could provide leadership to the party in Maharashtra? Their leader - who has moved this motion here - used to use foul words against late Indira ji and Rajiv ji. When the PDF Government came in power in Maharashtra he was asked by the journalists whether he plans to return to Congress and his reply was that he would become a 'Sanyasi' and go to Himalaya rather than returning to congress. This news item appeared in all leading newspapers. What a pathetic condition of the congress is in Maharashtra? Today the same Sharad Pawar ji happens to be parliamentary leader of their party. There is a proverb in Hindi, namely, "Boond se gai to hauz se nahi aati" which is worth mentioning here as he is also trying to get it passed under rule 184. This is the quality.

of their leader. What a mentality he has got? What subject we are discussing? What are the issues that we are debating? What has happened in Maharashtra? Are they aware of these things? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I am sorry to state that today bad name is being earned for Mumbai and Maharashtra. On the one hand, they boast of Maharashtra traditions, its great men like Mahatma Phoolke, Dr. Ambedkar, Shahu ji Maharaj and the status accorded to it or the industrial capital of the country and on the other, make concerted efforts to defame Maharashtra by saying that Maharashtra is on fire or there is no law and order machinery even for name sake in the state particularly in Mumbai and people are subjected to many atrocities.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : It is a fact.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Is it really a fact? Is there no law and order in Mumbai today? Is there no law and order in the State of Maharashtra? What are your intentions after all behind levelling such charges? You are saying all these things just to gain political mileage but you cannot make allegations against the Shiv Sena - BJP led Government in Maharashtra just to remove them from power. The Government machinery is functioning properly in the state and you people should desist from charging the State Government of such allegations. You people cannot malign the image of the State Government. Sharad Pawar ji has said in the beginning of his speech that number of the incidents of statue desecration during the regime of Shiv Sena - BJP Government in Maharashtra is less than those which occurred during the regime of earlier Governments. What he wanted to say is that when Congress was in power in the State, there were the Shiv Sena - BJP people who used to desecrate the statue of Ambedkar.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : You are saying this.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I am not saying this. It was he who made an attempt to present such a picture before the House...*(Interruptions)* These sentences were uttered only by him. More incidents of statue desecration took place in Maharashtra when Congress was in power and Shri Sharad Pawar ji used to be the Chief Minister. May I ask him as to how many 'Shiv Sainiks' were held on the charges of statue desecration? Not even a single Sainik was found guilty of statue desecration. Krishnamurthy ji used to say, "whether Thackeray ji has got the effigy of only Ambedkar?" Since we are in power, why should there be any need for us to indulge in statue desecration and why are we going to instigate Hindu-Muslim riots?...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, neither I nor anybody else in my party want to support the incident which has taken place there. Our Shiv Sena Chief has also not supported the incident. No body among us has supported the incidence which took place probably on

the 11th or the 13th. We were in Delhi when this incident took place. What was the statement given by Bhujbal who has been referred to here - on Doordarshan? The incident took place early in the morning around six or seven o'clock but only one and the same statement of Bhujbal that when Shiv Sena people fear bad days ahead, they start indulging in caste riots was aired till 10 o'clock in the night on Zee T.V., Star T.V. and all other channels.

What a ridiculous statement he made. I am at loss to understand as to what type of bad phase the Shiv Sena is passing through? We are very much in power today. Whether these are our bad days?

We are having 15 MPs in Lok Sabha. Can it be termed as our bad days? And if these are our bad days then we are happy in our bad days. But if these are your goods days in Maharashtra then we wish you the same good days forever in Maharashtra. Their allegation is that everything was done at the behest of Shiv Sena for whenever they fear that their bad days are ahead, they start fanning caste and communal riots. What bad days we were fearing ahead? Shiv Sena is the ruling party in Maharashtra and they are having 15 MPs in Lok Sabha then what kind of bad days they would have been fearing? Out of our total strength of MLAs in the State Assembly, 26 belong to Dalit and backward class. What is the position of your party i.e. Congress in this regard? What is the strength of MLAs belonging to Dalit and backward classes in your party? Out of our 15 MPs, 9 belong to Dalit and backward classes. Today you no more enjoy the support of either dalits or Muslims. You have lost support of other sections as well including that of 'Bahujan Samaj'. While making his submissions, Shri Venkatsami said that there was a time when he contested the election four time but never his performance was questioned by the voters in his constituency. But now those days are gone. Now the voters are very smart. Dalits have become very alert. They too have started thinking. Youths are taking much interest in today's politics. Now they will not cast their votes blindly. Now they are casting their votes on the basis of the performance of the candidates. That is why the congress have been reduced to such a pitiable condition. The reason for moving this motion can be attributed to the fact that they have lost the support of every section of the society including dalits. People are making different kind of allegations here. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not intend to make any comparison in this regard. Whether the incident has taken place in Maharashtra or elsewhere, I do not want to make any comparison between them. I just want to condemn the efforts being made to take the political mileage out of this incident and nothing else. This incident took place in Maharashtra on the 11th. A 'bandh' was observed in Mumbai on the next day i.e. on the 12th. After than, barring the only incident which took place after 13th, no other incident took place in Maharashtra, peace returned in the entire Maharashtra just after two days. But what

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happened in Gujarat? Where peace still does not prevail? Not to speak of Bihar which is not even worth mentioning. What happened in Tamilnadu? Since how many years, the feeling of casteism has been ruling hearts of people in Tamilnadu? No body spoke on Tamilnadu. A number of statues of Dr. Ambedkar were demolished but no one raised the voice. Why such voice is not being raised about Tamilnadu, why the demand is not being made to dismiss the Tamilnadu Government? Nobody raised such demand for that. Whatever happened there, was a tragic incident. The Government did not issue orders to that particular police officer for shooting. Whether the suo-moto decision of the police officer was right or wrong, it will come before the society. Today, a sitting judge is conducting an enquiry in the matter. I do not want to support him and nobody supported him. This incidence occurred on 13th. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel surprised that last week, Shri Nitish Kumar had provoked our Prime Minister in this House, but the hon. Prime Minister heavily came down on him and he accused the leader of opposition of dividing the country in the name of religion. On provoking a little bit, when our hon. Prime Minister could not control himself, how do you expect from the common people of the country. If you provoke the people, they definitely will retaliate, you cannot avoid it. Even our Prime Minister would not control himself and he came down on the opposition and said that they were going to divide the country in the name of religion.

SHRI RAM NAIK : He came down even on his own party yesterday.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : That was the matter of their own party. Therefore, I do not want to mention about it, whether he came down or not...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : One cannot interrupt the Prime Minister too frequently. That is not fair ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : It means that you will level an allegation on the leader of the opposition of dividing the country in the name of religion. What sort of message are you giving to the people of the country? He could not control himself. If we continue to provoke you or the people or we continue to defame Mumbai and Maharashtra, what will we gain out of it. Will it bring peace or instigate the people? Therefore, our leaders should think about the repercussions before passing any legislation. I am on my legs not to support anything but when I see political gimmicks here I feel sad. I am a new man in politics and this is the beginning of my political career. Shri Banatwalla too was speaking against our Government. In this context I would like to

reminded him that he too was in hand in glove with Shiv Sena Chief in the matter of price hike and slums in Mumbai. His green flag was also there together with the saffron flag. At that time, he came with us and he accepted his leadership. I would like to ask the name of such a Congress leader who did not go to Shiv Sena Chief? When the Allahabad High Court gave its judgement against Smt. Indira Gandhi, Shri Basant Dada Patil went to Shiv Sena Chief for holding the Mumbai bandh...*(Interruptions)* Thousands of sikhs were killed in Delhi at the time when Indira Gandhi was assassinated no sikh was killed in Mumbai at that time. All the credit for that goes to Shiv Sena Chief Shri Bala Saheb Thackeray. When it was only due to Shiv Sena Chief that not even a single person belonging to sikh community was killed in Mumbai, why then hon. Home Minister should not trust him. He is all in all in Mumbai and he is the Chief of the ruling party there. The people of Mumbai as well as the entire Maharashtra are with him. When the Home Minister has discussed the matter with him then why they are raising objections to it?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after this tragedy, when 'bandh' was declared on 12th, you might have seen some scenes in the newspapers in which children between age group of four to six were standing on the road carrying stones in their hands and throwing them on the vehicles. Their photos have been printed in the newspapers but the Government of Maharashtra had asked the police not to take any action against them and they have to keep patience only. If they organise a 'bandh', they have right to do so. We will not take any action against them. This 'bandh' was as a tribute to those 11 persons who were killed in that tragedy. The police did not take any action at that time. Shiv Sena Chief had asked all his activists to have patience. No dalit riot has taken place in the entire Maharashtra till today but here the issue is being raised in such a manner as if so many riots are taking place there. Inquiry is being made into that tragedy. An inquiry is also being made into the incidence of attack on the house of the leader of opposition and the police officers have been suspended. Action has been initiated in the matter and the outcome of the action is about to come. Then what is the hurry that you are demanding for imposition of Article 356 in the state.

Shri Chavan Saheb has given an amendment which our hon. Speaker has not accepted. Perhaps, you are searching for a shortcut for coming to power. The people of Maharashtra have not accepted them nor they will accept them in future too. Today, some members are speaking here to get political mileage and they are dreaming to come to power by getting the Article 356 imposed in a good state like Maharashtra by getting the State Government dismissed. Their leaders came from Maharashtra making a claim that they will return only after getting the Government of Maharashtra dismissed. But now they cannot go back there. Now they are able to make Government neither in Maharashtra nor in Delhi.

Therefore, I oppose the motion brought in the House. I am proud of the hon. Home Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Which motion are you opposing?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I am opposing that motion which has been brought in this House under rule 184 and through which you want to condemn the State Government and on which you have given amendment. I am opposing this motion because it is politically motivated...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to ask you that in which part of Maharashtra atrocities are being committed against dalits about which you are expressing concern. Where are riots taking place in Maharashtra? An inquiry is being made into the tragedy recently occurred there. Where are atrocities being committed except that incidence?

Due to political motivation, you are defaming Maharashtra. Therefore, I am opposing your Motion.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been discussing the firing incident on the dalits of Maharashtra for the last many days. It is really a matter of deep concern that when we are celebrating Golden Jubilee of our Independence in the entire country the dalits and downtrodden are being assaulted in many parts of the country. The dalits were shot dead in Maharashtra. I would like to bring it to your notice as to how it took place. Some people desecrated the statue of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar the maker of the Constitution of India and this created resentment among dalits. The desecration of the statue awakened the self-respect among dalits who protested against the incident with a sense of dignity and the police of Maharashtra gunned down dalit protesters.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the maker of our Constitution was not the leader of dalits only. What he did, cannot be forgotten by the citizens of this country and if the statue of maker of the Constituion is desecrated, it is really a matter of deep concern. It is equally a matter of regret that we are not discussing this incident, with the seriousness it deserves.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 13 people were killed and more than 50 people were injured in this firing incident at Ghatkopar area is Ramabai Colony in Mumbai. This incident was not confined to Mumbai only, but It also had its repercussions in the state of Gujarat also. The curfew was imposed for some time in Gujarat and Mumbai and some people were arrested.

17.53 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

We should seriously think over what is happening in the country. Sir, the Government of Shiv Sena and B.J.P. alliance remained in office for 13 days. Only the incidents of bombs took place in Delhi and Maharashtra...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, these people want to disturb me by interrupting. I would like to tell them that the incident of bomb blast did not take place in Bihar. We condemn the incident insulting Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. You also must condemn it. You should condemn the atrocities committed against the dalits in Maharashtra and the firing incident. You people should speak the truth. All should speak truth. No matter whether it is the B.J.P. or Shivsena.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, whenever the B.J.P. and Shiv Sena come to power either in centre or state, the riots are bound to take place. The bombs exploded at many places. Even in Delhi, explosion took place. All the explosions took place within thirteen days. The incidents of this kind have taken place in the different regions of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a B.J.P. leader had said in the context of incident of Maharashtra that it happened due to crazy ideas of Shiv Sena. The news paper-cutting is still with me and I have got proof in regard to this incident. I thank the leader who has told the truth. It is a matter of deep sorrow that the atrocities are being committed on dalits. We are well aware of it as we belong to a dalit community. Untouchability was prevalent in the villages during our childhood days and it is still existing even after independence, be it Maharashtra or southern region of Bihar. There are some areas in Bihar where the untouchability still is being practised certainly. It does exist in some parts of that state. India can not grow stronger. Unless the backward classes dalits and downtrodden are given their rights. I personally feel that India will not become strong unless their honour is protected and demands are considered in a sympathetic manner. When our people go abroad, they are asked whether the atrocities are still being committed on dalits. The dalits are not getting educational facilities similiar to the facilities provided to upper caste children. It is a matter of great distress that the atrocities are being committed even today in many parts of the country. Some people were incited to desecrate the statue. Whoever incited to do this is a matter of secure criticism. Now, there are no words to criticize it. In this regard, Mr. Munde, the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra had said that he would consult the party in opposition and would issue an Ordinance for punishing those who had defiled the statue. But no action has been taken in this regard so far. Many days have passed since the incident took place but no action has been taken regarding this firing incident. This is really a matter of deep sorrow.

The onus of honouring Dr. Ambedkar does not rest on the dalits only, rather each and every citizen of India should know late Baba Saheb Ambedkar so that an ideology may develop to bridge the gap between upper class and lower class. But the problem of casteism is flourishing in India due to myopic attitude. We must

[Shri Sukdeo Paswan]

have faith in our unity and stand united and have respect for our great leaders. We also should think seriously about the condition of Dalits who have been exploited for thousands of years.

But it is a matter of great distress that we never do anything to improve their condition. Mr. Chairman, Sir now recently when there was a discussion in regard to Maharashtra, experienced member Mr. G. Venkat Swamy had brought here a book written by Shri Arun Shourie and raised the matter before the House regarding irrelevant facts written by the writer and burnt it outside the House.

18.00 hrs.

I am still not sure as to what people are thinking and when are they going to change their myopic attitude. The names of great scholars are not only known in India but also in the foreign countries. When Dr. Ambedkar, the maker of the Constitution of India is insulted and atmosphere is vitiated in this manner, it hurts the sentiments of Dalits and people belonging to backward class, it is really a matter of great distress. Everybody should think about this matter. Our country should not be weakened by uttering irrelevant facts about Dr. Ambedkar.

It is a matter of grief that the atrocities are still being committed on Dalits such as in Maharashtra. The leaders of all parties should think about it seriously in order to make stringent laws to curb such atrocities, misbehaviour and misconduct, so that incident of this kind may not take place in any part of the country in future. Unless a strict law is enacted, whatever has happened in Maharashtra, can again occur in other parts of country. I would like to tell the entire House that this issue should be discussed with all the leaders. An all party committee consisting of our Prime Minister, Home Minister, leader of the opposition and several other leaders should be constituted to consider that no atrocity be perpetrated against the weaker and other people in any part of the country.

The House is aware of the fact that the education being provided to the dalits and weaker sections of society is inadequate. The Government should bear the expenses of their education right from standard one to the graduation level so that a dalit is not considered an untouchable by the society.

In the end, I want to say that a law should be enacted to stop atrocities, misbehaviour, firing on dalits and the weaker sections of society so that such things are repeated in future. I am thankful to you for giving an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the Home Minister to intervene.

18.04 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I regret that I was not able to be in the House throughout this debate and to hear all the valuable contributions made by so many Members. Unfortunately, I had to attend to duties in the other House also almost simultaneously. But I have followed, with the help of my colleagues, the main points which have been made.

When this discussion began and when the Motion was tabled, the scope of the discussion was, and I think the Mover of the Motion also wanted, that the attention of the House and the country should be focussed on the incidents which had taken place in Mumbai on those two days.

Two incidents — two crimes I should say - two grave crimes were committed. One was the shooting down of ten or eleven people mostly *Dalits* in that colony in Ghatkopar. The other was the crime of the physical attack on the house of the Leader of the Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Council. These two incidents have created, and justifiably created, a big furore throughout the country and there is no doubt whatsoever that both of them were very very serious types of crimes committed by a section of people and by the police on the citizens of our country.

Now, as this discussion has been going on and on and on, the scope of the discussion has widened considerably. Now practically, if one hears what the Members are saying, it is a discussion mainly about the fate of the *Dalits* or the fate of the backward communities and the *Dalits* in our country and everybody is naturally expressing their distress, their deep sorrow at the condition of these people after so many years. Sir, in a way it is good that this discussion has been given this kind of orientation because we are only ten days away now from the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the country's Independence. In ten days' time the entire country will be celebrating the historic occasion - I should say — of the fiftieth anniversary. Of course, it is the day of pride for us. It is a day of our rejoicing, of celebration and a day of pride in the fact that our Republic has survived the way it has for fifty years and has not fulfilled the gloomy forebodings or so many people, especially some foreign observers who had always very confidently prophesied that India would fall to pieces, break up into pieces and would never survive as one single country and one nation.

Sir, Mr. Winston Churchill, you will remember, had bemoaned the fact in the British House of Commons that : 'Now we have no alternative; we have to leave India and come away, unfortunately. But, mark my words, the moment the British Government withdraws from India, these people, the Indians, these Hindus and the Muslims and others will be at each other's

throat and they will kill each other, massacre each other and this country will fall to pieces and nothing will remain of an Indian nation'.

Fifty years ago many people wrote about these things and many western observers also said so. I, as an Indian, am proud of the fact that despite everything, despite the many ugly blots which still remain on our country's image — this is one of them; the condition of the *Dalits* and the backwards of which we are talking about here — we can proudly stand up before the whole world and say that we, our Republic, which has been standing independent for the last fifty years, has survived, has prospered, has strengthened itself and is going to go to bigger successes and triumph in the days ahead.

It is good in that way. That is a matter not only of jubilation, not only of pride and rejoicing, but also of introspection, of turning the light inwards into our own souls. We must also use this occasion to admit candidly where we have failed, what a long distance we have still to go, how far the commitments, the pledges, the promises that we had made at the time of 1947 are unfulfilled and which are going to be repeated again, I think, reminded to us from the night of 14th and 15th August this year, how far we are still from reaching our goals, whether in terms of poverty, unemployment, starvation, homelessness, illiteracy or the sufferings of million of our people in our country. That should give us some kind of sobering thought that 50 years of Independence do not justify only jubilant celebration that, of course, we are going to very proudly take part in, but also to realise that all of us who are sitting here and all the people who have sent us here will also be facing the stark reality of the continued sufferings - I should say that terrible sufferings - which large sections of our people are still having to tolerate.

Having said that, I must say that I do not propose today, just now, here in my reply to go into this bigger dimension of this whole question because that was not the original purpose of this Motion and discussion. As far as I have understood it, it was to focus, as I said, on the happenings of what took place in Mumbai. I propose only to deal, and that also briefly, with these two events because the Prime Minister had asked me to visit Mumbai as soon as possible after these events and to try to get the first hand impression of what actually had happened. So, I have already reported back to the other House. I have reported to this House also. I suppose that it would bear some repetition in the sense that there is now a Judicial Commission of Inquiry appointed to probe into the firing incident. As far as the police is concerned, their responsibility and culpability for what happened in that *dalit* colony on that fateful morning is something which is the job of this Judicial Inquiry Commission to unravel and to bring before the whole country. It would not be proper for me, at this stage, to pre-empt that Commission of Inquiry. Neither am I nor is this House a parallel Commission of Inquiry.

We can, of course, express our views. But the ultimate findings, since they have been entrusted to a Judicial Commission of Inquiry, have got to be awaited.

There are only one or two points concerning the police action which I would again repeat and which I had said earlier also. When I went to that place, I met many people there and talked to them. The incident occurred, as you know, very early in the morning, at 6.00 or 6.30. The people who live there, most of them are poor people who are employed in some place or other in the city. They came out of their houses and were going to their places of work and on the way, most of them have to pass by the corner of the colony where this statue of Babasaheb Ambedkar is located. It was then that they saw that it had been desecrated. Naturally, it was just natural that people should gather in front of that statue and express their anger, their protest, their agony and the humiliation that they felt.

The point I am trying to make is, subsequently the firing took place. But nobody had said upto now - even the police and I have talked in Mumbai with the Police Commissioner, with the Chief Secretary, with the Home Secretary, with the Inspector General of Police - not one of them had claimed or charged that anybody in that crowd had turned violent or used violence or thrown any brickbats or stones or something at the police or tried to set fire to any houses or anything like that.

There is a story, I know, about some tankers, some oil tankers which were parked nearby. The police have, of course, come out with this version that if somebody had tried to set fire to these tankers, then there was a danger of a very disastrous and a widespread conflagration taking place which would have claimed many hundreds of thousands of victims and so on and therefore, they were forced to intervene. Let the Judicial Commission satisfy itself about these tankers. What I was told by the people there - which may be correct or may not be, I cannot say - was that these tankers which were standing there, parked on the side of the road, had no petroleum products inside them and they were empty. The place where petroleum products are filled into these tankers is a considerable distance away, about two kilometres away from the colony where this incident took place. This is by the side of the Highway. The Eastern Express Highway which goes to Pune is just adjacent to that. These tankers were there. The police had only claimed justification for their action by saying that all these tankers which, according to them, were loaded with petroleum products, with L.P.G., were standing there. So, there was an apprehension that somebody might try to set fire to them and in that case, there might have been very serious consequences. But this is not the version of the local people. This is the version of the police and it is upto the Judicial Commission to find out, if they can, what is the truth.

But the one fact is that people who came out of their houses and were going to their places of work

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

were certainly taken by surprise by the fire. I cannot describe them in detail without the help of a map which would help you to understand as to where the statue is, from which side the people were coming out, in which direction they have to go in order to come out, in which direction they have to go in order to come out of the colony and from which side the firing took place. If you see that map you will understand that many of these unfortunate people did not even realise that a big force of police was standing there and was liable to start firing without any warning. I tried to find out as to who ordered the firing, but I could not find out, because the only man to whom reference was made and who was identified was an Inspector of Police by name of Shri Kadam. There was no other senior police officer.

Sir, as we all know, there is a police manual. There is a printed manual which is used by the police throughout the country. That manual has laid down very clearly in black and white and prescribes the procedure for dispersing a crowd. After all, the purpose, the object should have been, somehow to disperse the crowd which was collecting there and this is what is faced in many other parts of the country frequently by the police, the necessity of dispersing a crowd or a mob. The exercise which is laid down in the manual prescribes that first of all, a blank shot has to be fired in the air. The police officer in-charge should fire a blank shot in the air as a kind of warning to the crowd that you better disperse; otherwise something more serious will follow.

After that, if the crowd does not disperse, then another shot can be fired; after an interval, another shot can be fired. Generally, it is expected that, by that time, people will start to disperse. If they do not or if they turn violent or something like that happens, then, of course, sometimes, the police recourse is to fire. Then also, before they take recourse to firing, there are other methods which everybody know. Now-a-days, there are so many other means by which groups can be dispersed — tear gas can be used, lathi-charge can be done or water canons can be used. The first way is not to fire bullets at people who are completely defenseless. But in that particular case, I am sorry to say this and I am sure that nobody will be able to contradict, the Mumbai Police never used any other method except taking recourse to firing, and that also an indiscriminate and reckless firing. That is why, I am calling it a crime and, that is why, I am convinced that the police men who are responsible and guilty must be found out, must be identified, and must be punished severely. There is no other way.

I also went to the hospital and saw many of the victims of the firing, who were lying there injured, and I found that most of them, not all of them, had bullet injuries which were above the waist — either in the back or in the head or in the chest and so on. As we know, these bullet injuries are designed to kill people.

It is prescribed that one should try to fire, if you have to fire, at people's legs and so on and not at the more vulnerable parts of their body. A large number of people lying in the hospital were suffering from these bullet injuries inflicted above the waist. I do not know, nor do I think will anybody be able to establish whether any orders have been given that this is a *dalit* majority colony, I mean, dominated by the *dalits* and, therefore, when the police fire, they should fire to kill people because they are *dalits* and they should be massacred. If somebody has done like that and if it can be found out, then this is nothing but cold blooded murder, and the penalty for that should be imposed. But in many parts of the country, after all, people who are not *dalits* are also being cold-bloodedly shot down by the police. I do not have to mention all these other areas and States where such regrettable incidents go on happening in our country, unfortunately. They are all not *dalits* or backward community people who are shot down always.

The police has a way of functioning into which some very high-powered kind of inquiry is required in order to bring about reforms in the whole police system. That is essential, in my opinion. However, that is another subject into which I do not want to go just now.

So, this is as far as the firing goes. Then, there is the attack on Bhujbal's house. Shri Bhujbal may or may not be a person whom one likes. It is not a question of personal likes or dislikes. If Shri Bhujbal, at one point of time, was selling vegetables, I do not know what is wrong with it. Is it a sin to sell vegetables? That is not the point. I do not know why these things are being brought up that somebody was selling vegetables and now they have made him a leader. Well, in our country, if we stand for poorer and backward sections of people, *dalits* and so on, then a vegetable seller can become a Prime Minister also. Why not? What is the wrong with it? That is not the point.

Officially, Shri Bhujbal has the post of the Leader of Opposition in the Council, and we have to look at it from that point of view. I met a large number of people, and delegations came from different parties including the B.J.P. They all said that 'if the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislature is treated in this way, then what can the common citizen expect, how will he survive, what is his security and what is his safety?' I would like the friends of the B.J.P. and the Shiv Sena, who are jointly running this Government in Maharashtra, to ponder over this question, and what is the reaction in the minds of the ordinary citizens.

I visited Shri Bhujbal's house and it was really in a shambles. Vandalism of the extreme variety had taken place. These people gathered there in an area which is just in front of the Mantralaya, a high security area on Sunday, by the way. On Sunday nobody goes there. It is a deserted area. Normally also, entry of mopeds in that area is checked by the Police because of the

security reason, but on that day there was nobody. But there this group of people gathered and attacked the house and damaged it very very severely. According to Shri Bhujbal, they were hunting for him and they were looking for him and he was trying to avoid them, escape from them, by shifting from room to room in his house. They did not find him or they did not catch him. Previously, he had got some indication, according to him. He got some apprehension or warning from somebody that there was likely to be an attack on his house next morning. He immediately informed the Police and on that very evening, that is, before the day of the attack, quite a large Police party was sent to his house and they were posted on duty there. There was an ASI, there was an SI, there were several constables, there were women constables and altogether about 40 to 50 people were posted there to protect. But strangely enough, next morning when this attack took place, the Police either did not or could not or would not give any protection. This has to be looked into also. Of course, two officers have been suspended. But I think the matter should not be left there because I was told that the attitude of the Police towards the attackers was not of trying to prevent them from entering the house or resisting like that, but doing some kind of *haath judo* and begging them and appealing to them that "Please go away from here and do not do like this" and so on. Anyway, that did not save Shri Bhujbal's house. Now it is a fact, as one hon. Member has said, that some time ago Shri Bhujbal belonged to the Shiv Sena. He has said it himself. He does not deny it. He has written two letters to me also in which he has admitted that "Yes. I was in the Shiv Sena." According to him, he left the Shiv Sena when the Shiv Sena came out against the Mandal Commission's report and recommendations. According to him, as a member of the Backward Classes who was supporting the whole Mandal Commission's recommendations and report, he was very much angry and infuriated by the attitude taken by the Shiv Sena towards the Mandal Commission. He said "Then I decided to leave them" Then or, shortly afterwards, I do not know, he gradually went over to the Congress party and became its leader in the Council.

But my only question is that if the Shiv Sena is considered by people today to have within its ranks a large number of people, a large number of *sainiks* who indulge in a kind of violent activities, then at that time I suppose they were not different either because we all know that when the Shiv Sena first rose to prominence in Mumbai, at that time, it was mainly on the basis of a campaign or crusade against non-Maharashtrians, not today. I do not agree when people did say that today also the Shiv Sena is terrorising or attacking or persecuting non-Maharashtrians in Mumbai. I think they have learnt a lesson over these years. But in the beginning, it was the people from the South, the *lungiwallas*, as they were called, and others who were singled out for attack by the Shiv Sena.

All kinds of threats, intimidation and even physical attacks were made on them. If this is the kind of an

ideology, if this is the kind of policy that they follow, then I do not think that you can say that today they have all become angels. You see, these things do not disappear like that. This is rooted within their psyche, the sole idea of being against certain minority people, people belonging to other communities who do not belong to Maharashtra or Mumbai, who are either minority people or people belonging to communities which are looked down upon, which are deprived communities whether it is *Dalits* or whether it is Muslims or whether it is the *lungiwalas*. At that time, there was a terror created in Mumbai, I remember because of this kind of a crusade which was going on by the Shiv Sena. If they have given it up today, well, I am very happy about it.

Some Members spoke here saying that even today in Mumbai this kind of a thing is going on. But I do not agree with it. I do not think they are now indulging in those same slogans and those same tactics as they were doing some years ago. But, anyway, the fact remains that Shri Bhujbal had been quite a prominent Member of the Shiv Sena. I have no doubt in my mind, as I was told also, about one thing. He said: "I am the Leader of the Opposition.

[Translation]

It is my duty to raise the demands of the people. It is my duty to criticise the Government and attack the Government with my views. This is my duty. I have to speak on all this in the council.

[English]

That is why, according to him also, the Shiv Sena people were very angry and furious. Because, after all, somebody was with you at one time, then goes away and turns against you. Normally, when these people entered his house, they were also shouting: "*Gaddar, Gaddar.*" Why were they saying "*Gaddar?*" The word "*Gaddar*" has a certain meaning, as you know very well, Sir. So, I think that we have to see this from the point of view of this fact.

We are always talking very proudly about our Parliamentary Democratic System and all that. That is true. We are all proud of it. We all belong to it. But the Parliamentary Democratic System cannot run if the leaders of the opposition in these elected Houses start saying things which you do not like...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, if you decide to mount a physical attack on them and teach them a lesson by breaking up their houses or something, this cannot be tolerated and this cannot and should not be tolerated. Whether you like Shri Bhujbal, whether you do not like him - that is not the point. That is irrelevant. But today he is the Leader in the Council. Tomorrow, somebody else may be there. Next day, somebody else may be there. But that is not the point. The point is that this kind of an outlook and this kind of behaviour is not good.

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

Then, I must say, since I have come to that point already, that the supreme leader of the Shiv Sena Shri, Bal Thackeray, met me. He asked to meet me. He sent the message that he wanted to meet me. I did not initiate the move nor did I go to his place or anything like that. But he came to meet me. I was glad to meet him. I said : "Surely, please come." Some people are angry about this. They asked: "Why should you meet him? Why should you meet him knowing what kind of things he has been doing, knowing the kind of instigation which he has been doing through the Shiv Sainiks, knowing fully well that he, through his paper called "Saamna", is writing all kinds of undesirable things?, is writing all kinds of undesirable things? Why did you meet him? Who is he? He is an extra-constitutional authority. He is nobody in the Government. Why should you meet him? You are the Home Minister. You went there. You should meet only the official people." Well, that is one line of argument. But then, at the same time, it is being said that the Government in Maharashtra is being remotely controlled; it is run by remote control. Who is that remote controller? It is none other than Shri Thackeray. If I choose to meet the remote control, as I thought I should, and hear what he has got to say, I do not see anything wrong in it. So, he came. He came with his nephew. he came with his son. We had a talk for some time. They said: "He gave you an assurance that such things would not be allowed to happen again." He was very outright in his condemnation. He said, "My people have done it the attack on Bhujbal. They are all my people. My boys have done this. And I condemn this very strongly. It is a shameful thing. It should never have happened. Whatever punishment they have to get, they must take that punishment." They have been arrested - 46 or 47 of them. I am being told here, "why should you accept the assurance given by such a person?" I never said that I had accepted the assurance. I never said that. Whether the assurance should be accepted or should not be accepted, the future will show. I think, my purpose as the Home Minister was served. How was it served? It was because firstly, the supreme commander in front of me admitted that it was his people who had done this. Secondly, he condemned it in no uncertain terms. Thirdly, he said that this kind of thing should not be allowed to happen again. So it is to my advantage. If such a thing happens again, we know who we have to catch. In fact, I said, "Shri Thackeray, what will happen in future depends entirely on how you and your people behave. The responsibility is on you and not on us. We will watch and see how you behave and it all depends on you what attitude the Government or at least the Central Government will take in this matter."

It was because there were apprehensions among some of the people on that side for political reasons. They say that use of Article 356 may be brought into play. Here there was a lot of pressure from my friends

on my right here who are supporting the Motion saying that we must dismiss the Government immediately and apply Article 356 to which our Government has not agreed to, because we think that what has happened is thoroughly condemnable and it must be condemned in no uncertain terms. It is something on which you cannot compromise. But it does not mean that necessarily a case has been made out for dismissing a Ministry. But in future, if such a misbehaviour takes place again and I think, the message has gone home to Shri Thackeray and his friends that they must be careful in future, otherwise, if such a thing happens again, then the Government of India will be free to act as it likes. So, in short, this is what has happened.

The wiser question, how the *Dalits* are behaving and are being treated is something which is beyond my scope at the moment. I do not propose to go into it. On some future occasion, we may have another debate. As far as desecration of statues go, I think, we will have to think of some way of tackling this problem because in Maharashtra alone, there are thousands of statues. Nobody has counted them. There are statues of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj; there are statues of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar; there are statues of Lord Buddha and so many people. Even while our debate was going on, I got a report from the Intelligence people that in the district of Youdhmal, a statue of Lord Buddha has also been desecrated. Many statues of Chatrapati Shivaji have been desecrated in the past and who knows many statues of Baba Saheb Ambedkar may be desecrated again because there is some kind of an instigation also going on. I have no doubt in my mind about it. We unfortunately do not know yet who that person was who put that garland of *chappals* or shoes round the neck of the statue. He was a deliberate provocator. He was carrying out an act of provocation knowing fully well that the site of that desecration would infuriate people and lead them perhaps to indulge in some kind of a violence or disorder and then it would be more convenient to shoot them down and so on. To some extent, I must say to the credit of the *Dalits* that they did not fall prey to the provocation the way they could have.

Of course, they were angry and they were justifiably angry but otherwise, there could have been a much bigger blood bath than what took place. So, for the protection of these statues, I think, the best thing to do is to set up a small Committee of Members of Parliament belonging to different parties. Let them sit together and think over it. It is not only the case of Maharashtra. Wherever these statues of eminent people are there, they should be protected. Yesterday, I happened to be in the old domain, the old principality of *Sahu Maharaj* in Maharashtra. I had gone there yesterday and I met many people there. *Sahu Maharaj* in his time — imagine, in his time when he was *Maharaja* — had given the directive that for people in that State-Government employees and so on — there should be 50 per cent reservation for the *dalits*, poor and the backward people. I do not know whether he was able to implement it or

get it implemented in those days but that was his directive, I was told. So, he was indeed a very farsighted, a very magnanimous ruler, and who is, therefore, honoured today everywhere. He was a great social reformer along with so many social reformers who flourished in different parts of our country at that time. Therefore, we should honour all those people. We should respect their memories. Wherever their statues are put up, to them we should evolve some methods by our joint consultation among the Members of Parliament as to what steps should be taken in future to protect such type of monuments or statues from defilement and desecration.

So, this is all I have to say about this matter as far as I am concerned. Now, we will wait to see what follow-up action is taken and what comes to light as a result of this inquiry. But I am quite sure that the House and the people in general in this country will not be satisfied unless the criminals and vandalers who participated in this dastardly crime in Mumbai are brought to book and severely punished.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri Sharad Pawar. He is absent.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, Shri Sharad Pawar is not present because he is undergoing a surgical operation. I understand the rules and I will abide by your direction. Though the Mover of the Motion has the right of reply, under the present situation as I was the co-sponsor of this Motion, I may be allowed by your goodness to reply. I am saying this, of course, under this special circumstances. Of course, if you do not allow me, I will not quarrel with you. I will resume my seat...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry, only the Mover can reply.

I shall now put the Motion moved by Shri Sharad Pawar to the Vote of the House.

The question is :

“That this House expresses its deep concern over the atrocities committed on Dalits in Mumbai, Nagpur and other places in the State of Maharashtra and in other parts of country.”

The motion was negatived.

18.44 hrs.

INSURANCE REGULATORY
AUTHORITY BILL - *Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up item no. 9 of the List of Business — further discussion on the motion moved by Shri P. Chidambaram.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia, who was on his legs, to continue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, you please adjourn the House today and I will continue tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, let him finish today. There are still 15 minutes available...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, there are still 15 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I will take another 40 minutes to finish my speech...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We will take up the Bill tomorrow.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was mentioning last time that the growth in the Life Insurance Company of our country is the highest in the world. So, our Life Insurance Company is not less efficient than the Insurance companies of the developed nations, the industrialised nations...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please maintain silence.
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please resume your seats.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The share of developed countries in 1990 was 93.5 per cent and it increased to 96.3 per cent. The share of developing countries which was 6.5 per cent in 1990 was reduced to 3.67 per cent. This is the position of the share of the developed countries and the share of the developing countries. Similarly, the premium income from total business by different continents in 1990 and 1992; in North America in 1990 it was 513.9; in 1992 it rose to 556.892, as a percentage it was 37.9 in 1992 which rose to 38.9 in 1992; in Europe it was 33.9 per cent in 1990 which was reduced to 31.1 per cent in 1992.

The main purpose of bringing this Bill is to open this insurance sector to the multi national companies; not only to the private companies, but also to the multi national companies. What is the necessity? If we go back to 1956, when Life Insurance was nationalised, what was the position in our country? There was Insurance Controller and in spite of that the Act of 1938 was amended as many as twenty times prior to 1956. But we have seen what was heppening in the private insurance companies; how the bankruptcy was there. That was why in 1956 the Government felt that the insurance companies should be nationalised, should be brought under the control of the Government; and it was nationalised. Since 1956, after nationalisation, there has not been any regulatory authority. In spite of this, what is the growht of Life Insurance Corporation? The growth is 20 per cent every year.

What was the equity of the Government of India? In 1956, it was only Rs. 5 crore.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

There were three main objectives behind the nationalisation of the life insurance industry. I will come to the general insurance industry which was nationalised in 1972, later on.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you come to that today itself?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I will come to that tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are still ten minutes left.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : If you want, you can adjourn the House now. I think, hon. Members are tired.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : We should have an insurance cover against interruptions!

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There were three main objectives behind the nationalisation of the life insurance industry. The first and the foremost objective was the need to spread life insurance business in the rural areas. That was the main objective of the nationalisation of the life insurance industry.

Prior to 1956, the percentage of rural business was minimum, only ten per cent; sometimes, it was even less than ten per cent. During the period prior to 1956, the rural areas were deliberately neglected as the insurance business could not be effective there. After the nationalisation of the life insurance industry and the formation of the LIC, it has been possible for the LIC to spread its business into the rural areas in a determined and planned manner. Last year, business to the extent of 45 per cent was done in the rural areas. Prior to 1956, it was less than ten per cent. The first and foremost objective was to spread the insurance business to cover the rural population more and more. This objective has been achieved.

The second objective was mobilisation of people's savings for national development. It has been greatly fulfilled. What was the position in 1957, immediately after the nationalisation? The premium income was a mere Rs. 88.65 crore. It increased to as much as Rs. 6959.91 crore in the year 1994. The Life Fund has increased from Rs. 410.40 crore in 1957 to Rs. 34,691.39 crore in 1992 and in the current year, it has increased to approximately Rs. 40,000 crore. So, the second objective of mobilisation of people's savings for national development has also been fulfilled because a major part of this amount is being utilised for the welfare of the people.

The third objective was to provide satisfactory service to the policy holders and to cater to their diverse needs. LIC has succeeded in a substantial measure in this area too. In the ultimate analysis, the main objective of the LIC is to satisfy the genuine needs of the policy holders. If we see the number of complaints received per one thousand policies, it was 1.47 in 1970 and it has come down to 0.15 in 1992.

In the case of settlement of claims, the percentage is more than ninety. It is the highest even by international standards. It is much more than what is settled even in developed countries.

So, in regard to efficient service, LIC is much more efficient than any of the insurance companies. You can compare LIC with any of the insurance companies of the developed and industrialised nations of the world. We are told that if we open the doors of insurance sector to the private sector and if there is competition, then it would lead to efficiency.

In almost all the developed countries the insurance industry is mostly monopolised. In the United States of America only five per cent of insurance business is open to foreign companies. In the United Kingdom also the same position exists. It is not more than ten per cent. In the USA, 15 out of 3,500 companies control fifty per cent of insurance sector and in the United Kingdom 13 out of 1800 companies control 80 per cent of the insurance sector.

These nations are pressurising us since 1991, when we had adopted the policy of liberalisation and market economy under the dictates of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to open our insurance sector. What has been stated in the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government? It is stated that we have to learn a lesson from what we have seen in the banking sector. What is our experience in the banking sector after having opened it to the multinational companies? A Joint Parliamentary Committee had gone into the security scam in-depth and we have seen how the foreign banks were responsible for the scam which took place in our country during 1991-92.

19.00 hrs.

That is our experience. If we apply that experience to the insurance sector, you can imagine what will happen to that. What is the necessity for that? We were told that we need Rs. 7,00,000 crore, that is, two billion dollars for infrastructure development.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, would you like to continue?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I will take another 15 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right. You can continue tomorrow.

19.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 5, 1997/Shravana 14, 1919 (Saka).

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