

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Fourteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



Gazettes Section, Office
Parliamentary Printing and Binding
Room No. PD-025
Block 'G'

(Vol. XXXIX contains Nos. 1 to 5)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

4

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, February 5, 2004/Magha 16, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER *In the Chair*)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of our former colleague, Shri R.L.P. Verma.

Shri R.L.P. Verma was a Member of the Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979, 1980 to 1984, 1989 to 1991, 1996 to 1997 and 1998 to 1999, respectively, representing the Kodarma Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar, which is now in Jharkhand.

Earlier, Shri Verma was a member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1974. During this period, he was member, Committee on Estimates of the Assembly.

A devoted Parliamentarian, Shri Verma was a member, Committee on Estimates during 1978-79 and Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Railways during 1980-82. During 1983-84 and 1990-91, he was a member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Energy. During 1990-91, he was a member, Committee of Privileges. During his last term in the House from 1998-99, he was a member, Committee on Estimates; Committee on Railways; and Consultative Committee, Ministry of Coal.

A multifaceted personality, Shri Verma was a lawyer, agriculturist, journalist and trade unionist. An active Social and political worker, Shri Verma worked for the uplift of poor and weaker sections of the society.

A person with a literary bent of mind, Shri Verma had several books and poems to his credit. He was also the Chief Editor, Ekikaran Manch (weekly); Manch Prabha (monthly) and Vyapar Pradarshak. He also produced a documentary film titled 'Janata Yug' in 1979.

Shri Verma was associated with various social and cultural activities. He was the Convenor, Bharat Sevak

Samaj, Giridih; and Farmers' Liberation Front. He was President, Mica Workers Trade Union, Giridih and Vice-President, Steel Workers Revolutionary Trade Union, Bokaro.

Shri R.L.P. Verma passed away on 15th January, 2004 at Giridih, Jharkhand at the age of 66.

We deeply mourn the demise of our friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

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

11.03 hrs.

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

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE (Ichalkaranji) : Mr. Speaker, Sir Ex-M.P. Shri Abay Singh Rao Bhonsle from Satara, Maharashtra has also passed away. When will his obituary reference be taken up?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : In due course of time, we will do it.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, I am requesting that your inherent power may be used and I am be allowed to make a statement today.

I am grateful to you for allowing me to make a statement. In 1987, accusations were flung at the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi in Bofors case. He had said in the Parliament and outside that he and his family members were innocent and not involved in the case, but for nearly 17 years, he and his family members and the Congress Party were tortured in a most despicable manner. Yesterday, the Delhi High Court has held that there is not even an iota of evidence against him.

The truth has prevailed, the honors of the family is vindicated. What injustice the accusers have done to him! How should they be treated for what they have done to him. Let the justice loving people decide.

I am making this statement because the records of the Parliament have the accusations made against him on several pages. Let the final verdict given by Delhi High Court clearing Shri Rajiv Gandhi from a part of the Parliament's record, Sir...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (Hingoli) : What about Shri George Fernandes?

MR. SPEAKER : I know go to the Question Hour. All notices for Adjournment Motion have been rejected by me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Sir, I want to make a mention...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Shri George Fernandes has been acquitted in Tehelka Scam...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is what he is saying.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I am highly grateful to you for giving me this opportunity.

An equally important event has occurred yesterday. Justice Phukan Commission has submitted a report to the Government of India in which hon. Minister of Defence Shri George Fernandes has been given a clean chit. I congratulate him on the occasion...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : There is no reference to Tehelka tapes in that report...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYER (Mayiladuturai) : How can it be equally important?... (Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : The Congress party boycotted hon. Shri George Fernandes on the floor of the House on the Tehelka issue for a long time....(Interruptions) Finally, Justice Phukan Commission has cleared his name. We congratulate Shri George Fernandes. ...(Interruptions) The Opposition party must feel ashamed of its behaviour on the floor of the House in this whole episode...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Since George ji was not allowed to speak in the House for a long time so they should apologize to him. We all congratulate George Sahab...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Those who wanted to congratulate the Minister, have congratulated him.

Now I go to the Question Hour. Question No. 341.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, that is only an interim report, and that is not on Tehelka...(Interruptions) That did not deal with the video footage of Tehelka...(Interruptions) The House should not be misled. What the hon. Member is saying is not correct...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : There is no reference to Tehelka tapes there. What a comparison!...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already called the Question.

11.06 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Incidents of Fire in Coaches

+

*341. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that incidents of fire in Railway Coaches standing at yards/stations are increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details of the incidents that occurred during the last six months, train-wise;

(c) the loss suffered by the Railways in these fires, incident-wise;

(d) whether the Government has made any inquiry about the cause of such fire;

(e) If so, the details thereof;

(f) the outcome of the inquiry, the officials found negligent in their duty and the action taken by the Government on inquiry report and against the guilty officials, incident-wise; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

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

Statement

(a) There have been some incidents of fire in the coaches in the recent past at stations over Northern Railway.

(b), (c) and (e) Details of the incidents that occurred during the last six months, train-wise Approximate loss to the Railways and the probable causes are given in the enclosed Annexure.

(d) Yes, Sir. Inquiry into the causes of Fire has been conducted.

(f) Except for one case that took place on 3-12-2003 at Delhi Shahdara Railway station, where train lighting staff was held responsible all other cases were due to suspected sabotage/miscreant activity. First Information Reports (FIRs) have been lodged with concerned Government Railway Police (GRP) stations and the cases are under investigation. Members of Railway Protection Force (RPF) and other Railway staff found negligent have been taken up departmentally.

(g) The following steps have been taken by the government to prevent such type of incidents :

1. RPF/GRP & Civil Police staff in plain clothes are detailed to keep a constant watch over anti-social elements to prevent and detect such fire incidents.
2. Information in respect of suspected criminals indulging in such crime is being exchanged among the RPF, GRP and Civil Police Officials.
3. Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF)RPF/ GRP and Civil Police Officers and staff deployed in yards, Platforms and sick lines are being regularly briefed to be ever vigilant and

to check unauthorized entry in yards/washing lines.

4. Identity cards have been issued to all railway staff working at stations, yards and washing lines.
5. Padlocking of coaches is being done jointly by Carriage and Wagon (C&W) and RPF staff. All coaches remain locked when not under maintenance and the same are opened when the rakes are placed at platforms for occupation by passengers.
6. All railway staff have been advised to check entry of unauthorized persons at work places and hand over the trespassers or unauthorized persons to the police, particularly those loitering around in suspicious circumstances.
7. Trains lighting staff have been asked to put off the main switch of the coaches after the arrival of the trains at the destination stations.
8. Fire fighting equipment including Fire extinguishers and fire hydrants are being kept in working order.
9. Heads of the Department and Junior administrative Grade officers of Northern Railway/Headquarters have been directed to conduct surprise checks at yards, platforms and washing lines Delhi area to ensure that staff deployed for duty remain alert and the procedure for securing and padlocking is strictly followed by them.
10. As many as 514 RPF, 109 RPSF, 255 GRF, 98 Delhi Police (Crime Branch) personnel and 102 Delhi Armed Police recruits have been deployed in yards, platforms, washing lines of New Delhi, Delhi Main, Delhi Sarai Rohilla and Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Stations to check unauthorized entry in Railway premises.
11. Intensive drives have been conducted against unauthorized persons in Delhi area during the period November, 2003 to January, 2004. Such Intensive drives resulted in arrest of 394 persons under Section 147 of the Railways Act, 1989 and realization of the fine to the tune of Rs. 24,900/-.

12. A special task force under a J.A. Grade RPF officer has been constituted to collect intelligence and find out the culprit(s) behind the incident. The said officer is also being assisted by officers of Central Crime Bureau (CCB) of Railway Board.
13. Awards of Rs. 1 Lakh and 50 thousand each have been declared by Railway Administration and Delhi Police respectively, for person giving any reliable information/clue about the culprit(s) behind the fire incidents. A computer generated pictorial sketch of persons reported to be involved in the incidents has been prepared and widely publicized through posters.
14. Short term and long term security plans have been prepared for access control in the station area. Short term plan includes relocation of Jhuggi clusters, sealing of unauthorized entry points/thorough fares etc. Long term plan includes segregation of passenger areas from yard areas by erecting physical barriers, removal of jhuggi clusters in Delhi Sadar Bazar Railway Station and Ajmeri Gate area of New Delhi Railway Station and construction of high walled fencing from Shivaji Bridge to Delhi Sadar Bazar Railway Station. Apart from the aforesaid physical security improvements, a proposal for high-tech gadgetry including CCTVs/Smoke and Fire detectors etc. has also been prepared.

Annexure

S.No.	Date	Brief details of the incidents	Approx. loss	Probable cause
1	2	3	4	5
1.	10-11-2003	While rake of Kaifiat Express (4025/26) was standing on Platform No.1 at Delhi Junction two coaches (No.01222/A and 03229/A-NRWGSN) of the same caught fire at about 14.14 hrs. Both the coaches were completely burnt.	Rs. 80 Lakh	Mischief/Sabotage
2.	21-11-2003	While rake of Brahmputra Mail (4055/56) was under maintenance in washing line at Delhi Junction at about 13.50 hrs. Its two coaches caught fire. While one coach was completely burnt, the second coach (No. 16696 GSN) was partially burnt.	Rs. 50 Lakh	Mischief/Sabotage
3.	3-12-2003	While rake of train No. 4RD/7RD was stabled on Platform No.1 of Delhi Shahdara Railway Station, fire took place in leading SLR No. 01713/A.	Rs. 20,400/-	Short circuit
4.	6-12-2003	While rake of Rajdhani Express (2951/52) was standing on washing line No. 2 at New Delhi railway station its one coach (No.ACCN-94133 WR) was partially burnt at about 11.30 hrs.	Rs. 1 Lakh	Mischief/Sabotage
5.	6-12-2003	While rake of Purushottam Express (2801/02) was standing on washing line No.6 at New Delhi railway station, its one coach (No.968214 ECOR) was completely burnt at about 12.10 hrs.	Rs. 10 Lakh	Mischief/Sabotage
6.	18-12-2003	While rake of Purushottam Express (2801/02) was standing on washing line no.6 of New Delhi Railway Station at about 11.45 hrs. one cabin of a coach (No. 968208/A-WGSCN) was partially burnt.	Rs. 15,000/-	Mischief/Sabotage

1	2	3	4	5
7.	18-12-2003	While rake of Prayagraj Express (2417/18) was standing on stabling line No. 16 of New Delhi Railway Station at about 12.20 hrs. two coaches (WGSCN-17213/A, 17193/A and 17210/A) were completely burnt and one coach (No. WGSCN-17213) was partially burnt.	Rs. 16 Lakh	Mischief/Sabotage
8.	5-1-2004	While rake of Lucknow Mail (4229/30) was stabled on running line No. 6 of Delhi Sarai Rohilla Rly. Station two coaches (No. 12641, 17050 WGSCN) were fully burnt while three other coaches (No. 12648, 17136 & 96300-WGSCN) were partially burnt at 12.30 hrs.	Rs. 50 Lakh	Mischief/Sabotage
9.	8-1-2004	While Ashram Express (2916) was standing on Platform No. 16 of Old Delhi Railway Station, one coach (No. WRCCN-98228) of said rake caught fire.	Rs. 35 Lakh.	Mischief/Sabotage

Note : Approximate loss in different cases varies due to variation in extent of damages to the coach. The loss is higher in those cases where the coach shell has suffered extensive damages as in SL nos. 1, 2, 8 and 9. In such cases, where the shell can be reused (such as no.5) the loss is less.

SHRI RAJAI AH MALYALA : Sir, I have gone through the statement given by the hon. Minister. I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether fire accidents are increasing day by day or decreasing, and has any compensation been paid to the victims within one year. That information is not given in the statement. I want to know answers for these two questions from the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has asked,

[English]

"Whether Government is aware that incidents of fire in Railway coaches standing at yards/stations are increasing day by day?"

[Translation]

He wants to know why the incidents of fire in railway coaches standing at yards/stations are increasing day by day, which has been replied as,

[English]

"There have been some incidents of fire in the coaches in the recent past at stations over Northern Railway."

[Translation]

The details of steps taken have been elaborated. So

far as incidents of fire in coaches at yards and stations are concerned, no doubt, railways have suffered loss of property but no loss of life is reported.

[English]

SHRI RAJAI AH MALYALA : I wanted to know the amount of compensation paid to victims.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There is no victim. The victim is the Railways. Railway coaches have been burnt and we have suffered losses.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Former Railway Minister Shri Ram Naik, who is present here, had introduced Ladies Special Train in Mumbai. During 1993-94, a coach of that train caught fire at Kandewali, smoke was coming out of that coach. Many women jumped out of train and lost their lives and many were injured. It was the fault of railways and still no compensation has been given to them so far. I want to ask hon. Minister will the Government consider giving them compensation? Shri Jaffar Sharief was Railway Minister in Rao ji's cabinet, Shri Suresh Kalmadi took the charge after him. I have been placing this demand since then and I still demand, whether the Government will consider it?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is the harm in considering it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He is raising this issue on last day of 13th Lok Sabha. I will give directions for its consideration...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I know you have enough time to consider it.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Please consider compensation for them.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, in 1993, there was a fire accident in the Mumbai Mail near Chakradharpur. Consequently, a small committee was constituted to enquire into that accident and I was the Chairman of that Committee. That Committee had made certain recommendations, and one important recommendation was to manufacture fire resistant coaches.

I would like to know whether the Government has implemented this important recommendation of the Committee which was constituted to me to inquire into the fire accident of Mumbai Mail.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Shri Basu Deb's supplementary is not related to the original question. But it is true that a Committee relating to fire accidents was constituted under the Chairmanship of hon. Shri Basu Deb Acharia. They submitted a very good report and made several recommendations which were implemented. Now, fire retardant material is used while manufacturing railway coaches. Now, even proto type of fire proof coaches has been prepared, it has been prepared at both Rail Coach Factory Kapoorthala and Integral Rail Coach Factory, Chennai. I have seen fire proof coaches at Kapoorthala. These are under trial. On the basis of result we will further carry out improvement.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during last 3-4 years you have permitted me several times to ask questions. Rail accidents are increasing day by day in various parts of the country. There have been maximum rail accidents during last 4 years period. Though the Government may claim that it has taken many steps to check the accidents but the fact is that these steps have been useless and inadequate. Last time I had wanted to know the reason behind it but the hon. Minister gave a vague reply. Actually, when an accident takes place an inquiry is held, reports are submitted, but so far neither any senior level officer has been held responsible nor any

action has been taken against any guilty officer. Be it a Divisional Manager or any higher level officer, always junior level employees are made scape-goat and action is taken against them. I would like to ask hon. Minister whether present Government have placed any responsibility on senior level officers for rail accidents and taken any action against them alongwith the details thereof.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not related to the original question. But since it is related to safety, I have provided maximum details on safety during reply on Interim Budget with regard to reduction in number of accidents and steps taken to check them. I had placed a white paper on accidents and the steps taken to check them. After a country wide debate on safety, I have evolved a corporate safety plan and every item...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : I have asked a specific question. I wanted to know—had the Government so far taken any action against any senior officer over rail accidents?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need your protection. You have admitted a question on fire accidents in rail coaches in yards in Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Original question is relating to accidents and these are on the increase and it is the responsibility of the Government to put an effective check on it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The original question does not contain the word 'accident' but if you permit it then I can repeat a number of facts based on memory. Probably Shri Chaturvedi was not there when I had presented all the details two days ago in the House. He may be having other responsibilities...*(Interruptions)* I won't be there to tackle them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is not whether I was presented or not. The question is whether in the last four years, responsibility has been fixed against any senior officer or not and if so, whether any action was taken or not?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit that he can get the answer to his question by referring to the white paper...*(Interruptions)* The white paper contains all the information he is seeking...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Let him name just one senior officer on whom responsibility has been fixed

and action has been taken...(Interruptions) That is why accidents are on the rise...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the introduction of rubberised vestibules has resulted in a number of fire accidents. There have been reports that since the introduction of rubberised vestibules, there have been a number of fire accidents. If so, how many such fire accidents have taken place because of the rubberised vestibules and what action does the Government propose to take in this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : So far as vestibules being used are concerned, only the standard UIC vestibules as maintained by International Railway Union are being used.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister is making all out efforts but accidents are rising day by day. My question pertains to the major accident going to happen after two months...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Are you an astrologer?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : The Government are making serious efforts to check the accidents...(Interruptions) With a view to checking the incidence of accidents and to provide great security to the people, some of the powers of GRP have been transferred to RPF. My question is, by what time, the plan formulated to provide protection to the train passengers will be implemented and what measures are likely to be taken to reduce the number of train accidents? Besides what measures are being taken to prevent major accidents which occurs every two months so that the House does not have to discuss the accident again. Reply to this effect may also be given...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 342, Shri Mansinh Patel— not present.

Q. No. 343, Shri Trilochan Kanungo.

Departmental Railway Vikas Nigam

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

(a) whether Departmental Railway Vikas Nigam (DEPRV) has been made functional;

(b) if so, the structural and financial status of DEPRV;

(c) the funds earmarked for construction of new lines under East Coast Railway Zone through DEPRV;

(d) the names of such new lines and the expenditure incurred so far thereon;

(e) whether instructions have been sent not to go ahead with the construction of Haridaspur-Paradeep new Railway line;

(f) if not, the funds allocated during 2003-04 for this line and amount spent thereon so far during the year; and

(g) the total allocation made from DEPRV and the expenditure incurred so far during 2003-04, zone-wise and project-wise?

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL and not DEPRV) is functional.

(b) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) is registered as a wholly government owned company under Company's Act 1956. Currently it has an authorized capital of Rs. 500 crores, which will be increased progressively as per requirement to finally reach an equity base of Rs. 3000 crores.

The temporary Board comprising part-time Chairman and three Directors is in position. Initial personnel have also been posted.

(c) Rs. 95 crores have been allocated during 2003-04 for construction of two new railway lines in East Coast Railway through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL).

(d) The names of the two new lines and the expenditure incurred so far is as below :

S.No.	Name of Project	Expenditure incurred upto March 2003 (in Rs. crores)
1.	Daitari-Banspani (155 km)	369.48
2.	Haridaspur-Paradeep (82 km)	21.90

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Rs. 20 crores have been allocated during 2003-04 for construction of the new line from Haridaspur to Paradeep. No expenditure has been incurred during the current year as expenditure on the project can be incurred after establishing its bankability.

(g) Rs. 730 crores were allocated to RVNL projects during 2003-04. The provisional expenditure incurred during the current year on these projects, zone-wise and project-wise, is indicated in the Annexure. Actual expenditure will be known at the end of the financial year after the accounts are finalised.

Annexure

S.No.	Name of Project	Plan Head	Outlay 2003-04	Provisional Expenditure 2003-04 (till 31.12.2003) (In Rs. crores)
1	2	3	4	5
Central Railway				
1.	Pakni-Solapur Doubling	Doubling	15.00	0.48
2.	Diva-Kayan : 5&6 Line	Doubling	10.00	10.62
3.	Panvel-JNPT	Doubling	20.00	0.35
4.	Pakni-Mahoi Doubling	Doubling	15.00	0.00
	Total for Central Railway		60.00	11.45
Eastern Railway				
5.	Gurup-Shaktigarh : 3rd line	Doubling	20.00	5.75
	Total for Eastern Railway		20.00	5.75
Northern Railway				
6.	New Delhi-Tilak Bridge : 5th and 6th line	Doubling	10.00	4.56
7.	Aligarh-Ghaziabad : 3rd Line	Doubling	30.00	0.00
8.	Sahibabad-Anand Vihar 3rd and 4th lines	Doubling	10.00	0.00
	Total for Northern Railway		50.00	4.56
Southern Railway				
9.	Attipattu-Korukkupettai : 3rd line	Doubling	30.00	4.25
10.	Pattabhiram-Thiruvallur : 4th line and Thiruvallur-Arakkonam : 3rd line	Doubling	35.00	12.76
11.	Chennai Beach-Korukkupettai : 3rd Line	Doubling	5.00	0.00
	Total for Southern Railway		70.00	17.01
South Central Railway				
12.	Gooty-Renigunta Sec : Doubling of Batapalle-Pullampet (Ph.-I)	Doubling	40.00	13.22

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Gooty-Renigunta : Patch Doubling	Doubling	40.00	4.96
14.	Raichur-Guntakal : Doubling	Doubling	20.00	0.00
	Total for South Central Railway		100.00	18.18
	South Eastern Railway			
15.	Tikiapara-Santragachi : 4th Line	Doubling	10.00	0.00
16.	Panskura-Haldia : Phase-I (Panskura-Rajgoda)	Doubling	20.00	5.57
	Total for South Eastern Railway		30.00	5.57
	Western Railway			
17.	Gandhidham-Palanpur	Gauge Conversion	100.00	58.92
	Total for Western Railway		100.00	58.92
	Railway Electrification			
18.	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Talcher-Paradeep	Railway Electrification	40.00	*16.74
19.	Bhubaneswar-Kotlavalasa Railway Electrification	"	15.00	*12.21
20.	Guntakal-Renigunta	"	30.00	*3.80
	Total for Railway Electrification		85.00	*32.75
	East Coast Railway			
21.	Talcher-Paradeep (Second bridge on Mahanadi & Birupa)	Doubling	20.00	7.30
22.	Daitari-Banspani	New Lines	75.00	57.67
23.	Rajatgarh-Barang	Doubling	10.00	2.20
24.	Cuttack-Barang Doubling	Doubling	10.00	1.63
25.	Khurda-Barang 3rd Line	Doubling	10.00	0.00
26.	Haridaspur-Paradeep	New Lines	20.00	0.00
	Total for East Coast Railway		145.00	68.80
	Southeast Central Railway			
27.	Bilaspur-Urkura	Doubling	40.00	19.00
	Total for Southeast Central Railway		40.00	19.00
	West Central Railway			
28.	Bhildi-Samdari	Gauge Conversion	30.00	0.72
	Total for West Central Railway		30.00	0.72
		Grand Total	730.00	242.71

*Till 31.10.03

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Sir, my question is regarding Railway Vikas Nigam and allocation of funds from the Railway Vikas Nigam for different new lines, as also the expenditure incurred so far. You may please look at parts (d), (e) and (f) of the main Question and please look at at the answers also to see how irrelevant the answers are.

In part (d), I asked : 'the names of such new lines and the expenditure incurred so far thereon'. That means, whether Railway Vikas Nigam has spent any money so far and what is the expenditure from Railway Vikas Nigam. The answer says that in respect of the Project Daltari-Banspani, the expenditure incurred up to March 2003 is Rs. 369.48 and in respect of the Project Haridaspur-Paradeep, it is Rs. 21.90. I want to know whether the answer is correct, that is, whether that amount has been spent by the Railway Vikas Nigam so far in this year.

Please look at parts (e) and (f) of the Question. It asks: '(e) whether instructions have been sent not to go ahead with the construction of Haridaspur-Paradeep new Railway line; (f) If not, the funds allocated during 2003-04 for this line and amount spent thereon so far during the year.'

The answer says that for the Haridaspur-Paradeep new line, an amount of Rs. 20 crore has been allotted, but not a single pie has been spent so far. Please look at the answer to part (f) of the Question. It says: 'Rs. 20 crore have been allocated during 2003-04 for construction of the new line from Haridaspur to Paradeep. No expenditure has been incurred during the current year as expenditure on the project can be incurred after establishing its bankability.'

For part (e) of the Question which asks, 'whether instructions have been sent not to go ahead with the construction of Haridaspur-Paradeep new Railway line, the answer given is 'No'. That means, no such instruction has been given not to spend.

My question is, an amount of Rs. 20 crore has been allotted and ten months of the year have elapsed, but not a single pie has been spent so far. Then, what is the intention of the Government or of the Railway Ministry in allocating that amount of Rs. 20 crore in the Budget of 2003-04? I want to know this specific answer in my first supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply

to the question is quite apt. It has been mentioned in the reply that its bankability report etc. are being prepared and final decision in this regard is being taken. The procedure of work undertaken through Rail Development Corporation is different from that undertaken through budgetary support. The National Rail Development Scheme announced has three components, one, project relating to strengthening of Golden Quadrilateral, projects relating to port connectivity and projects relating to mega bridges. Rail Development Corporation has been entrusted with the projects relating to golden quadrilateral and port connectivity. Projects have been identified and certain projects have been transferred to RVNL. It is in two part—some are sanctioned projects and some are unsanctioned projects. Unsanctioned projects are also being sanctioned. RVNL is to work in sanctioned projects and in its work it will have equity share and also market borrowing. Bankability is essential before RVNL takes up any work. The funds have been allocated. We have allocated our resources but to meet the gap between demand and requirement, market borrowing will be necessary. For that completion of bankability report is necessary and necessary action is being taken to provide for the money and put the project on fast track. One obstacle in bankability report is that State Governments have to decide about mining rights. When mining rights are decided only then would be known the volume of mining, the traffic and impact of these on its bankability. If it is not covered in the framework of bankability, then we would consider to do that through our own budget. But for the time being it has been put under RVNL. We are making efforts to establish its bankability so that it could be put on fast track even through market borrowing. Another option is to use our own resources. Funds are not being spent because RVNL will need to have financial closure to take up this line. Bankability report is being prepared. But I would request the hon'ble Member to talk to Orissa Government on the issue of mining rights. Only then it would be decided whether the traffic would go to Paradip or to Dhamra, which is a private sector port. On this issue and several others, the State Government has to take decision. So far as projects are concerned, these are approved projects and will be handed to RVNL for fast track development. Bankability report is necessary for RVNL to take them up, we are taking action to finalise the Bankability report. If we do not succeed, if that route is not found suitable for it, then we would undertake the task through our own budget resources.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Sir, you have heard

the answer. I do not know whether you are satisfied or not. My question is this. If the State Government has not clearly said as to whether its mind is open to this rail line, how was then Rs. 20 crore allocated for it? At the time of 2003-2004 budget discussion, I had asked the same question. Previously, money was put through BOLT and not a single coin was spent. It came as a bolt from the blue for Orissa. I had asked what is the Railway Vikas Nigam (RVN). RVN was not defined at that time. Anyway, Rs. 20 crore was allocated. I asked the concerned Railway Zone about the matter and also how they were going ahead with it. They said that there are clear instructions not to go ahead with the work. The then General Manager personally told me this. Now, ten months after, I find from the answer that not a copper coin has been spent. Is there a discrepancy between the answer and the action? I beg your protection on the last day of the 13th Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will have to go over my reply all over again. May be he is not able to comprehend.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Even if it is repeated hundred times, it cannot become truth.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Question has been asked again. You may reply to it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I can only provide information I can do nothing if someone gets emotionally involved in the issue. The point is that Haridaspur-Paradip project is a sanctioned project.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : It is not the imagination. It is action...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, you can ask the hon. Member to go on saying whatever he likes and thereafter I will try to respond.

[Translation]

The question is that considering the Haridaspur-Paradweep project as port connectivity project...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : It is Haridaspur to Paradip.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, this way I cannot answer.

[Translation]

This is not the place to argue. He is seeking information and I am giving him information. It is not a court that he is giving arguments and is producing evidence. He is seeking information and I am giving information. Haridaspur-Paradweep project is a sanctioned project. Slowly and gradually funds are being incurred on this project. The National Railway Development Project was announced which had three components and the port connectivity was one of them. That project was also included under the national Railway Development Project. Railway Development Corporation was set up to complete those projects with the intention that the Government will also invest some money as equity and some of the funds will be generated through the market borrowings. It is with this intention that the projects have been identified. By the way it is one of the identified projects of the National Railway Development Projects. The Railway Development Corporation has been entrusted to execute this project so that it may be completed at the earliest. So bankability Report is essential for taking up the execution of the said project by the Railway Development Corporation as market borrowing component is also involve in it. If there is bankability report and the project is bankable, then there will be borrowing facility, resources will be generated and we will also be able to complete this project swiftly. As I have stated that in view of this it was included in fast track. Twenty crore rupees as our equity share have been incurred. Rest of the resources will be generated by the market borrowings. That money is not going to be diverted elsewhere and there is no question of inaction in this regard. Since the project is to be executed through Railway Development Corporation, it will be essential to do some ground work. It is not like switching on electric button, the moment it is switched on there is light. It is a process, an approved process. It has been brought under that process so that it may be completed at the earliest. Unless the ground is prepared, and it is proved a bankable project, I can give you only assurance. For proving bankable project it is essential that mining lease is awarded and it is for the Orissa Government to take decision in this regard. It is also being delayed. If it is decided, then the report which will be prepared by us will state whether it is bankable or not. The details about

the traffic will also be known. Till now even that is not clear. It was transferred to RVNL so that it may be completed quickly. There are some basic requirements which are yet to be fulfilled. If these are not fulfilled otherwise, it will have to be fulfilled from budgetary resources. This has also been clarified to them.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask only one question from hon'ble Nitishji. Time and again Government announce to lay new rail lines and start new trains, however, the implementation of earlier projects is still pending. Whenever I talk about those projects, stereotype answer of the Government is that presently there is no fund or so much is to be contributed by the State Governments or others. I would like to request you that first of all the on-going projects should be completed as it becomes difficult for us to answer in our constituency. The people ask us why works are pending and why do we not get them completed. What are we doing in Delhi? Time and again I have raised the matter of Mangalore-Hassan. For Hubli-Ankola line if Rs. 20 crore are allocated in one year, Rs. 30 crore are allocated in the other year. How many years will it take for completion.

[English]

Even my great grand children would not see it completing.

[Translation]

That is why I would like to suggest that priority should be given to ongoing projects and the Government should not unnecessarily propagate India shining slogan. If such projects are completed, the country will give the Government blessings.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is it a suggestion or a question?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I am asking as to when will he pay attention to this.

[Translation]

He pays no attention to it. He gives the same replay again and again and I also ask the same thing. So I would humbly like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what is the intention of the Government regarding the completion of Hubli-Ankola railway line. If the Government desire to complete it then how much time will it take and how much money will be spent on it?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now this is a question.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for me Margaret Alva ji always seems to be shining. So we do not talk about shining.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : If it is so then use may picture in advertisement campaign.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have announced that the Government intends to complete all the ongoing projects under the railway within 5 years. The required steps like cost sharing and enhanced budgetary support have already been taken in this regard. Some defence funding is also being mobilised in National Railway Development Project and strategic line. Despite this, I feel that even after the completion of ongoing projects worth Rs. 43,000 crore within five years that the projects amounting to Rs. 17,18,000 crore will remain incomplete. So we have proposed a remote area rail connectivity scheme for the completion of these projects also within 5 years. The resources are being generated for rest of the projects. This will be done budgetary support and market borrowing. Our effort is to generate sufficient resources so that all the projects of railway may be completed within five years. If it is so then no state will be left. Rather all the projects will be completed. Hubli-Ankola is also included in that, though it has been kept with other track.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, for the last five years, the Railways is facing a definite problem of internal resource generation and its budgetary support needs to be increased. We are also supporting that. In view of this fact, I would like to know whether the Minister of Railways feels that this particular Railway Vikas Nigam Limited should be assigned the specific task of the railway development network in the country. It should be free from the control or supervision of the Railway Board. It should be free from any kind of financial support from the Ministry of Railways so that this Nigam could be, in future, a challenging sector to meet the residual demands of the Railway projects here and there, including the metro railway in future if it is envisaged for the cities of Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, etc. Recently, an article was published saying that if the successful venture of Delhi Metro system is adopted at a lesser cost in Ahmedabad,

Bangalore. Coimbatore and even in Trivandrum, the future of our infrastructure arrangements will be more solid. I would like to know whether the Railway Vikas Nigam Limited could consider this thing.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, certain identified projects have been given to Railway Development Corporation. These projects are golden quadrilateral and the project related to high-density network. It has been entrusted to railways to generate resources for these projects and execute the work. They are being given autonomy for taking decision regarding agency. There are some unapproved projects for which distinct approach has been adopted. Those projects will be taken up with the consent of the Ministry of Finance and will be executed by the Ministry of Railways so that the unapproved projects are also approved. By the way golden quadrilateral and port connectivity projects had been given to the Railway Development Corporation. Out of them some are approved and some are unapproved. They are worried about the generation of funds for that. As far as the question of metro railway is concerned, the Ministry of Railways is not accountable for other metros except Calcutta Metro. By way of changing the allocation of business the responsibility of railway has been transferred to the Ministry of Urban Affairs. So in the construction of Delhi Metro the Ministry of Railway provides technical assistance, man power assistance and gives suggestions regarding safety and also certifies it. The rest of the works have been transferred to the Ministry of Urban Development. So the execution will be carried on by them. In rest of the places as in Calcutta, Metro is under Railway as even before the rules were being amended, Calcutta Metro has been under Indian Railway. Therefore Calcutta Metro of Dasmunji's city will remain with Indian Railway while remaining metros are not with Indian Railway.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 344--Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Not present.

Regulator for Cable Business

*345. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :
DR. M. V. V. S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether the Government has appointed, TRAI to act as regulator for cable business;

(b) whether the Ministry is also planning for a separate regulator/regulation;

(c) if so, the terms and conditions laid down for such regulator;

(d) the details about the order issued by TRAI freezing the cable prices as per December, 2003 schedule;

(e) the action Government has taken to see that the customers are not compelled to pay higher price; and

(f) the extent to which the cable customers will be protected in Mumbai, Delhi and other cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Central Government has issued a Notification on 9th January, 2004, notifying the 'broadcasting services and cable services' to be "Telecommunication Services" under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997. The functions of the Authority are laid down in the said Act. The TRAI has been entrusted with the additional functions of making recommendations regarding the terms and conditions on which the addressable systems, such as STBs, shall be provided to customers and the parameters for regulating the maximum time for advertisements in pay as well as other channels. It will also specify standard norms for, and periodicity of, revision of rates of pay channels, including interim measures.

(b) and (c) A proposal for setting up Broadcasting Content Regulatory Authority is under consideration.

(d) to (f) The TRAI has, through its order issued on 15.1.2004, fixed the ceiling on charges payable by the cable subscribers to cable operators; by cable operators to Multi-system operators (MSOs)/Broadcasters; and by MSOs to Broadcasters (including their authorised distribution agencies) to be those prevalent as on 26th December, 2003 in respect of both free-to-air and pay channels (both for CAS and non-CAS areas) until final determination by it on various issues concerning these charges. In case of any violations of TRAI's order/directive/regulation, a complaint can be filed by the TRAI before the appropriate courts under section 29 and 30, read with section 34 of the TRAI

Act. Consumers are also at liberty to move the appropriate consumer forum for seeking redressal of their grievances. Hence, the consumers will be protected against arbitrary hikes in monthly subscription charges till the various issues involved are finally determined by it.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Sir, the cable operators are creating different kinds of problems at different places. Neither the cable operators are uniform, nor are their problems uniform. The task of regulating the cable operators has been entrusted to TRAI. How far have this body been able to accomplish their task?

Sir, there is also a proposal by the Government to constitute a Broadcasting Content Regulatory Authority soon. The cable operators are not giving quality service and also they are charging exorbitant rates. Even after paying charges they are not broadcasting the pay channels. It has been said that the consumers can go to the court. But that will hamper the whole system. Courts will not be able to solve the problems. The Government must have a Regulatory Authority of its own at the earliest in order to solve the problems. Different States have different problems in regard to the services offered by the cable operators. I would like to know as to how the Government proposes to solve this problem.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Sir, the divide amongst the stakeholders, cable operators and MSO Broadcasters has been brought to our notice. Also, in this august House, repeatedly this issue has been raised as to what about having a regulator. The divide on revenue sharing, on the availability of a platform, etc. were issues that required to be solved in detail by a regulator by giving recommendations. Then, there is a direction of the honourable Delhi High Court that we must have a regulator with consumer interest in mind. Now, under the TRAI Act, there is a provision whereby, in addition to telecom, even the broadcasting services can be brought. Therefore, the existing TRAI, which did a good job in the telecom sector, has been given this authority.

Three issues have been given to them. Firstly, they must determine the revised rates of channels and also the period in which the revision can be made; secondly, how much advertisements should be shown on pay channels; and thirdly, the revenue sharing and the addressibility. They have already issued the consultation papers. They are consulting all the stakeholders, including the consumers,

and I am quite sure that with the rise of television industry in India with consumer interest in mind, the scope for a regulator is very important.

As far as the content part is concerned, content and carriage are two separate issues. Therefore, TRAI is handling the carriage part. If anyone flouts TRAI's order, he can be penalised by them as also by the consumer court. I can tell you that TRAI has passed an order that the rates existing on 26th December shall be frozen in the entire country till they come with their recommendations.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI : The content part has not been taken care of, as per the words of the hon. Minister himself. That has to be taken care of at the earliest.

The other thing is, the cable operators are avoiding taxes also. They have not been paying taxes because they have not been regulated. Unless you get them regulated, registered properly and answerable, the whole Indian broadcasting system will be affected. The revenue receipts will also be affected. How are you going to solve this problem?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Under the existing Cable Act itself, entertainment tax is a State subject. Therefore, the SDMs, the DMs and other authorities are empowered for that. However, in my interaction with the Chief Ministers of various States, we have conveyed that concern and the Government of India shall cooperate with the State Governments in ensuring that maximum return ought to be done as far as entertainment tax is concerned.

As regards registration of cable operators, these are issues under consideration by the regulator. Till they come out with the recommendations as to the entire growth, I am very clear that the Government wants to have a holistic view about the entire industry in the country. Once the recommendations come from TRAI, if we find that certain legislative amendments are required, we shall also do that.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would also like to thank the Government for initiating the regulatory process in the interest of the consumers. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that I was the first person who signed the petition filed in the public interest in Mumbai High Court on behalf of the 50 thousand cable

operators of Mumbai. Last week arguments were made in High Court for almost three hours in which MSO, cable operators, Government council, state Government council, pay channel operators and free to air channel operators also participated. In these arguments which continued for three hours, Mumbai High Court protected the consumers. TRAI has frozen the cable rates but prior to it Mumbai High Court has also frozen the rates. I would request the Government that the directions issued by the Mumbai High Court and TRAI regarding the freezing of rates, should be implemented from lower level. Pay channels, should not increase their rates because cable operators blame pay channels for hike in the rates. Those orders should be applicable for all.

[English]

I want to know whether the Government will take initiatives to see that the pay channels, the MSOs and the cable operators accept the verdict and implement it accordingly and whether the Government will protect the consumers or not.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member Shri Kirit Somalya has been very active in protecting the interest of consumers and he keeps apprising us their problems from time to time. I would like to assure the House on behalf of the Government that consumers' interest is our first priority. I have publicly stated that the Government will always protect the consumers' interest be it the division of stake holders or the competition among them. He has mentioned about an order issued by the Mumbai High Court. I would take all the details from him and definitely get the matter investigated. I would like to submit that the Government will also cooperate in the implementation of the rates frozen by TRAI on 26th December. State Governments should also cooperate in this regard. I would request the hon'ble Member that if he comes to know any incident where cable operators are charging more, he can make a complaint to TRAI. TRAI has the penal powers. After that we can also take action.

[English]

SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Sir, local newspapers, through cable television, are now starting news channels. I would like to know whether there is any regulation for that purpose. If so, what rules have been

made for that purpose? That would help the unemployed youth to start news channels through cable television. I would also like to know whether CAS is going to be abolished in Chennai.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Sir, as far as the first part of his query is concerned, he has raised a very sensitive issue, namely the issue of cross-media holding and ownership. This issue requires a lot of debate. Cross-media holding and ownership has got many facets. There are newspaper owners who are running magazines, weekly, fortnightly, etc; there are newspaper owners who are also running radio channels and cable channels. Therefore, this is an issue which requires to be considered in some greater detail, in proper consultation with the media.

Once the TRAI comes out with its recommendations, I am quite sure that the conflict of carriage and the conflict of commercial considerations, which is becoming all the more open, shall be addressed in detail.

As far as the second part of his query is concerned, people of Chennai have two views. Many consumers are happy because they can pay less. Many consumers are angry also. All those problems are certainly there. The TRAI is looking at the entire issue in South Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. Once the TRAI comes out with the recommendations as to what is to be done now, we shall act accordingly in the light of its recommendations.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House had passed this bill with the impression that it would not harm the interests of consumers but the situation is going against them. As the hon'ble member has stated that they cannot like the rates frozen on 26th December but they have stopped the telecast of the channels which were being shown till 26th December and especially the subscribers are being exploited by the pay channels operators. I would like to know from the Government about the steps taken to stop this exploitation. Has the Government issued any directives to them that they have to continue the telecast of the pay channels, which were shown earlier, at the rates frozen on 26th December?

Is the Government ready to defer the CAS for some time so that the interests of the consumers could be protected?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of CAS is concerned, Delhi High Court has given two verdicts in this regard. As per the verdict given recently on 4th, CAS will not be implemented in Delhi, it is inappropriate. The verdict given on 26th December was about the implementation of CAS in Delhi within 3 months.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble member is right that several complaints have been received from the South Delhi subscribers during the course of implementation of this order also the contradictions between cable operators and broadcasters have emerged before us. This thing has been exposed before TRAI. Through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble member that as per the High Court's order, we are waiting for the directions and recommendations of TRAI. We will ponder over the matter as soon we receive the recommendations from TRAI.

It has been mentioned that the rates freezed on 26th December are being maintained but all channels are not being shown. Since High Court's orders are implemented in Delhi, CAS has also been implemented in Delhi. But now the problem is that pay channels cannot be seen without set top box. The entire matter has been referred to TRAI. It will be considered after the recommendations received from TRAI.

Shortage of Coaches and Wagons

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*346. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a heavy shortage of Railway Coaches and Wagons in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the places in the country where the wagons and coaches are being manufactured and the manufacturing capacity of each of them, separately;

(d) the number of wagons and coaches manufactured in the country during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to manufacture the required number of coaches and wagons?

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

Statement

(a) There is no shortage of railway coaches in the country. However, there is shortage of wagons.

(b) Although the actual loading of revenue earning freight traffic during the period from April to December, 2003, was 26.69 million tonnes more than the loading in the corresponding period of the previous year and also 11.01 million tonnes more than the proportionate target upto December, 2003, Railways have not been able to meet the full requirement of wagons for various commodities including coal, iron ore and foodgrains for export, cement etc. for the following reasons:

(i) Increased demand of coal by the power sector vis-a-vis the projected requirement and spurt in demand of iron ore for export resulting in shortage of open wagons;

(ii) Substantial increase in loading of foodgrains for Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes of the State Governments resulting in shortage of covered wagons for commodities like cement, foodgrains for export, etc.

(iii) Acute shortfall in the actual production of wagons vis-a-vis orders placed on the wagon manufacturing units. Total orders available with wagon industry during 2003-04 were for 23464 wagons (in terms of four wheelers) against which production upto the end of January, 2004, was 8197 wagons (in terms of four wheelers), which works out to 35% only.

(c) and (d) There are two coach manufacturing units under the Ministry of Railways namely, Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala and Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai and one coach manufacturing unit is available in the Public sector namely Bharat Earth Movers Ltd., Bangalore under Ministry of Defence and one in private sector namely JESSOPS, Kolkata. The manufacturing units for coaches and wagons, their production capacity and the coaches and wagons manufactured during the last three years are as under :

COACHES :

Name of the unit	Production capacity	Production in 2000-2001	Production in 2001-2002	Production in 2002-2003
ICF, Chennai	1000	1000	1025	944
RCF, Kapurthala	1000	1190	1204	944
BEML, Bangalore		44	11	25
JESSOPS, Kolkata		22	22	25

WAGONS (in terms of 4 wheeler units) :

Name of the unit	Licensed capacity	Production in 2000-2001	Production in 2001-2002	Production in 2002-2003
Bharat Wagon Engineering Co. Ltd., Muzaffarpur	2000	1210	905	497.5
Bharat Wagon Engineering Co. Ltd. Mokameh	2000	877.5	520	430
Braithwaite & Co. Ltd. Kolkata	3000	2107.5	1170	1455
Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Burnpur	3911	1952.5	1222.5	1345
Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Howrah	4750	1505	490	1507.5
JESSOPS & Co. Ltd., Kolkata	3279	402.5	440	430
Southern Structural Ltd., Chennai	1500	125	32.5	12.5
Bridge & Roof, Kolkata	**	172.5	342.5	452.5
Cimmco Birla Ltd. Bharatpur, Rajasthan*	3839	360	0	0
TEXMACO Ltd. Kolkata	4800	2037.5	920	1830
MODERN Industries Sahibabad, Uttar Pradesh	2000	917.5	845	955
Hindustan Engineering Industries, Kolkata	4056	807.5	1300	2146.5
BESCO Ltd., Kolkata	**	1365	1557.5	1684
Titagarh Wagons Ltd., Kolkata	**	2015	1100	1607
Binny Engg. Co. Ltd., Chennai*	**	25	2.5	0
Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.*	**	25	0	0
Railway Workshops	2000	1848	1799.5	2231
Total	39135	17753	12647	16584

** Not assessed as they were not manufacturing wagons at the time of the respective assessment.

*Units have since closed/not manufacturing wagons.

(e) The coach manufacturing capacity available both in the Railways' own production units as also in the Public and private sector units is adequate to meet Railways' current requirements. The wagon manufacturing capacity available in the Railway workshops and other units (both Public and Private) is adequate to meet the Railways current requirement.

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in its reply Government had admitted that there is no shortage of coaches in the country. But there is shortage of wagons. I would like to inform the House that at present the total production capacity of wagons in the country is 49135 of which production as on 02.02.2003 has been less than half, i.e. 16584. I would like to know whether Government have taken any steps to increase the production of wagons.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are units in public sector as well as private sector for the production of wagons and they are also manufactured in railway workshops. There is no difficulty in their manufacture in railway workshops but there are several units in public and private sector which are not being able to meet the order placed by Railway for wagons. Orders for the previous year have also not been met and similar is the case with current year's order. Though we had adequate wagons to fulfill traffic requirement are on the rise. Therefore, if more wagons were supplied to us we would have been able to transport more goods. Now keeping in view all this, Railways held a meeting with manufacturers and have asked them to accelerate their production. We have also committed to place our orders early and also to provide the wagon industry free items, if any, early so that production process is not hampered. Railways are providing them all facilities. They have been asked to accelerate their supply at their end.

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what measures are being taken by the Government to modernize factories producing wagons and coaches and also to install state-of-the-art equipments in them. Whether Government propose to establish wagons and coaches producing factory using new techniques.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We have Railway coach factories and the process of importing new technologies and modernisation goes on in our workshops. But wagon industry is not under our control. They are either in public sector or private sector but not under the control of Railway Minister. Their modernisation and operation are the responsibility of their owners. The effort on our part is to place order in time and get supply in time.

[English]

SHRI A. C. JOS : As far as coaches are concerned, Kerala is the most victimised State. The coaches supplied to Kerala are really old. Also, sufficient coaches are not there. The hon. Minister also now said that there is a dearth of coaches and private and public sector units are not supplying the coaches in time. With all these facts and considerations, why can the Railways not start a new coach factory or encourage the private companies in Kerala or Tamil Nadu or in other Southern States, where there is a dearth of coaches, to manufacture and fabricate railway coaches? We have, especially, our Kerala Electricals and Allied Industries where the Railways is getting other materials from them. My question is this. In view of the shortage of coaches, why can the Railways not approach some of the companies which are already doing their job of manufacturing coaches? If the Railways can do that, modern coaches can be supplied to different parts of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no shortage of coaches. Coaches are mainly manufactured in two Railway coach factories. A small proportion of manufacturing is also done outside. But mostly they are manufactured in RCF, Chennai and RCF, Kapurthala. There is no difficulty in production of coaches, they are capable of meeting our requirement.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir,...

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, we have only five minutes left before the Question Hour comes to an end and there are three or four Members who want to ask their questions. So, please be brief and ask a specific question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an acute shortage of wagons and as a result of this, various industrial units and thermal power plants are suffering. In my district, at least 10 sponge iron units have come up and all the units are complaining that they are not getting wagons.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : He is repeating the same thing.

MR. SPEAKER : What can I do? Acharia ji, I asked you to put straight question.

[English]

Please ask a straight question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : All these units are suffering because adequate number of wagons is not being supplied to them. May I know from the hon. Minister whether these units, particularly the sponge iron units and thermal power plants, which have stock of coal for only three days of power generation like the Santhali Thermal Power Station, will be supplied enough wagons so that they do not suffer due to non-availability of wagons?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the transportation of goods of the requirement of industries is the trade of railways. So far as power plants are concerned, we attend to the issue whenever it is raised. We will load more than the target, if required...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have written at least ten letters to you.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I will send their replies.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I don't want reply. I want action. I want wagons and racks, which are not being provided...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever may be the reasons or the constraints, the fact remains that the production is not optimal. While that being so, how does the Minister manage to go in for introduction of more and more new trains? Will this initiative or the move not run counter to low production?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We don't have low production of coaches. Requirement of coaches are of two types—bare and spare. Coaches are manufactured keeping in view our requirement which includes replacement. The targets for new year are fixed keeping in view the requirement of new coaches and those needing replacement. And our coach factories meet those targets.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 347 Col. Dhani Ram Shandil.

Implementation of Conditional Access System

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*347. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : SHIR K. E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to review the implementation of controversial Conditional Access System (CAS);

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

(c) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to implement CAS in the country alongwith Metropolitan cities;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the implementation of CAS is becoming difficult in operation due to lack of supply of Set Top-Boxes; and

(f) If so, the details alongwith steps taken/to be taken to solve the problem and to safeguard the public interest for smooth implementation of CAS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In the course of implementation of Conditional Access System, many difficulties are being experienced due to a divide amongst various stake holders i.e. Broadcasters, MSOs and Cable Operators. Their inter-se relationship needs to be re-defined in the interest of consumers. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has already initiated the consultation process in this regard.

(c) and (d) An implementation Committee, comprising various stakeholders had been set up for effective coordination and monitoring of preparedness to implement Conditional Access System in the four metros w.e.f. 1.9.2003. The Committee would closely monitor the :

(i) Availability of Set Top Boxes (STBs) and their readiness for installation;

- (ii) Modalities of installation, including testing;
- (iii) Upgradation of the infrastructure and network for implementation of CAS and steps taken to protect consumers' interest;
- (iv) Availability of full information in respect of pricing of channels and the amount that cable TV subscribers will have to pay.

The State Governments of NCT of Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have been requested to constitute State Level Implementation Committees to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Conditional Access System. The State Governments of West Bengal and NCT of Delhi have already constituted such Committees and meetings have taken place.

(e) and (f) Adequate quantities of Set Top Boxes have already been imported by various Multi-system operators (MSOs) and cable operators who have sufficient stock with them for distribution. The Government has, on 9th January, 2004 notified the 'broadcasting services and cable services' to be "Telecommunication Services" under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997. The functions of the Authority are laid down in the said Act. The TRAI had, through its order issued on 15.1.2004, fixed the ceiling on charges payable by the cable subscribers to cable operators; by cable operators to Multi-system operators/Broadcasters; and by MSOs to Broadcasters (including their authorised distribution agencies) to be those prevalent as on 26th December, 2003 in respect of both free-to-air and pay channels (both for CAS and non-CAS areas) until final determination by it on various issues concerning these charges. Hence, the consumers will be protected against the arbitrary hikes in monthly cable subscription charges till the various issues involved are finally determined by it. The TRAI has been assigned the additional functions of making recommendations regarding the terms and conditions on which the addressable systems, such as STBs, shall be provided to customers and the parameters for regulating the maximum time for advertisements in pay as well as other channels. It will also specify standard norms for, and periodicity of, revision of pay channels, including interim measures.

[Translation]

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU : Sir, I have a question on

railways. Hon'ble Prime Minister had given assurance regarding conversion of Rapsa-Bandi Line in Broad Gauge. But it has not been done yet. Will hon'ble Minister say anything about it?

MR. SPEAKER : You can meet hon'ble Minister personally and as about it.

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU : I have a very small question. Hon'ble Prime Minister visited Mayurbhanj district of Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER : We are taking up Question No. 347. I have already called. I have not permitted you to speak. It won't do.

Shandil ji, please ask your question.

[English]

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, implementation of Conditional Access System has come in for a lot of controversy and its implementation has caused certain difficulties which we are all aware of. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what is the effective mechanism to protect the interests of consumers in view of the arbitrary hike of charges that is being inflicted on the consumers by various operators.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has already been appointed as the Regulator. They have fixed the ceiling on charges as on 26th December, 2003. The Government will follow other measures recommended by TRAI and while doing so, the interests of consumers will remain the foremost consideration.

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Sir, in view of the arbitrariness of the charges that are being imposed on the consumers, to ensure that the Conditional Access System becomes effective and useful for the consumers, what are the guidelines that have been issued to various States for its effective implementation?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : The Implementation Committee is sought to be constituted at the State level. Delhi and Kolkata have already done it. We have also written to other places and we shall work in coordination with the State Governments in the light of recommendation of the TRAI.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

[Translation]

**Safety and Security of Commuters
in Trains**

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3. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS will be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has failed to provide adequate protection to commuters on trains;

(b) if so, whether in one of the recent incidents, the grandnephew of Prime Minister was thrown out of the running train by a group of students as reported in the Hindustan Times dated January 27, 2004;

(c) if so, whether any inquiry into the cause of clash on train has been conducted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps taken by the Government to provide adequate safety and security to commuters travelling in trains?

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

Statement

(a) -No, Sir. "Policing" being a State Subject, prevention and detection of crime on Railways including running trains is the Constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the States Police viz. Government Railway Police (GRP), which functions under the control of the State Government concerned.

(b) On 24.1.2004 some College students of BSA College, Mathura including Manish Mishra, aged 22 years and College Girls were travelling in a General Coach by train No. 8237 Chhattisgarh Express. Some youngmen in drunken condition, who were also travelling in the same coach, started teasing the College girls. The College boys beat them up and derailed at the Home Signal of Brindavan Road station by pulling the alarm chain.

After the train restarted, those youngmen about ten in number in an intoxicated state nabbed Rakesh Kumar and Manish Mishra and assaulted them and threw them out of the running train at Km 1413/12-14 near level crossing Gate Nos. 535 and at Km 1420/16-18 which is about four Kilometres from Gate No. 539 respectively.

(c) and (d) Government Railway Police/Mathura has registered a case vide No. 23/04 Under Sections 145, 147 of the Railways Act, 1989 and Sections 34, 147, 302, 307, 323 and 504 of Indian Penal Code against 8-10 unknown persons, which is under investigation by the Government Railway Police/Mathura.

(e) Apart from the various measures taken by the Government Railway Police to improve the safety and security of the passengers, the Railway administration is taking the following steps to assist them :

1. Anti-social elements are being removed from Railway premises and trains.
2. Coach Attendants/Travelling Ticket Examiners keep proper watch on the passengers entering/detraining from the coaches.
3. First Information Report (FIR) forms have been made available with the Train Guards/Stations Masters/RPF to facilitate the travelling public to lodge their reports immediately.
4. Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is being done at all levels.
5. Announcement through Public Address system and Close Circuit Television at important Railway Stations to alert the travelling passengers against theft of their belongings etc.
6. RPF Assistance posts are provided at important stations to assist passengers in lodging FIRs with Government Railway Police.
7. Periodic co-ordination Meetings with Government Railway Police and Local Police are being conducted to analyze the crime position with a view to taking suitable preventive measures.
8. Steps have been taken to sensitize the RPF personnel to the problems of passengers by organizing workshops and seminars.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to express my views on the last day of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, which is coming to an end. But the crime in the Railways have not come to an end. What I find is that the crimes continue to be unabated in all our trains in this country across the Northern and the Southern Zones.

Having said this, the only ray of hope in this murky atmosphere has been the exoneration of our beloved Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, by the Delhi High Court. It seems to me that the Judiciary is somewhere working. For that, we are very grateful to them.

Having said this, the less said about the abysmal track record of the train accidents in this country the better. I had asked in my last Starred Question to the hon. Minister 10 questions and in the last four years, I have not been able to get a single reply. In fact, there has been a major accident that took place in my parliamentary constituency, of no less than the Rajdhani Express. Even there, the Minister had not been gracious enough to give me a single reply as to what exactly he was doing for the safety of the passengers travelling in those trains without any focus on track repairs in this country.

What was the tearing hurry of his having announced 18 new trains in this country in the Interim Budget? For the simple reason that there are older trains which are already in existence and do not have sustainable tracks and enough security measures, what was the tearing hurry for the Minister who told us nothing about how he would lay the tracks in remote areas of India? He talked about the remote areas of India where the trains will be taking passengers irrespective of the fact that their security will be at stake and there are no safety provisions made in those trains.

Will the hon. Minister, at least, have the sensitivity to tell us what exactly he is doing about the safety measures, for no less than the Prime Minister's nephew has been a victim of the tragic end in a running train? Would the Minister tell us what exactly he is planning to do about the safety in the remote areas and the trains that he is intending to operate?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The reply of the question should be brief.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply

will be given as per the question. If you permit, I should give reply.

Hon'ble Member has remarked that today is the last day of Lok Sabha but the crimes in the Railways are increasing. First of all, I would like to submit that there is no correlation between 13th Lok Sabha and crimes. That does not mean that the crimes have taken place in the country because 13th Lok Sabha has been constituted. So there is no relationship between crimes and terms or the existence of Lok Sabha.

Sir, the second thing that I would like to submit to the hon'ble Member regarding her comment that yesterday's judgement has exonerated the ex. Prime Minister. I would like to tell her also that Bofors episode has nothing to do with the crimes in the railways or crimes in the country.

She said that she had asked many questions regarding the Rajdhani express accident but reply to none of the questions was given. It is not true. Whatever questions regarding Rajdhani accident were asked, reply to all the questions were given in the House.

Sir, hon'ble Member remarked that no attention has been paid to the safety of the railway. I would like to submit to her that the hon'ble Member did not pay proper attention to that aspect. Today is the last day of Lok Sabha. I do not know how much attention she will be able to pay to it as she has to contest election. However, white paper on safety of railway has been laid on the Table of the House and in which clarification to each and everything has been furnished. Corporate safety plan has been prepared for safety. Just now discussion has been held in the House regarding the steps taken by the Government and the physical and financial targets achieved in this regard. I have also mentioned about the Financial target, that has been fixed in this regard.

Sir, the main question is about security and the hon. Member has made passive reference about it. It was nothing to do with safety. In railway parlance, safety is concerned with the operation of the trains, while security is concerned with crime and law and order situation in railway. The main question is related to security. I have given complete reply in this regard. The details about the incidents have been furnished. It has also been asked as to what steps are being taken. Everything has been taken into account. The security arrangements in railway are made by the State Government concerned. The State

Governments have constituted police force to take care of security arrangements in their respective territories. The Government have also create one wing of railway police. Everything is taken care of with the help of these forces. Besides, their RPF has also been approved in the current session of Parliament. If GRP are engaged in the security of the passengers, the railway may also supplement in that. As far as overall crime situation is concerned it has impact everywhere. If any incident takes place in railway, it is the responsibility of the same agency which is responsible for maintaining law and order situation. As I have stated in the House that the railway platform or railway compartments are not union territory and if any incident occurs there then the other agency would be responsible for that. However, the agency which is responsible for maintaining overall law and order situation is also responsible for this. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Member that though she has nothing to do with remote areas, however, demand is being made for laying rail-line in remote areas.

Sir, just now it was asked about the pending projects. One should be pleased if any project is prepared to connect remote areas for the completion of pending projects. As far as my knowledge is concerned, the constituency to which she represents is also to some extent a remote area, however, Delhi is not remote area...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Sir, 18 trains were introduced in the Interim Budget. How come only the train that is in the Karnataka Zone is going to be operated? Why not the other 17 trains? What is the idea of singling out only Karnataka? We have no objection on that but why 17 trains have not started?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Why is she having objection to Karnataka?

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : I am not against any State. But they have singled out only one State, out of 18 trains that they have announced. How come they are singling out the other 17 trains which are not going to be on the track?

My second point is, does not the Ministry of Railways coordinate with the State Governments for security purposes and just tapping on to the State Governments saying that they are not doing their job? Why does not the Minister think of coordinating?

The third point is that the Railway Protection Force itself is involved in the incident where the Prime Minister's nephew was thrown out of the train when the Railway Protection Force personnel were there. After that when a labourer was thrown down he was thrown down by the Railway Protection Force personnel. So, what protection can the Railway Protection Force give to the people and to the passengers? That is the moot point. The Railway Protection Force must have marshal training and should have an institute where this training can take place to secure the passengers.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Statements can be answered through statements.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Margaret Alvaji herself have registered her protest regarding the introduction of train for Karnataka only. The trains which are announced in Budget speech...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is meant for the whole year. 18 trains will be operated in the entire finance year. In 2004-2005, 17 trains are going to be started and out of them one is going to be started in 2003-04. I have told that one train will be operated in the finance year 2003-04 and 17 connecting Kranti Express trains will be operated in the financial year 2004-05...*(Interruptions)*. There is no discrimination. Karnataka is a Congress ruled state. Our Prime Minister believes in connectivity. There should not be politics on development and connectivity. That is why Karnataka is being linked...*(Interruptions)*. Karnataka is a Congress ruled state. So she should be pleased. If it were NDA ruled state then this allegation would have been valid that we are ignoring...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Why did he announce 18 trains when they were not going to operate without the tracks being laid?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I fail to understand how two mikes are operationalised simultaneously.

[Translation]

When the Member's mike was off, the Minister's mike was operationalised and when Minister's mike was on, how was Member's mike operationalised?...*(Interruptions)*.

The Secretariat should also see to it...*(Interruptions)*

They said, how many questions were asked. They said that there was RPF in that. They do not know that RPF was not in that...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : We should know...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot ask questions like this. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot disturb the Minister like this. Please sit down. Let the reply be heard.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today your generosity is praise worthy.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Sir, I need your protection. When a labourer was thrown down by Railway Protection Force...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : The Minister himself is concerned about his safety that is why he is coming to Nalanda.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Sir, I need your protection.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : She is wife of the former DG, Police. She knows how the police behaves in the trains.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Her husband had been DG Police but he was not DG, RPF. RPF was not present in that train and the basic duty of RPF is to protect the Railways property.

[English]

How can this go on?

[Translation]

For once or twice it is OK...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH Sir, I need your protection.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is OK. Let the hon. Minister finish his reply then I can give you permission. Please sit down.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The entire House need your protection. Once she starts speaking she continues to do so. I remember as to what points did she raise and I am giving reply to all those questions...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What can I do when you have started asking question regarding husband.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am bound to reply the question that you will permit. I am duty bound.

RPF was not in the train. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that the responsibility of RPF is to protect railway property. The House have just now approved the amendment to engage them for the security. It has been announced that they will take up the responsibility of security work from first July. At present it has not taken up that work. Presently they are being trained for this purpose. They will take the charge of security after training. They have talked about-coordination. There is coordination mechanism. Recently on 15th of January I have called a meeting of DGP of all the states, the Chief of GRP, Home Secretary, all the General Managers of railway, and the officers of the entire Railway board and detailed discussion was held on the issue of security there...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now it is too much. The question is long and the reply is even longer.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Short Notice Question No. 4, Shri Charan Das Mahant.

The hon. Member is absent, so the Question is dropped. Short Notice Questions are over.

Now, we go to the next item—Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS*[English]**[Translation]***Use of Forged Documents to Get
Petroleum Dealership**

*342. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the dealers appointed by the Public Sector Oil Companies have used forged documents to fulfil the criteria;

(b) if so, the details of such cases detected during the last two years;

(c) the number of persons involved in such forgery against whom the Government have initiated punitive action; and

(d) the steps taken by the oil companies to put a check on the use of such forged documents?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) The process for selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products involves, among others, verification, at the time of interview, of the attached copies of all the relevant documents submitted by the candidates along with their applications, with the original documents. This cross-checking is also done by the designated officer of the oil company concerned while conducting field investigation of the selected dealers/distributors. The selection committees and the officers conducting the field investigation have to rely on the prescribed certificates issued by the competent authorities and presented by the candidates.

During the last two years, i.e., 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, one case each of submission of forged certificate and false affidavit by an LPG distributor and a retail outlet (petrol pump) dealer respectively, appointed by Indian Oil Corporation Limited, was detected. While the LPG distributorship has been terminated, the case of the retail outlet dealership is subjudice.

The dealership/distributorship agreement that a public sector oil marketing company (OMC) enters into with the dealer/distributor select before appointment, does contain a clause by virtue of which if any information furnished by the dealer/distributor in his/her application is found to be false in any material respect, the OMC can terminate the dealership/distributorship under this agreement.

**Production of Programmes by
Non-Departmental Persons**

*344. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of programmes telecast on Doordarshan is carried out by the non-departmental persons;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) The details of programmes produced by departmental/non-departmental persons during each of the last three years and till date; and

(d) The amount given, annually, to non-departmental persons for production of these programmes during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan sources its programmes from the following :

- (i) In-house production by Doordarshan Personnel
- (ii) Commissioning, done by outside Producers where DD has full rights.
- (iii) Sponsorship, where production costs borne by the outside producer. Outside producer/sponsor pays telecast fee to DD and gets Free commercial Time (FCT) in lieu thereof to recover the production costs. Commercial rates are charged as per the Rate Card prescribed by Doordarshan.
- (iv) Royalty : For limited telecast from outside producers.
- (v) Acquisitions : For telecast for contracted periods from outside producers.

The programmes are obtained from outside in order to supplement in house productions of programmes of Doordarshan and to bring in variety in its programming.

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

Selection of Players for Olympic Games

*348. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned Rs. 60 crores for Army to prepare a model winning team for 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece;

(b) whether the Army authorities have started selection of players and athletes etc. and started training in this regard;

(c) if so, the disciplines in which players are being trained; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The Government has conceptualized a sports vision for the Indian Army to take part in Olympics, 2004. A sum of Rs. 60 crores has been allocated for creating infrastructure, procurement of equipments etc. for preparing a medal winning team in Athletics, Aquatics (Diving), Boxing, Equestrian, Rowing, Sailing, Shooting, Weightlifting and Wrestling. Training of sports persons, selected by the Army, has already started in various Sports centres.

Misuse of LPG Cylinders by Dealers

*349. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that domestic LPG cylinders are used at commercial places in connivance with the LPG dealers in the country;

(b) if so, whether the particulars of LPG distributors found diverting domestic LPG cylinders for commercial use were published in the newspapers for the information of general public in various cities;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken against the guilty distributors and the number of cases in which LPG agencies were cancelled during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Some incidents of diversion

of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes in various markets have come to the notice of the Government. Following measures have been taken to prevent the diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes :

(i) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 has been promulgated. As per this Order, diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) is prohibited. Such offence is punishable with imprisonment from 3 months to 7 years under the Essential Commodities Act.

(ii) State Governments are empowered to take action against the erring distributors under the provisions of the above Order.

(iii) Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) for LPG distributors of OMCs have been laid down by the Government in April, 2001. According to these guidelines, in case of establishment of any diversion of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purposes, the following action against the distributor is taken :

(a) fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for the 1st offence.

(b) fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for the 2nd offence, and

(c) termination of the distributorship for the 3rd offence.

(iv) The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributor's godown, delivery point as well as enroute to ensure that no diversion takes place. Action against the erring distributor is taken in terms of MDG and/or Distributorship Agreement.

(b) to (d) The actions taken against LPG distributors are not published in newspapers as the matter is primarily between the distributor and the corporation. OMCs have found irregularities of diversion of domestic cylinders in respect of 628 LPG distributorships throughout the country during the last three years and action has been taken against all these erring distributors in terms of the provisions of MDG. However, none of the distributorships

was terminated on account of diversion of domestic cylinders for commercial purposes during the last three years.

**Procurement of Aircraft Carrier
Admiral Gorshkov**

*350. SHRI Y. V. RAO :
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government has signed a defence deal with Russia for procurement of aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov;

(b) if so, the details thereof and features of the aircraft carrier;

(c) the amount involved therein;

(d) whether Aircraft Carrier Admiral Gorshkov was not designed to be a conventional aircraft carrier and it is suitable only for conversion to a Helicopter carrier;

(e) if so, whether Russians wanted to use it with conventional jet fighters like the MIG 29, but dropped the idea as impractical;

(f) if so, how MIG-29K will be able to operate effectively from this aircraft carrier;

(g) whether according to the Russian Navy Commander this ship is not resembling operational condition and everything depends upon the quality of the refit; and

(h) if so, the reasons for acquisition of this aircraft carrier?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (h) Contracts and supplementary agreements comprising of repair and re-equipping, logistic supports, shore infrastructure, training of ships' crew, repair and technical documents etc. were signed with Russia on 20th January, 2004 for acquisition of "Admiral Gorshkov". Main features of admiral gorshkov are given in the enclosed statement. The cost of repair and modernization of Admiral Gorshkov including Logistic Support, Training and Documentation is Rs. 4882 crores.

The ship is a "Heavy Aircraft Cruiser", which will be, after its refit and modernization, converted into an Aircraft Carrier capable of operating both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft. The ship was originally designed for operating

Vertical Short Take Off and Landing (VSTOL) aircraft and helicopters. The Carrier is being re-equipped with a Ski Jump and a Arrestor Gear System to cater for the Take off and Landing of the aircraft with a view to enable it to operate MIG 29K Aircraft to suit the requirements of the Indian Navy. In addition, Aviation facilities to cater for its sustained operations are being created on the ship for effective exploitation of the aircraft.

The ship having been laid off for the last 8 years, deterioration has occurred in the hull and systems of the ship. The condition of the ship, however, has been assessed by delegations, who have ascertained that the ship once re-equipped and modernized, would be capable of effective service life of about 20 years.

After the decommissioning of INS Vikrant in 1977, presently, only one Aircraft Carrier viz. INS Viraat is in service with the Indian Navy against the requirement of 2 operational Aircraft Carriers. The Air Defence Ship approved by the Government in 1999, is likely to enter service in 2011-2012. Anticipating the critical void due to marginal residual life of INs Viraat and the operational availability of ADS by 2011-2012, the Government has approved acquisition of Admiral Gorshkov, the Aircraft Carrier.

Statement

Main Features of Admiral Gorshkov

* Lenth overall	263.5 meter
* Breadth, overall	59.8 meter
* Depth from base line to the upper deck in the middle	21.6 meter
* Standard displacement	34,000 tonnes
* Full load displacement	45,300 tonnes
* Operational range	7,000 Nautical Miles
* The Aircraft Carrier can accommodate a combination of Aircraft and Helicopters for attack, surveillance, search and rescue operations.	

News on Private FM Channels

*351. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government has decided not to allow private FM channels to broadcast news and current affairs programmes;

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

(c) whether the Amit Mitra Committee which was constituted to look into the FM sector has since made recommendations;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that private FM channels do not violate the rules of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) As per the terms and conditions of License Agreement given in clause 7 of the Main Text "the license is for free to air broadcast of audio on main carrier and data on sub-carrier both excluding news and current affairs and any other services which are under jurisdiction of Department of Telecommunication." It was also laid down in Clause 1(a) Section-6 of Tender Document that "The license shall be for free to air broadcasts of audio on main carrier and data on sub-carriers, both excluding News and Current Affairs."

(c) The Committee has submitted its recommendations to the Ministry in November, 2003.

(d) The recommendations of the Committee are available on the Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in

(e) Appropriate action is taken, whenever any violation of terms and condition of licence Agreement comes to the notice of the Government.

DD/AIR Transmitters in Border States

*352. SHRI A. F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install high frequency FM/AIR/DD transmitters in several regions close to the Indo-China Border between Tibet and Sikkim to combat the incoming short and medium wave frequency broadcasts by Chinese Radio/Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; ^

(c) whether to counter the foreign broadcasting in

some border States the Government has taken any concrete steps;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that the people in the region get Indian programmes without any interruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) During the 10th Five Year Plan, adequate number of low power FM Relay Transmitters are envisaged for installation in all the four districts of Sikkim by All India Radio, including East Sikkim and North Sikkim which are close to the Indo-China Border between Tibet and Sikkim. Doordarshan has commissioned six High Power TV transmitters (DD News) at Gangtok, Imphal, Kohima, Itanagar, Shillong and Aizawl in the North East Region during 2003 and the existing DDI High Power Transmitters (1KW) at Shillong, Kohima, Imphal, Aizawl and Itanagar are scheduled for upgradation to 10 KW HPTs by middle of 2004. At present, there is no approved scheme to set up any other HPT close to Indo-China border.

(c) and (d) A number of Medium Wave/Short Wave/FM transmitters of all India Radio and Doordarshan transmitters are operational to provide satisfactory coverage in border areas. Details of Transmitters (All India Radio & Doordarshan) operational in different border areas are given in statement-I and statement-III attached respectively. A number of Radio/TV transmitters and other facilities have been set up in the State of J&K under a special package with the objective of providing complete AIR/DD coverage within the State and also to areas across the border. Specific emphasis has been given to programme production for relay in these areas to effectively counter hostile broadcast from across the border. A similar package for the North-East, envisages setting up transmitters/earth stations upgradation and modernization of existing facilities, setting up of Cable Head Ends, content creation, etc. The implementation of the above schemes will enhance the reach of AIR and TV signals, both within the country and across the borders.

(e) Prasar Bharati has informed that special emphasis is being given in the X plan to further strengthen the Radio/TV coverage in border areas of all States. Details of the proposed projects are given in statement-II and statement-IV attached respectively. As regards Doordarshan, it is their constant endeavor to maintain interruption free

transmission from its transmitters. At times, interruptions do occur due to failure of equipment/power supply which are attended to promptly. Diesel generators have been provided at transmitters to minimise the interruption due to power supply failure.

Statement-I

List of existing Transmitters providing coverage to the Border areas

All India Radio

I. Indo-Bangladesh Border

1. Siliguri (WB)	-200 KW MW Tr.
	-10 KW FM Tr.
2. Kokrajhar (Assam)	-20 KW MW Tr.
3. Tura (Meghalaya)	-20 KW MW Tr.
4. Shillong (Meghalaya)	-100 KW MW Tr.
5. Silchar (Assam)	-20 KW MW Tr.
6. Kailashahar (Tripura)	-8 KW FM Tr.
7. Belonia (Tripura)	-6 KW FM Tr.
8. Lungleh (Mizoram)	-6 KW FM Tr.
9. Aizawl (Mizoram)	-20 KW MW Tr.
10. Calcutta (WB)	-1000 KW MW Tr.
	-200 KW MW Tr.
	-100 KW MW Tr.
	-20 KW MW Tr.
	-10 KW MW Tr.
11. Murshidabad (WB)	-6 KW FM Tr.
12. Guwahati (Assam)	-100 KW MW Tr.
13. Agartala (Tripura)	-20 KW MW Tr.
14. Dhubri (Assam)	-6 KW FM Tr.
15. Jowai (Meghalaya)	-6 KW FM Tr.

II. Indo-Myanmar Border

1. Dibrugarh (Assam)	-300 KW MW Tr.
2. Imphal (Manipur)	-300 KW MW Tr.

III. Indo-Pakistan Border

1. Srinagar (J&K)	-300 KW MW Tr.
2. Jammu (J&K)	-300 KW MW Tr.
3.	-10 KW FM Tr.
4.	-3 KW FM Tr.
5.	-50 KW SW Tr.
6. Jalandhar (Punjab)	-300 KW MW Tr.
	-200 KW MW Tr.
7. Suratgarh (Rajasthan)	-300 KW MW Tr.
8. Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	-300 KW MW Tr.
9. Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	-200 KW MW Tr.
10. Rajkot (Gujarat)	-1000 KW MW Tr.
	-300 KW MW Tr.
11. Bhuj (Gujarat)	-20 KW MW Tr.
12. Kathula (J&K)	-10 KW FM Tr.
13. Poonch (J&K)	-6 KW FM Tr.
14. Rajouri (J&K)	-10 KW FM Tr.
15. Naushera (J&K)	-20 KW MW Tr.

IV. Indo-China Border

1. Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh)	-100 KW MW Tr.
2. Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)	-10 KW MW Tr.
3. Gangtok (Sikkim)	-20 KW MW Tr.

V. Indo-Nepal Border

1. Lucknow (UP)	-300 KW MW Tr.
2. Gorakhpur (UP)	-100 KW MW Tr.
3. Patna (Bihar)	-100 KW MW Tr.
4. Siliguri (WB)	-200 KW MW Tr.
	-10 KW FM Tr.
5. Dharbanga (Bihar)	-10 KW MW Tr.
6. Pithoragarh (Uttaranchal)	-1 KW MW Tr.

VI. Indo-Bhutan Border

1. Gangtok (Sikkim)	-20 KW MW Tr.
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2. Siliguri (WB) -200 KW MW Tr.
3. Kokrajhar (Assam) -20 KW MW Tr.
4. Guwahati (Assam) -100 KW MW Tr.
5. Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh) -10 KW MW Tr.

VII. Indo-Srilanka Border

1. Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu) -200 KW MW Tr.

Statement-II

List of Transmitters proposed in Draft 10th Plan for Improving Coverage in the Border Areas

All India Radio**I. Indo-Bangladesh Border**

1. Silchar (Assam) -5 KW FM Tr.
2. Karimganj (Assam) -1/5 KW FM Tr.
3. Dawki (Meghalaya) -1/5 KW FM Tr.
4. Nutan Bazar (Tripura) -1/5 KW FM Tr.
5. Cooch Bihar (WB) -10 KW FM Tr.
6. Balurghat (WB) -10 KW FM Tr.
7. Maldah (WB) -10 KW FM Tr.

II. Indo-Myanmar Border

1. Chempal (Mizoram) -1/5 KW FM Tr.
2. Tui Pang (Mizoram) -1/5 KW FM Tr.
3. Mon (Nagaland) -5 KW FM Tr.
4. Tuensang (Nagaland) -5 KW FM Tr.
5. Khonsa (Arunachal Pradesh) -1/5 KW FM Tr.
6. Changlang (Arunachal Pradesh) -1/5 KW FM Tr.

III. Indo-Pakistan Border

1. Chauhtan Hills (Raj) -20 KW FM Tr.
2. Fazilka (Punjab) -10 KW FM Tr.
3. Amritsar (Punjab) -20 KW FM Tr.
4. Ramgarh (Raj) -20 KW FM Tr.
5. Bikaner (Raj) -10 KW FM Tr.

IV. Indo-Nepal

1. Motihari (Bihar) -10 KW FM Tr.
2. Madhubani (Bihar) -10 KW FM Tr.
3. Darbhanga (Bihar) -20 KW MW Tr.
(Repl. of 10 KW MW Tr.)
4. Darjeeling (WB) -10 KW FM Tr.
5. Champawat (Uttaranchal) -1 KW FM Tr.
6. Dharchula (Uttaranchal) -1 KW MW Tr.
7. Lakhimpur (Uttar Pradesh) -10 KW FM Tr.
8. Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) -10 KW FM Tr.

V. Indo-China Border

1. Gangtok (Sikkim) -10 KW FM Tr.
- 100 Nos. Low Power FM Transmitters in North East

VI. Indo-Bhutan Border

1. Gangtok (Sikkim) -10 KW FM Tr.

Statement-III

List of Existing Transmitters providing Coverage of the Border Areas Doordarshan

Doordarshan

State/District	Locations of existing Transmitters	Projects Under Implementation
1	2	3
Arunachal Pradesh		
Changlang	LPT Miao	
	VLPT Changlang	
	VLPT Khimyong	
	VLPT Nampong	
Dibang Valley	VLPT Anini	
	VLPT Hunti	
	VLPT Italin	
	VLPT Roing	

1	2	3	1	2	3
East Kameng	VLPT Chayangtajo			VLPT Keying	
	VLPT Seljosa			VLPT Liromoba	
	VLPT Seppa			VLPT Mechuka	
East Siang	VLPT Geku			VLPT Tirbin	
	VLPT Inkyong			VLPT Yomcha	
	VLPT Mariyang		Assam		
	VLPT Tuting		Barpeta		
Lohit	LPT Tezu		Bongaigaon	LPT Bongaigaon	
	VLPT Hawaii		Cachar	HPT Silchar	
	VLPT Hayuliang			HPT Silchar (DD News)	
	VLPT Namsai				
Lower Subansiri	HPT Itanagar		Darrang		
	HPT Itanagar (DD News)		Dhubri	LPT Dhubri	
	VLPT Sagalee			LPT Hatsinghimari	
		HPT Itanagar (upgr.)			LPT Satarsai
Tawang	VLPT Mukto		Kamrup	HPT Guwahati	
	VLPT Tawang			HPT Guwahati (DD News)	
				Xser Guwahati	
Tirap	VLPT Deomali		Karimganj	-	
	VLPT Khosna		Kokrajhar	LPT Kokrajhar	
Upper Subansiri	VLPT Baririjo		Nalbari		
	VLPT Daporizo		Bihar		
	VLPT Taliha		Araria	LPT Forbesganj	
West Kameng	VPLT Bomdilla		Kishanganj	LPT Kishanganj	
	VPLT Dirang		Madhubani	LPT Madhubani	
	VLPT Kalaktang			LPT Phoolparas	
	VLPT Rupa		Paschim	LPT Betiah	
West Siang	VLPT Along		Champanan	LPT Ramnagar	
	VLPT Basar		Purba Champanan	LPT Motihari	
	VLPT Darak			LPT Raxaul	
East Siang	VLPT Gensi				

1	2	3	1	2	3
Saharsa	LPT Supaul			VLPT Gulmarg (Kashir Ch.)	
Sitamarhi	LPT Sitamarhi			VLPT Tangmarg (Kashir Ch.)	
Gujarat				VLPT Tilel	
Banaskantha	LPT Ambaji			VLPT Uri (Kashir Ch.)	
	LPT Bhabbar				
	LPT Deesa		Jammu	HPT Jammu	
	LPT Radhanpur			HPT Jammu (DD News)	
	LPT Tharad			HPT Samba (DD News) (Int.)	
		HPT Radhanpur		HPT Samba (Int.)	
Kachchh	HPT Bhuj			VLPT Chakroi	
	LPT Punandhro			VLPT Dhar	
	LPT Rapar			VLPT Mansur	
Himachal Pradesh				VLPT Nagrota	
Kinnaur	VLPT Kalpa			VLPT Samba	
	VLPT Nichar			VLPT Tatapani	
Lahul & Spiti	VLPT Jahlama				HPT Samba (DD News) (pmt.)
	VLPT Kaja				HPT Samba (pmt.)
	VLPT Keylong				
	VLPT Udaipur				
Jammu & Kashmir			Kargil	LPT Kargil	
Baramulla	HPT Gurez			VLPT Dras	
	HPT Gurez (DD News)			VLPT Kargil (DD News)	
	LPT Bandipura (Kashir Ch.)			VLPT Mulbekhi	
	LPT Baramulla (DD News)			VLPT Padam	
	LPT Sonarwani (Kashir Ch.)			VLPT Ringdom Gompa	
	LPT Uri			VLPT Sahk-	
	VLPT Baramulla		Kathua	HPT Kathua	
				LPT Kathua (DD News)	

	1	2	3		1	2	3
		VLPT Bani				VLPT Batalik	
		VLPT Basoli				VLPT Bodh Khurboo	
		VLPT Bllawar				VLPT Chumathang	
		VLPT Gujjaron Nagrota				VLPT Chushul	
		VLPT Hiranagar				VLPT Dah	
		VLPT Ramkot				VLPT Daskit	
Kupwara		HPT Kupwara (DD News) (int.)				VLPT Domchuk	
		HPT Kupwara (int.)				VLPT Fatula	
		HPT Tithwal (DD News)				VLPT Hanle	
		LPT Chowkibal (Kashir Ch.)				VLPT Ichar	
		VLPT Boniyar (Kashir Ch.)				VLPT Khalsi	
		VLPT Lolab Valley (Kashir Ch.)				VLPT Khatlai	
		VLPT Machil (Kashir Ch.)				VLPT Nimu	
		VLPT Nowgam (Kashir Ch.)				VLPT Nyema	
		VLPT Tithwal				VLPT Panamik	
		VLPT Tregam (Kashir Ch.)				VLPT Panicker	
						VLPT Sakti	
						VLPT Siachin (Base camp)	
						VLPT Tangtse	
						VLPT Timsogam	
						VLPT Zangla	
			HPT Kupwara (DD News) (pmt.)	Poonch		HPT Poonch	
			HPT Kupwara (pmt)			HPT Poonch (DD News)	
			HPT Tithwal			LPT Poonch	
Ladakh		HPT Leh				VLPT Loran	
		LPT Leh (DD News)				VLPT Mandi	
		VLPT Abran				VLPT Mendhar	
		VLPT Basgo				Xser Surankot	

1	2	3	1	2	3
Rajouri	HPT Naushera (DD News) (int.)		Jaintia Hills	LPT Jowai	
	HPT Naushera (int.)		West Garo Hills	HPT Tura	
	LPT Darhal			HPT Tura (DD News)	
	LPT Dharamsal			VLPT Baghmara	
	LPT Naushera		West Khaki Hills	VLPT Nongstoin	
	LPT Rajouri		Mizoram		
	VLPT Buddhal		Aizawl	VLPT Champhal	
	VLPT Doongi Grati		Chhimitulpui	LPT Lawngtlai	
	VLPT Kalakot			VLPT saiha	
	VLPT Keri		Lunglei	HPT Lunglei	
	VLPT Kotranka			LPT Lunglei (DD News)	
	VLPT Manjakot		Nagaland		
	VLPT Sunderbani		Mon	VLPT Mon	
	VLPT Thanamandi		Phek	VLPT Rhek	
		HPT Naushera (DD News) (pmt.)	Tuensang	LPT Tuensang	
		HPT Naushera (pmt.)		VLPT Shamtorr	
Manipur			Punjab		
Chandel	VLPT Chandel		Amritsar	HPT Amritsar (20 KW) (int.)	
	VLPT Moreh			HPT Amritsar (DD News) (int.)	
Churachandpur	HPT Churachandpur				HPT Amritsar (20 KW) (pmt.)
Ukhrul	LPT Ukhrul				HPT Amritsar (DD News) (pmt.)
Meghalaya					
East Khasi Hills	HPT Shillong		Firozpur	HPT Fazilka (int.)	
	HPT Shillong (DD News)			LPT Abohar	
	Xser Shillong			LPT Firozpur	
		HPT Shillong (upgr.)			HPT Fazilka (pmt.)
		LPT Cherapunji	Gurdaspur	LPT Gurdaspur	
				LPT Pathankot	

Rajasthan			Thanjavur		
1	2	3	1	2	3
Rajasthan			Thanjavur	HPT Kumbakonam (int.)	
Barmer	HPT Barmer (Int.)			LPT Mayuram	
	LPT Barmer			LPT Nagapattinam	
		HPT Barmer (pmt.)		LPT Pattukottai	
Bikaner	LPT Bikaner			LPT Thanjavur	
	LPT Bikaner (DD News)			LPT Thiruvaiyaru	
	LPT Nokha				HPT Kumbakonam (pmt.)
		HPT Bikaner	Tirunelveli	LPT Ambasamudram	
		LPT Khajuwala		LPT Courtalam	
Ganganagar	LPT Anupgarh			LPT Shankaran Kovil	
	LPT Ganganagar			LPT Tirunelveli	
	LPT Karanpur			LPT Tirunelveli (DD News)	
	LPT Raisinghnagar			VLPT Valliur (RLS)	
	LPT Surat Garh				HPT Tirunelveli
Jaisalmer	HPT Jaisalmer				
Sikkim			Tripura		
	LPT Jaisalmer		North Tripura	LPT Kailasahar	
East Distt.	HPT Gangtok			LPT Kailasahar (DD News)	
	HPT Gangtok (DD News)			VLPT Dharmanagar	
	VLPT Rangpo				LPT Ambassa
	VLPT Singtam		South Tripura	LPT Amarpur	
North Distt.	VLPT Mangan			LPT Jolaibari	
West Distt.	VLPT Gyalshing			Xser Bellonia	
Tamil Nadu			West Tripura	HPT Agartala	
Chidambaranar	LPT Tiruchendur			HPT Agartala (DD News)	
	LPT Tuticorin			LPT Tellamura	
	LPT Tuticorin (DD News)		Uttar Pradesh		
Pudukkottai	LPT Pudukkottai		Bahraich	LPT Bahraich	
Ramanathapuram	HPT Ramewshwaram			LPT Nan Para	

1	2	3	1	2	3
Gonda	LPT Balrampur			VLPT Maneshwar	
	LPT Gonda			VLPT Munsiri	
	VLPT Mankapur		Uttar Kashi	VLPT Bhatlari	
Kheri	HPT Lakhimpur (int.)			VLPT Rajgarhi	
		HPT Lakhimpur (pmt.)		VLPT Uttarkashi	
			West Bengal		
Maharajganj			Darjeeling	HPT Kurseong	
Pilibhit	LPT Pilibhit			LPT Darjiling	
	LPT Puranpur			LPT Kallimpong	
Siddharthnagar	LPT Naugarh				HPT Kurseong (DD News)
Uttaranchal					
Chamoli	LPT Bachher		Siliguri	LPT Alipurduar	
	VLPT Aroli		Koch Bihar	LPT Koch Bihar	
	VLPT Badrinath		Maldah	LPT Maldah	
	VLPT Dewal		Murshidabad	HPT Murshidabad	
	VLPT Gopeshwar			HPT Murshidabad (DD News)	
	VLPT Joshimath			LPT Farakka	
	VLPT Karanprayag		Nandia	HPT Krishnanagar (int.)	
	VLPT Nandprayag			LPT Ranaghat	
	VLPT Pokhri				
	VLPT Tharali				
Nainital	LPT Kashipur				HPT Krishnanagar (pmt.)
	LPT Tanakpur				
Pithoragarh	LPT Champawat		North 24 Parganas		
	LPT Khetikhan		West Dinajpur	HPT Balurghat (int.)	
	LPT Khetikhan (DD News)				HPT Balurghat (pmt.)
	LPT Pithoragarh				
	VLPT Dharchula				
	VLPT Didihat				
			Total number of Stations which are Existing		285
			Total number of Stations which are Under Implementation		25

Statement-IV*Schemes included in draft EFC of special package for NE States and Island Territories***Doordarshan****I. NE States**

- (a) HPTs (10 KW) – 3 Kokrajhar, Tezpur & Jorhat (Assam)
- (b) HPTs (1 KW) – 5 Dimapur (Nagaland)
Champhai (Mizoram)
Passighat (Arunachal Pradesh)
Bomdilla (Arunachal Pradesh)
Tezu (Arunachal Pradesh)
- (c) HPT (5 KW) – 1 Jowai (Meghalaya)
- (d) LPTs (upgradation) – 3 Diphu (Assam)
Tuensang (Nagaland)
Ukhrul (Manipur)
- (e) VLPTs – 18 Arunachal Pradesh–3 Lumla, Lekang, Niousa
Assam–2 Udaiguri, Hamren
Manipur–2 Noney, Saikul
Mizoram–3 Serchhip, Kolasib, Mamit
Sikkim–1 Ramtek Hill
7 VLPTs location to be identified later
- (f) VLPTs(upgradation) – 23 Arunachal Pradesh–13 Roing, Along, Daporijo, Anini, Basar,
(10w to 50w) Changlang, Dirang, Khonsa, Namsai, Raga,
Seppa, Tawang, Zero
Manipur–1 Senapati
Meghalaya–1 Nongstoin
Mizoram–1 Saiha
Nagaland–3 Mon, Wokha, Zunheboto
Tripura–1 Bellonia
Sikkim–3 Mangan, Namchi, Gyalshing
- (g) Augmentation of OB facilities at 3 Capital Centres (Guwahati, Gangtok & Agartala)
- (h) Digitalisation and augmentation of post production facilities.
- (i) DSNG units (Ku-Band/C Band)-vehicle mounted-8
- (j) DMCs–3

II. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

1. HPT, Port Blair (DD1)
2. HPT, Port Blair (DD2)
3. Upgradation of DD1 LPT at Car Nicobar
4. LPT, Car Nicobar (DD2)
5. Augmentation of Studio facilities at Port Blair
6. Vehicle mounted DSNG unit for Port Blair
7. DD1 VLPTs-10 Swarajgram, Kalighat, Kadamtala, Long Island Harinagar, Neil Island, Rama Krishna, Puram Chowra, Terrasa, Gandhinagar
8. DD2 VLPTs-6 Digilipur, Mayabunder, Rangat, Hutbay Nancowry, Campbell Bay
9. Upgradation of VLPTs-6 Digilipur, Mayabunder, Rangat, Hutbay Nancowry, Campbell Bay

III. Lakshadweep Islands

1. VLPTs (DD2)-6 Minicoy, Agati, Amini, Kadmat, Andrott Kalpeni
2. Upgradation of VLPTs-9 Minicoy, Agati, Amini, Kadmat, Andrott Kalpeni, Chetlot, Kilton, Kavaratti

Proposed Outlay (Rs. Crores)

Hardware	- 211.86
Software	- 122.55
Total	- 334.41

*[Translation]***Popularity of News Channels**

*353. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether popularity of Doordarshan has declined after starting DD News Channel;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to scrap DD News Channel and restore its old DD-2 channel status;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to compete with other private channels/news channels popular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has

informed that according to the survey conducted by an independent agency "TAM" (Television Audience Measurement), DD News Channel, in all homes, is the most watched channel among News Channels in the country which has an audience share of more than 50%. Prasar Bharati has further informed that in Cable and satellite homes, DD News Channel is the second most watched News Channel in the country with an audience share of about 15%.

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

(e) Prasar Bharati has informed that the steps taken to improve the popularity of this channel include introduction of additional news bulletins and other programmes in interesting formats, being the first to inform its viewers of any breaking news, providing extensive coverage, live and recorded news events in different parts of the country and around the world and offering attractive commercial terms to the advertisers. Besides this, the steps

have been taken to improve the popularity of this channel by hiring popular anchors from open market, new set and new montage along with new signature tune for news bulletins, hourly news templates, running news scroll, giving time slots to reputed outside Producers for sponsored programmes and also hiring the services of well known media persons for anchoring in-house production.

[English]

Parallel Marketing of LPG

*354. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

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

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to permit private marketing agencies to sell surplus LPG available in the country, through the existing outlets;

(b) if so, whether ONGC and GAIL are already scouting for a marketing arrangement for LPG with private agencies;

(c) if so, whether such parallel marketing of LPG by private agencies require an amendment of LPG (Regulation of Supply & distribution) Order, 2000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) LPG produced in the country is not sufficient to meet total domestic requirement. However, Government is considering proposals to permit private marketing companies to sell LPG imported by them to domestic consumers at subsidized rates, and indigenous LPG producers to sell any seasonal surplus quantity through private parallel marketing companies. Government is not aware of any business discussion between GAIL/ONGC and other parties.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 will require suitable modification.

[Translation]

Priority Projects

*355. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of railway projects are completed on the basis of relative priority;

(b) if so, the criteria for such relative priority;

(c) the railway projects brought under the relative priority during last year;

(d) the percentage of works undertaken under the above mentioned projects during last year;

(e) whether the works undertaken are upto the mark; and

(f) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (f) The prioritization of railway projects under plan heads new line and gauge conversion was approved by the Government in November, 1998 as per which the projects were prioritized in various categories so as to enable allocation of resources on a rational basis with a view to progressively complete the projects. The projects were categorized in the following categories :

Prioritization Category	Description
A1	Completed Projects, residual works in progress.
A2	Viable Projects/those required on operational Considerations.
A3	Projects nearing completion and those which will get completed in IXth Plan
B1	Projects in Jammu & Kashmir for new line and Projects taken up on strategic considerations for gauge conversion
B2	Projects in North Eastern Region
B3	Projects involving major bridges costing over Rs. 100 crore for new line projects
C	Socially Desirable Projects
C1	Projects already cleared
C1A	Projects having higher priority amongst C1
C1B	Other projects not covered under C1A
C2	Projects which were then to be cleared. These projects have since been cleared and transferred to C1A and transferred to C1A and C1B.

No new railway Project has been brought under the above prioritization categories during 2002-03. Only one project of new line from Kolayat to Phalodi was included in the budget 2002-03 which is being funded through Defence Funds.

[English]

Amendment in Army Act, 1950

*356. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been steep rise in the number of defence personnel moving the civil courts for justice during the last three years;

(b) if so, reasons for the same;

(c) whether the Supreme Court of India sometime back cautioned the Ministry of Defence against the arbitrary use of certain provisions of the Army Act;

(d) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Army, Navy and Air Force Act, 1950;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No uniform trend is discernible. In the Army and Air Force, moving the civil courts for justice seems to be on increase. However, in the Navy, there is a significant decrease in the personnel approaching the courts presently.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Supreme Court in the case of Lt. Col. PPS Bedi Vs Union of India (AIR 1982 SC 1413) suggested setting up of a judicial forum to act as an appellate body against the Courts Martial verdict. The Apex Court reiterated their suggestion in this context in the case of Union of India Vs Maj CS Gill.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A proposal for setting up of an Armed Forces Tribunal to adjudicate the appeals arising out of the verdicts of Court-Martial cases and service matters of Armed Forces personnel, is under active consideration of the Government.

(f) Does not arise.

Supply of Electricity by DVC

*357. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States to whom the Damodar Valley Corporation is supplying electricity;

(b) the dues the States owe to DVC, State-wise;

(c) the strategy adopted by the DVC to recover the dues from those States; and

(d) the reasons for snapping the supply to Jharkhand State?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Jharkhand and West Bengal.

(b) Dues the States (State Electricity Boards) owe to DVC are as under :

Sl.No. State/State Board Electricity	Total (Rs. in Crores)	
	Past Dues	Current dues from 1.10.2000
1. Bihar State Electricity Board	1169.08	Nil
2. Jharkhand State Electricity Board	1074.00	586.48

(c) and (d) As regards the earlier dues which are covered under the Tripartite Agreement, Bihar has signed the Tripartite Agreement in March, 2003 and Jharkhand has signed the same in December, 2003. This enables DVC to recover the amount through issue of Bonds by the respective State Governments.

As regards current dues, supply regulations for specific durations were resorted to by Damodar Valley Corporation. Jharkhand State Electricity Board is yet to open a Letter of Credit for payment of their dues.

Rural Electrification under PMGY

*358. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has undertaken rural electrification programme under the Pradhan Mantri

Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details of the achievement made in that regard so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Rural Electrification has been included as basic minimum services under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) from the year 2001-02.

(b) State-wise details of achievement of village electrification under all sources of funding including PMGY is given in statement attached.

Statement

No. of villages electrified during the last three years in the States which have yet to complete village electrification

Sl.No.	States/UT	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (upto Nov. 2003)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	110	18	-
2.	Assam	Nil	11	450
3.	Bihar	29	1542	718
4.	Jharkhand	500	771	441
5.	Himachal Pradesh	9	-	-
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	10	-	-
7.	Karnataka	13	3	3
8.	Madhya Pradesh	20	94	42
9.	Chhattisgarh	125	120	14
10.	Manipur	Nil	6	2
11.	Meghalaya	62	177	-
12.	Nagaland	4	-	-
13.	Orissa	105	225	360
14.	Rajasthan	491	504	48
15.	Tripura	Nil	2	-

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Uttar Pradesh	358	1795	119
17.	Uttaranchal	82	218	85
18.	West Bengal	40	866	230
Total (States)		1458	6350	2512

Outlay under APDRP

*359. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Deepak Parekh Committee has suggested bringing down the investment portion of the total outlay under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme over the years;

(b) if so, whether the huge amount of money already involved in the power sector is being wasted due to heavy Power theft; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper utilization of funds by the State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Even the Deepak Parekh Committee has suggested that the investment component should be gradually brought down over a period of time and not stopping it altogether.

(c) Guidelines on Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) stipulate that :

(i) the States receiving APDRP assistance shall open a separate account for proper audit certification. States which do not open a separate account will not be entitled to receive any fund under APDRP.

(ii) Funds provided under APDRP cannot be diverted for any other scheme or purpose. In the case of diversion, the equivalent amount will be adjusted with a penal interest of 10% against the next instalment of Central Plan Assistance to be released to that State Government in that year or in the Subsequent year.

(iii) The State Governments/State Electricity

Boards (SEBs) are required to submit monthly progress report in respect of progress of execution of projects, funds utilization etc.

In addition, the Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Power), Ministry of Power and State level Distribution Reforms Committees, reviews the progress of works under APDRP and proper utilization of funds released under APDRP from time to time.

Commercial Use of Railway Land

*360. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways is in the process of preparing a master plan for the commercial use of the surplus land at its disposal all over the country;

(b) if so, the details of surplus land noticed by the Railways and value thereof;

(c) the process by which the surplus land would be disposed of; and

(d) the likely amount to be generated as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) Railways do not have any land surplus to its requirement. Railways have, however, with a view to generate income from internal sources, taken up commercial utilisation of some railway land/air-space, which is not needed in immediate future.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Sale of Indian Cars in Foreign Countries

3287. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is ahead of Eastern European countries Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary so far the question of Indian Car Market is concerned;

(b) if so, the details regarding the sale of Indian Cars;

(c) whether Indian Cars are becoming popular in foreign countries; and

(d) if so, the names of such countries who have placed orders to purchase Indian Cars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) As per Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), India is ahead of East European Countries so far as the Indian Car Market is concerned. SIAM has informed that as per Ward's World Motor Vehicle Data 2001, the sale of passenger cars during 2001 in Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and India was as under :

Country	Sales in 2001 (in Nos.)
Czech Republic	79945
Hungary	138576
Poland	327251
India	601321

(c) and (d) According to SIAM, some of the car Models like 'Alto' of Maruti Udyog Ltd. and 'Indica' of Tata Motors have become very popular in some of the European Countries. Recently Tata Motors has tied up with M/s. Rover of UK for marketing their small car 'Indica' in UK and other European Countries.

[Translation]

Labour Contractors at Jubilee Pumps in M.P.

3288. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that some labour contractors have been given contract right from beginning to till date at 'Jubilee retail outlets' run by IOC and HPCL in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the total months of contract period completed by the said contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) appoint labour contractors for their Jubilee Retail Outlets in the country, including Madhya Pradesh, for a fixed period

which is renewable for a further period. After the extended period, the same labour contractor can be considered alongwith others for fresh appointment.

**Setting up of DD Centre at
Sumerpur in Rajasthan**

3289. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Doordarshan Relay Centre in Sumerpur (District-Pali-Rajasthan);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said Relay Centre is likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) TV coverage to uncovered areas of the country is now envisaged to be provided through Satellite transmission in Ku-band, in free-to-air mode, which is scheduled to commence during 2004.

[English]

Seminar on Media

*3290. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain media experts in a seminar at Chandigarh have urged the journalist fraternity to understand its social responsibilities and try to contain as far as possible sensationalism and blowing communal incidents out of proportions;

(b) if so, whether report of the seminar was sent to the Government; and

(c) if so, the Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) It has been ascertained that a

one day workshop on "Child Rights and Role of Media" was organised by the Chandigarh Journalists Association, affiliated to National Union of Journalists, on 7th October 2003, to consider the ethical and professional challenges and issues surrounding reporting on children. In the workshop; media experts had urged their colleagues to report items on children responsibly.

(b) The report of the workshop was not sent to the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

**Requirement of Personnel in
New Railway Zones**

3291. SHRIMATI D. M. VIJAYA KUMARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has estimated the number of personnel that will be required for New Railway Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons who will be transferred/ dislocated as a result of bifurcation of existing zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On an average about 1500 personnel are required for each New zonal Headquarter.

(c) A total requirement of approximately 9921 officers and staff has been worked out for posting/transfer to the Headquarters of New railway zones on the basis of options exercised by them. The persons working on the Divisions transferred to the New Zones have automatically come under the jurisdiction of the respective New Zone, on 'as is where is' basis. The staff of the Headquarter controlled cadres have been given the option between the residual Railway and the New Zone.

**MOU with Chart Industries of US for
Technological Collaboration**

3292. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether IBP plans to hive off its engineering division into a joint venture with Chart Industries of US;

(b) if so, whether IBP has signed Memorandum of Understanding with Chart Industries for technological collaboration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) At present, IBP do not have any plan to hive off the Cryogenics Business Group, earlier known as Engineering Division, into a joint venture with Chart Industries of USA.

(b) and (c) IBP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Chart Industries of USA to explore mutually beneficial business opportunities in the Cryogenic field of products and services.

VRS in Maruti Udyog Limited

3293. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be please to state :

(a) whether Maruti Udyog Ltd. as a part of cost cutting exercise is introducing Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for its employees;

(b) if so, the number of employees to be offered VRS; and

(c) the time by which the VRS is likely to be announced by Maruti Udyog Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Grants for Backward Sections and Minority Communities

3294. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several proposals under centrally sponsored schemes for providing grants to various training and assistance centres running for the poor people

belonging to backward sections and minority communities in Bihar, Jharkhand and other States are still pending with the Union Government;

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

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI) : (a) to (c) No complete and viable proposal under the schemes for providing grants to Voluntary Organizations working for the Welfare of Other Backward Classes and Minority Communities in Bihar and Jharkhand is pending. In other states the cases are under process.

[English]

Concessions for Indian Auto Industries

3295. SHRI P. D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has provided any concession for the Indian auto industries producing cars and other types of four wheelers either with indigenous technology or in technical collaboration with foreign auto industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Training Institute for the Physically Handicapped Persons

3296. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the training institutes imparting educational/vocational training to the physically handicapped persons in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu, State-wise;

(b) the number of handicapped persons trained by these institutes during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the amount and the nature of assistance provided to the State Governments for these institutes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) to (c) Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme for running welfare programmes for

Disabled persons, no grant in aid is provided to the State Governments, assistance is given directly to non-governmental organizations. The names of institutes, which are provided assistance under the Scheme for imparting educational/vocational training to physically handicapped persons and the number of beneficiaries assisted during the last three years, state-wise, are in enclosed statement.

The Details of grants in aid provided to non-governmental organizations under the Scheme are available in the Ministry's website www.socialjustice.nic.in

Statement

State	Name of the Institutions	Number of Beneficiaries		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Mahila Sabha (Hyderabad)	120	125	109
Andhra Pradesh	Anuraag Human Services	116	140	151
Andhra Pradesh	Center for Development Research	53	Nil	Nil
Andhra Pradesh	Child Guidance Centre	106	97	121
Andhra Pradesh	Deaf Reach	Nil	45	Nil
Andhra Pradesh	Hellen Keller Memorial Association for the Blind	98	93	126
Andhra Pradesh	Human Resource Development Society	Nil	107	134
Andhra Pradesh	Kasturiba Adarsha Seva Mahila Mandali	102	Nil	Nil
Andhra Pradesh	Lakshmi Mahila Mandali	30	43	50
Andhra Pradesh	Mahalakshmi Welfare Society	100	43	99
Andhra Pradesh	Manasika Vikas Kendram	385	396	400
Andhra Pradesh	Peda Praja Seva Samiti	30	25	50
Andhra Pradesh	Prakasam Yuvajana Sangham	Nil	49	50
Andhra Pradesh	Priyadarsini Service Organisation	468	385	441
Andhra Pradesh	Rotary trust for Handicapped	Nil	Nil	55
Andhra Pradesh	Sri Dakshinya Bhava Samithi	Nil	Nil	22
Andhra Pradesh	Srinivasa Mahila Mandali	92	92	100
Andhra Pradesh	Sweekar Rehabilitation Institute for Handicapped	Nil	20	21
Andhra Pradesh	Ushodaya Educational Society	170	158	180
Andhra Pradesh	Vasantha Lakshmi Charitable Trust & Research Centre	Nil	Nil	1584

1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	Vijayarami Mahila Mandali	Nil	Nil	50
Andhra Pradesh	Vutukuri Venkata Subhama Welfare Society	95	92	120
Assam	Dhule Regional Physical Development Association	100	63	72
Assam	Kachajuli Physically Handicapped School and Training Centre	Nil	136	139
Bihar	Baba Baldyanath Balika Mook Badhir Vidyalaya	50	50	40
Bihar	Bharatiya Viklang Sangh	30	70	77
Bihar	Bihar Rehabilitation & Welfare Institute	480	Nil	Nil
Bihar	Girija Shankar Drishti Bihari Balika Vidyalaya	35	34	31
Bihar	Gyan Sarovar	62	62	74
Bihar	Koshi Kshetriya Viklang, Vidhva, Vridh Kalyan Samiti	250	254	233
Bihar	Megadh Rehabilitation & Welfare Society	Nil	55	60
Bihar	Prakritik Arogyashram	86	Nil	100
Bihar	Samudayik Viklang Vidhva, Vridh Dalit Vikas Samiti	42	45	Nil
Chandigarh	Society for the Care of the Blind	105	100	107
Delhi	Action for Ability Development and Inclusion	70	70	110
Delhi	Akhil Bharatiya Netraheen Sangh	50	44	Nil
Delhi	All India Confederation of the Blind (Delhi)	20	14	25
Delhi	All India Federation of the Deaf	25	50	63
Delhi	Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust	20	19	20
Delhi	Army Welfare Society	Nil	23	13
Delhi	Bharatiya Blind Education Culture Welfare Society	37	30	44
Delhi	Delhi Association of the Deaf	Nil	1222	2031
Delhi	Tamana	15	17	Nil
Delhi	The Blind Relief Association	20		Nil
Gujarat	Akshar Trust	7	20	Nil
Gujarat	Blind People's Association	19	51	53
Gujarat	Shri K.L. Institute for the Deaf	71	85	95
Haryana	DISHA	Nil	Nil	96
Haryana	Indian Red Cross Society (Hissar)	Nil	40	40
Haryana	Indian Red Cross Society (Rohtak)	120	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
Haryana	Janta Rehabilitation Training Centre for Visually Handicapped	20	20	21
Haryana	National Association for the Blind (Faridabad)	17	20	18
Himachal Pradesh	H.P. State Council for Child Welfare	15	23	27
Jharkhand	Jan Chetna Kendra	Nil	Nil	20
Karnataka	Chesire Homes India (Manglore)	25	25	24
Karnataka	Divine Light Trust for the Blind	16	Nil	18
Karnataka	Divyajyothi Vidya Kendra	100	100	42
Karnataka	Jnanesh Educational Society	100	96	96
Karnataka	National Association for the Blind (Bangalore)	23	23	34
Karnataka	Nittur Education Society	112	100	102
Karnataka	Sangram Education Society	Nil	45	50
Karnataka	Shree Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind	371	336	349
Karnataka	Shri Shathashruna Vidya samsthe	153	168	56
Karnataka	Sri Swami Sarvadharm Sharnalaya Trust	50	46	48
Karnataka	The Association for the Deaf	42	Nil	Nil
Kerala	Alphonsa Home for Physically Handicapped Girls	26	27	27
Kerala	Asha Bhavan	Nil	30	30
Kerala	Association for Welfare of the Handicapped	24	33	33
Kerala	Faith India	150	185	154
Kerala	Hellen Keller Institute for Visually Impaired	31	35	40
Kerala	Kerala Federation of the Blind	159	159	169
Kerala	KRIPA's Providence Home	Nil	24	24
Kerala	Santhi Bhawan Social Centre	66	60	60
Kerala	Snehabhavan Society 76/74	39	48	47
Madhya Pradesh	Deaf Dumb Association Indore M.P.	Nil	Nil	203
Madhya Pradesh	Welfare Association for the Disabled	40	42	49
Maharashtra	Apang Va Niradhar Bahuddeshiya Kalyankari Sanstha	Nil	20	20
Maharashtra	Ayodhya Charitable Trust	20	20	20
Maharashtra	Gramin Punarwasan Ashram Shala	30	46	Nil
Maharashtra	Hellen Keller Institute for Deaf and Blind	30	33	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
Maharashtra	Paraplegic Foundation	Nil	Nil	60
Maharashtra	Shree Trust	305	338	341
Maharashtra	The Research Society for the Care, Treatment and Training of Children in Need of Special Care	198	202	226
Manipur	Institute of Social Development for Weaker Sections	30	30	40
Manipur	Rural Educational and Socio-Economic Development Organisation	50	50	50
Meghalaya	Bethany Society	123	135	152
Orissa	Arun Institute of Rural Affairs	32	35	48
Orissa	Association for Social Reconstructive Activities	50	50	50
Orissa	Association for Voluntary Action	36	36	30
Orissa	Bhairabi Club	60	50	Nil
Orissa	Nilachal Seva Prathisthan	100	100	100
Orissa	Orissa Multipurpose Development Center	50	50	50
Orissa	Red Cross School for the Blind	101	100	107
Orissa	The Orissa Association for the Blind	Nil	Nil	120
Orissa	Vishwa Jeevan Seva Sangha	30	30	36
Punjab	Dr. Satya Paul Khosla Charitable Memorial Trust	230	230	245
Punjab	Society for the Rehabilitation of Handicapped Persons Suffering from Social Evils	121	115	125
Punjab	Vocational Rehabilitation Training Centre	438	458	471
Rajasthan	Badhit Bal Vikas Kendra	Nil	125	115
Rajasthan	Indian Council of Social Welfare	50	51	70
Rajasthan	Jaimini Shikhsan Evam Gramin Vikas Sansthan	Nil	Nil	68
Rajasthan	Jodhpur Badhir Kalyan Samiti	Nil	40	Nil
Rajasthan	Narayan Sewa Sansthan	Nil	70	70
Rajasthan	Navdisha Vikas Samiti	75	84	93
Rajasthan	Prayas, Centre for Special Education & Vocational Training	Nil	Nil	50
Rajasthan	Rajasthan Netraheen Kalyan Sangh	Nil	39	50
Rajasthan	Shardhalaya Ashram Samiti	50	75	Nil
Rajasthan	Sucheta Kriplani Shiksha Niketan	Nil	Nil	215
Rajasthan	Tagore Gramin Utthan Samiti	Nil	75	75

1	2	3	4	5
Tamil Nadu	All India Blind Progressive Association	50	50	60
Tamil Nadu	Andhra Mahila Sabha	72	42	78
Tamil Nadu	Cheshire Homes India (Chennai)	75	76	75
Tamil Nadu	Christian Foundation for the Blind	44	60	69
Tamil Nadu	Hellen Keller Service Society for the Disabled	125	130	74
Tamil Nadu	I.E.L.C. School for the Blind	141	141	132
Tamil Nadu	Indian Association for the Blind	18	16	20
Tamil Nadu	Indian Red Cross Society (Chennai)	80	145	175
Tamil Nadu	Jaya Balwadi Educational Society	50	50	60
Tamil Nadu	National Association for the Blind (Tamil Nadu)	Nil	Nil	60
Tamil Nadu	Samaritan Association	25	30	60
Tamil Nadu	Tamilnadu Association of the Blind	Nil	24	26
Tamil Nadu	The Centre for the Disabled (Polio)	Nil	104	50
Tamil Nadu	Vidya Sagar	Nil	8	13
Uttar Pradesh	Adarsh Khadi Gramudyog Vikas Samiti	55	63	100
Uttar Pradesh	Adarsh Nehru Viklang Shikshan Sansthan	Nil	76	64
Uttar Pradesh	Akhil Bharatiya Viklang Kalyan Samiti	225	201	201
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad Gram Swasthya Seva Samiti	100	100	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	Ambedkar Shiksha Samiti	20	23	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	Ashoka Public School	48	35	50
Uttar Pradesh	B.C.G. School for the Deaf	93	80	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	Bharatiya Chauhan Samiti	Nil	30	41
Uttar Pradesh	Bhartiya Vikalang Kalyan Society	47	48	49
Uttar Pradesh	Chitragupta Shikshan Sansthan	39	55	66
Uttar Pradesh	Disha Viklang, Asahay Mahilaon, Vridh Evam Bachhon ke Kalyanarth Samiti	70	77	89
Uttar Pradesh	Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Jan Seva Sansthan	Nil	Nil	140
Uttar Pradesh	Drishti Samajik Sansthan	80	122	158
Uttar Pradesh	Goonge Behron Ka Vidhyalaya	175	210	210
Uttar Pradesh	Handicapped Child Welfare Society (SAVERA)	45	48	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	Interact Society for the Spastics & Handicapped	Nil	Nil	60
Uttar Pradesh	Kaifi Azami Education & Welfare Society	Nil	174	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	Kishan Mahila Gramodyog Sansthan	Nil	Nil	60
Uttar Pradesh	Lohia Samaj Seva Sansthan	Nil	25	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	Madhukar Viklang Vidyalaya Samiti	85	98	120
Uttar Pradesh	Mangalam	15	15	26
Uttar Pradesh	N.C. Chaturvedi School for Deaf	20	20	16
Uttar Pradesh	National Fellowship Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind	100	100	100
Uttar Pradesh	Netaji Subhash Vidya Mandir	202	201	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	Shaheed Memorial Society	496	516	200
Uttar Pradesh	Sri Kanchilal Shastri Smarak Sansthan	34	50	52
Uttar Pradesh	Sur Samarak Mandal	40	29	30
Uttar Pradesh	Viklang Kendra (Rotary Sponsored Crippled Youth & Welfare Society)	20	25	50
Uttar Pradesh	Viklang Seva Samiti	127	127	91
Uttaranchal	Indira Rashtriya Chetna Evam Samajothan Sansthan	70	82	93
West Bengal	ETR for the Disabled	Nil	Nil	50
West Bengal	Karimpur Social Welfare Society	25	30	29
West Bengal	Manovikas Kendra	Nil	Nil	20
West Bengal	North Calcutta Pratibandhi Seva Kendra	28	28	35
West Bengal	R. K. Mission Blind Boys Academy	80	35	43
West Bengal	REACH	64	64	73
West Bengal	Sri Sri Ramkrishna Satyanand Education & Charity Trust	44	47	56
West Bengal	West Bengal SC/ST & Minority Welfare Association	50	49	47

[English]

Foreigners' Travelling on Fake Tickets

3297. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of incidents of foreigners' travelling, on fake tickets as reported in the Hindu dated December 15, 2003;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government into the whole episode;

(d) if so, outcome of the inquiry and further action taken by the Government thereon;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL))

: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was reported by the Newspaper that while a group of foreigners having confirmed berths was travelling by 2322 Dn. Mumbai-Howrah mail on 27.7.2003, they were treated as travelling without ticket on suspicion and charged a sum of Rs. 41,028/-.

(c) to (e) The complaint has been investigated and it was found that the action of the concerned Travelling Ticket Examiner was not in order. He has, therefore, been taken up departmentally. Arrangement has also been made to refund the excess charges recovered from the passengers.

(f) Instructions have been reiterated to the concerned staff to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future. In addition, front line staff who come in contact with the public are also being sent for special training course.

[Translation]

Regulation of Advertisements of Pay Channels

3298. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1615 dated December 11, 2003 regarding 'Revenue from Advertisements for Pay Channels' and to state :

(a) whether the matter of regulation of advertisements of Pay Channels has been worked out;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be worked out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) By a notification dated 9th January, 2004, the Government has brought the "Broadcasting Services and Cable Services" within the ambit of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997. The functions of the TRAI are laid down in the aforesaid Act. The TRAI entrusted to make recommendations regarding the parameters for regulating maximum time for advertisements in pay channels as well as other channels and other allied matters.

[English]

Jobs to Blind Candidates

3299. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Blind Candidates who have passed IAS exams alongwith normal candidates are not given any jobs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) The corrective measures taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) On the basis of the last three Civil Services Examinations (CSEs), no candidate claiming to be blind has been recommended by the Union Public Service Commission for allocation to a service.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Railway Vikas Fund

3300. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the procedures for selection of projects/schemes under Railway Vikas Fund;

(b) whether zonal railways are getting fund out of the Railway Vikas Fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the projects/schemes already approved under Railway Vikas Fund and allocations made to each project/scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) There is no Railway Vikas Fund.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Participation of Foreign NCC Youth in Republic Day Celebrations

3301. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the "NCC youth action programme" in which foreign cadets participated during the Republic Day celebrations, country-wise;

(b) the names of countries where Indian NCC cadets have participated during each of the last three years;

(c) the criteria for their selection;

(d) the details of funds sanctioned for such NCC youth exchange programmes during the said period; and

(e) the actual expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Year-wise details of the foreign cadets who participated in the Republic Day Camp are attached as statement-I.

(b) Requisite details are attached as statement-II.

(c) Process of identifying potential Youth Exchange Programme (YEP) cadets starts at the Unit/Group/Directorate level wherein cadets are required to undergo preliminary tests. The best cadets are sponsored by each Directorate for selection in the YEP. Final selection of these cadets is done during the Republic Day Camp where these cadets are assessed through a rigorous testing procedure which involves a written test and interview by a Board of Officers chaired by the Additional Director General NCC followed by the final interview by Director General NCC. Thereafter a merit list is prepared and the cadets are earmarked accordingly for the YEP.

(d) and (e) Details of funds sanctioned for such NCC Youth Exchange Programme during the last three years and the actual expenditure incurred thereon are attached as statement-III.

Statement-I

Year-wise details of foreign cadets who participated in the Republic Day Camps

Year—2002

Sl.No.	Country	Strength	
		Officers	Cadets
1	2	3	4
1.	Bangladesh	1	12
2.	Bhutan	-	6

1	2	3	4
3.	Nepal	1	10
4.	Maldives	1	2
5.	Sri Lanka	-	2
6.	UK	1	13
7.	Vietnam	2	20
Total		6	65

Year—2003

Sl.No.	Country	Strength	
		Officers	Cadets
1.	Bangladesh	1	12
2.	Bhutan	-	6
3.	Nepal	1	10
4.	Maldives	1	2
5.	Sri Lanka	1	-6
6.	Russia	2	10
7.	UK	1	13
8.	Trinidad & Tobago	1	1
9.	Vietnam	2	20
Total		10	80

Year—2004

Sl.No.	Country	Strength	
		Officers	Cadets
1.	Bangladesh	1	12
2.	Bhutan	-	6
3.	Nepal	1	10
4.	Maldives	1	2
5.	Singapore	1	10
6.	Sri Lanka	1	6
7.	Russia	2	10
8.	UK	1	12
9.	Trinidad & Tobago	1	1
Total		9	69

Statement-II

Countries where Indian cadets have participated in the Youth Exchange Programme

Year—2000-2001

Sl.No.	Country	Strength	
		Officers	Cadets
1.	Bangladesh	1	12
2.	Singapore	1	16
3.	Nepal	1	10
5.	Sri Lanka	-	2
7.	UK	-	8
Total		3	48

Year—2001-2002

Sl.No.	Country	Strength	
		Officers	Cadets
1.	Bangladesh	1	12
2.	Bhutan	2	12
3.	Nepal	1	10
4.	Sri Lanka	-	2
5.	Singapore	4	16
6.	UK	-	12
7.	Vietnam	2	20
Total		10	84

Year—2002-2003

Sl.No.	Country	Strength	
		Officers	Cadets
1	2	3	4
1.	Bangladesh	1	12
2.	Nepal	1	10
3.	Sri Lanka	-	2
4.	Russia	2	10
5.	UK	1	12

1	2	3	4
6.	Singapore	4	16
7.	Vietnam	2	20
Total		11	82

Statement-III

Details of funds sanctioned for the Youth Exchange Programme of NCC

Sl.No.	Year	Funds Sanctioned	Actual Expenditure Incurred
1.	2000-01	Rs. 38,78,990/-	Rs. 23,67,991/-
2.	2001-02	Rs. 42,98,790/-	Rs. 31,46,225/-
3.	2002-03	Rs. 81,60,759/-	Rs. 56,90,950/-

[Translation]

Export of Defence Equipment

3302. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to fix a target for export of defence equipment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a few foreign countries are inclined to buy defence equipment from India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which the deals are likely to be finalized; and

(f) the steps taken so far by the Government to promote the export of indigenous defence equipment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Export targets are a part of the Memoranda of Understanding signed by the Defence Public Sector Undertakings covering both defence and non-defence equipment.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Defence equipment from India is

exported to countries primarily in Asia and Africa. This is an ongoing process.

(f) The following steps have been taken to promote the export of defence equipment :

- (i) Simplifying export procedures;
- (ii) Extending lines of credit to certain Countries;
- (iii) Participation in various international exhibitions for showcasing Indian defence products;
- (iv) Organising visits of delegations to various countries;
- (v) Hosting a biennial Land & Naval systems Exhibition-Defexpo India to showcase the latest development in the field;
- (vi) Hosting a biennial Aerospace Exhibition-Aero India to showcase developments in the field.

[English]

**Programmes of Defaulters on
Doordarshan/AIR**

3303. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to discontinue telecast of programmes on Doordarshan/AIR of defaulting producers and agencies who fail to pay outstanding telecast fees;

(b) if so, the details alongwith defaulting producers and agencies who fail to pay outstanding telecast fees and the details of arrears outstanding against them during last three years and till date, agency-wise, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring transparency in the functioning of Doordarshan/AIR; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that chronic defaulters are not allowed programmes if they fail to clear their dues even after being given

reasonable opportunities. In respect of AIR, total outstanding against defaulting agencies as on 30.06.2003 is Rs. 4.37 crores whereas in case of Doordarshan, it is Rs. 219.72 crores as on 30.01.2004. Details are given in statement-I and II respectively.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has taken many steps to bring transparency in its functioning. Guidelines for commissioning, sponsoring, co-production are the major steps in this direction. All the guidelines and details of major activities of AIR and DD are available on their respective websites.

Statement-I

Major defaulting agencies in respect of All India Radio

(in Rupees)

Outstanding dues as on 30.6.2003

1. Arohi Advertising Agency	65685
2. A to Z Agencies	91067
3. AD-Air Advertising	1093848
4. Adbur	100963
5. AD-House	704758
6. Advertising Con (I)	613
7. Advold Advertising	86
8. ADVTG & Sales Promotion	1195
9. Ambilikalaniam	1313
10. Ankur ADVTG & Marketing	19227
11. Anugraha	3149
12. Appropriate Advertising	31
13. Aries Advertising	99209
14. Arms Communications	52350
15. Art Advertising	25984
16. Art Commercia	105229
17. Arvind Advertising	280
18. Associated Advertising	5233
19. Audio Advertising	1872

109	Written Answers	Magha 16, 1925 (Saka)	To Questions	110
20.	AVI International	4906	50. Ferald Advertising	17672
21.	B.D. Khanna Publicity	4794	51. Frank Simoes	1028
22.	Beautex	1010377	52. Friends Advertisers	537931
23.	Blaze Advertising	22363	53. Gemini Advertising	989
24.	Bright	3801	54. Gresham	2791
25.	Cadmas International	5233	55. Grey World Wide India	165015
26.	Canco Advertising	3869	56. Guru Nanak Advertising	1738
27.	Capital Advertising	7874	57. Hastshilp Utsav	10217
28.	Carat Media Services	194673	58. Head Start	170701
29.	Chaitra Advertising	575	59. Hindustan Thomsan Associates	3482334
30.	Chaitra Leo Burnett	4475	60. I.B. & W Communications	8508
31.	Chavra Advertising	281200	61. Image ADS	56846
32.	Clarion Advertising	317353	62. Insight Advtsg.	117978
33.	Concept Communications	99705	63. Interact Vlsion	2570
34.	Contour Advertising & Marketing	753	64. Interads Advertising	4586
35.	Contract Advertising	506142	65. Interface Communication	156359
36.	Corporate Communications	306	66. J.D.H.S.	1040490
37.	Corporate Voice	488211	67. J.D.H.S. (Dr. Thassu)	12891
38.	Creative Unit	197143	68. Jaipur Publicity	3145
39.	Current Advertising	10564	69. Jaison Advertising	4233
40.	Dawn Mot	261891	70. Jaya Advertising	10843
41.	Deeraj Chambers	16	71. Jelitta Publicity	1485259
42.	Delcom	103434	72. Jettison Combines	22415
43.	Duttaram Advertising	136	73. Jingleson, Mamba	240542
44.	Efficient Publicity	213557	74. Jupiter Advertising	22979
45.	Elegant Publicity	48450	75. Kalyani Recording	2550
46.	Enterprises Advertising	13401	76. Karishma Advertising	92
47.	Euro R.S.C.G.	6747	77. Kerala Feeds	74700
48.	Everest	61949	78. Kerala Publicity	4458
49.	Everest Integrated	12420	79. KLI Advertising	196759

111	<i>Written Answers</i>	February 5, 2004	<i>To Questions</i>	112
80.	KPB Advtsg.	5683	110. Pen-A-Trait	25675
81.	Lintas	385103	111. Percent Advtsg.	587189
82.	LR Swamy	121275	112. Perfect Publicity	1190
83.	M.C. Media	40300	113. Plus Advertising	53413
84.	M.O. Media Ltd.	1790	114. Post Speed Post Pune	174
85.	M.S.I.L.	186673	115. Prachar Communications	299037
86.	Maa Communications	1472392	116. Pragati Advertisers Bhopal	15510
87.	Madhyam	22285	117. Pragati Radio	131898
88.	Mantralaya Mahan ADS	834734	118. Pragati Radios	65238
89.	Marina Gandhi	184	119. Profad Chennai	778478
90.	Market Advtsg.	11403	120. Publicis Syndicate	69026
91.	Market Analyst	34244	121. Publicity Parlour	42548
92.	Marketing & Con. Advtg.	791	122. Publico Advertising	19947
93.	Marketing Analyst & Product Promoters	107	123. Purnima Advertising	100926
94.	Marketing Consultants	31970	124. Pyrates & Phosphates	400
95.	Mass Marketing Service	805036	125. RIS Kanpur	11575
96.	MCCAN Erickson	504542	126. R.K. Swamy	69328
97.	Media Waves	1828658	127. Radashree	43654
98.	Medium Service	13	128. Radio & TV Commercials	183749
99.	Midison Advtg.	851583	129. Radio Enterprises	13473
100.	Mode Advertising	15258	130. Radio Publicity	1443
101.	Montage Advertising	31118	131. Rajasthan Motors	4788
102.	Mudra Communications	27234	132. Rakshtriya Advtsg.	581
103.	Musirecca	3147901	133. Rank Advtsg.	3700
104.	National Advtsg. Agency	25653	134. Ratan Bata	18
105.	Noisy Recording Centre	172183	135. Raviraj	38757
106.	Norvicson Advertising	25532	136. Raviraj Publicity	81149
107.	Notre Advertising	7993	137. Rayer Communications	1458572
108.	Om Advertising	42194	138. React Advertising	187
109.	One Up ADS	511228	139. Rediffusion	53453

113	Written Answers	Magha 16, 1925 (Saka)	To Questions	114
140.	Renukay Advtsg.	5088928	161. Tara Sinha	1931
141.	Roshan Advtsg.	38675	162. Telecraft Movies	520400
142.	RSN ADS	4898	163. The Madras Advertising	461
143.	RTVC	1326026	164. Three Bros. & Fils	20650
144.	S. Kalyani AREC Studio	24752	165. TN Medicinal Plant	1471
145.	SASI Advertising	129928	166. Tom & Bay	547
146.	Sanskar Advtsg.	10668	167. Triveny Arts	18494
147.	Shilpi Advertising	115668	168. Twin Advertisers	619756
148.	Situation Advtsg. & Mktg.	126898	169. Ulka Advertising	1261
149.	Shree Advtsg.	1023209	170. Vedham Advtsg.	1100
150.	Sri Sai Films	40332	171. Vigyapan Enterprises	15495
151.	Sridhar Agencies	14005	172. Vishesh Advertising	251951
152.	SRJ Ragyhavendra	2269491	173. Vishwa Vijay	3442
153.	Suchandra AD Media	589307	174. Vision Advertising	1931
154.	Super ADS	542001	175. V.K. Nagvani	2773
155.	Swaralipi	13148	176. VRG Agencies	1340339
156.	System Recording Studios	18409	177. W.B. Milk Products	4177
157.	TAMPCOL	912	178. Yash Advtsg.	33908
158.	TLS India Ltd.	482	179. Youth India	1721
159.	TNWS & D. Board	10659		
160.	Tara Advertising Associates	25785	Total	43673143

Statement-II

Major Defaulting Agencies for the Year 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 (as on 30th Jan.) in respect of Doordarshan

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name of Agency	Dues as on 31.3.01	Dues as on 31.3.02	Dues as on 31.3.03	Dues as on 30.1.04
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	NFDC Nehru Centre, Worli Mumbai.	4230	4700	3787	8388
2.	Creative Eye, Peeragarhi, Delhi	1341	1200	1200	1200
3.	Shree Madhav, Khar (W), Mumbai	1270	1156	1156	1156
4.	Multi Channel, Khar (W), Mumbai	1102	1102	1102	1102

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Fame Comm., Worli Mumbai	1167	1074	1074	1074
6.	Film Craft, Andheri (W), Mumbai	787	647	467	1066
7.	Plus Channel, Andheri (W), Mumbai	1205	1012	1012	1012
8.	Número UNO, Juhu Mumbai	1006	1030	1010	1010
9.	Nimbus Communication, K.G. Marg, New Delhi	612	612	722	908
10.	Sagar Enterprises, Natraj Studio, Mumbai	816	590	490	459
11.	Third Eye TV, New Delhi	0	0	0	312
12.	Market Movers, Breach Candi, Mumbai	314	311	311	311
13.	Drishti India, Andheri (W) Mumbai	294	294	294	294
14.	Advance TV Network, Naraina, Delhi	213	213	213	213
15.	Concept Advtg., Jhandewalan, New Delhi	188	188	188	188
16.	Guruji Advtg., Preet Vihar, Delhi	90	85	85	185
17.	B4U Multimedia, Andheri (W), Mumbai	245	197	179	179
18.	MBM, Pali Hill, Bandra (W), Mumbai	163	163	163	163
19.	Global Ent., Kailash, New Delhi	115	93	161	161
20.	L.R. Ent., Link Road, Malad (W), Mumbai	0	0	155	155
21.	Pritish Nandy Comm., Opp. Lion Gate, Mumbai	224	154	154	154
22.	Maya Ent., Kandivli (E), Mumbai	212	170	167	140
23.	Anand Advtg., Darya Ganj, Delhi	140	140	140	140
24.	Pinkī Advtg. Kishan Polo Bazar, Jaipur	0	91	134	134
25.	World Media, Jhandewalan, New Delhi	132	132	132	132
26.	Media Asia, K.G. Marg, New Delhi	146	146	122	122
27.	Magna Vision, Jangpura-B, New Delhi	108	108	108	105
28.	Prabha Films, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	0	0	75	75
29.	Universal Communication, J.S.S. Marg, Mumbai	73	73	73	73
30.	First Option Tele Films, Andheri (W), Mumbai	76	41	94	72
31.	Kine Scope, Khar (W), Mumbai	70	70	70	70
32.	Time Megnatix, Versova, Mumbai	0	0	54	65
33.	Aaliya Productions, K.G. Marg, New Delhi	60	60	60	60

1	2	3	4	5	6
34.	Worldcom M/M, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	58	58	58	58
35.	Samvaad Video, Worli Sea Face Road, Mumbai	0	49	115	53
36.	Jaya Advtg., V.T. Mumbai	49	49	49	49
37.	Uranus, Khar (W), Mumbai	46	46	46	46
38.	Reasonable Advtg., Rajender Nagar, New Delhi	60	0	60	45
39.	Copy Desk, Mayapuri, New Delhi	56	45	45	45
40.	Global Vision, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi	0	0	44	44
41.	Joslin Comm., Rajouri Garden, New Delhi	42	42	42	42
42.	Unitec-Vinvista, New Delhi	0	0	0	42
43.	PAS International, Inderpuri, Delhi	166	57	60	41
44.	HTA, Gurgaon, Haryana	50	25	16	40
45.	Cinema Vision, Jogeshwari (W), Mumbai	38	35	35	35
46.	Bag Films, Green Park Extn. New Delhi	2	0	10	34
47.	Tracer Advtg., Mumbai	0	33	33	33
48.	Jos Marketica, Khirki Extn., New Delhi	0	0	31	31
49.	Creative Channel, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi	0	28	28	28
50.	Lehar Pub. Service, Tula Ram Bagh, Allahabad	32	28	27	27
51.	ID TV, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi	0	0	26	25
52.	G.N. Comm., East of Kailash, New Delhi	25	25	25	25
53.	Innovision Film, Santacruz, Mumbai	25	25	25	25
54.	Neerja Films, Rohtak Road, New Delhi	27	25	23	23
55.	Star Gazer, Sukhdev Vihar, Okhla	0	13	22	22
56.	Translink Tele. Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	0	24	22	22
57.	Prime Time Media, Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi	46	20	20	20
58.	Paras Marketing, Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi	0	0	35	19
59.	Asian Ad Age, Green Park Extn. New Delhi	0	27	19	19
60.	Wide Angle Media, Jaipur	0	0	0	19
61.	Corrum Comm., South Extn., New Delhi	45	18	18	18
62.	W.D. Consumer, Nirlon House, Worli Mumbai	99	8	22	17

1	2	3	4	5	6
63.	Advison Multimedia, Noida	0	17	17	17
64.	Lintas Nariman Point, Mumbai	0	0	4	16
65.	Radha Publicity, Jublie Hills, Hyderabad	18	16	13	13
66.	PCRA, Mumbai	0	0	0	12
67.	Bidhan Advtg. Ellsbridge, Ahmedabad	11	11	11	11
68.	Future Comm., Goregaon, Mumbai	17	11	11	11
69.	Magic Box, Andheri (W), Mumbai	14	11	11	11
70.	Triton Comm., Kalkaji, New Delhi	48	31	102	2
71.	KLI [Moving Picture], Jung Pura, Extn. New Delhi	59	122	50	8
72.	Network 7, Bellasis Road, Mumbai	0	20	35	8
73.	AK INT., Greater Kallash-I, New Delhi	0	0	8	8
74.	Saliva, Geeta Colony, Delhi	0	0	10	8
75.	A & A Films, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi	0	0	9	6
76.	Govt. of Delhi	0	6	6	6
77.	Group Advtg. & Cons., Tilak Marg, New Delhi	0	0	4	4
78.	HMT, Bellari Road, Bangalore	0	3	3	3
79.	Vigyapan, New Delhi	5	3	3	3
80.	Balaji Telefilms, Andheri (W), Mumbai	140	111	98	0
81.	Eternal Dreams, Oshiwara, Mumbai	0	0	31	0
82.	ABCL	678	0	0	0
83.	AD Factor Advtg.	7	0	0	0
84.	APCA	42	0	0	0
85.	B.Y. Padhya	13	0	0	0
86.	Chaitra Advtg.,	3	0	0	0
87.	Clarion Advtg., Galib Street, Kolkata	17	6	0	0
88.	Contract Advtg.	10	0	0	0
89.	Crayons Advtg.	6	0	0	0
90.	Dawnmod Advtg.	0	0	0	0
91.	Deptt. of Post	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
92.	Enterprise Advtg.	20	0	0	0
93.	Everest Advtg.	20	0	0	0
94.	Film City, Film City, Mumbai	0	28	0	0
95.	Gold Video	0	0	0	0
96.	Hansa Vision	108	0	0	0
97.	Jatiyaar Pub.	25	0	0	0
98.	Maa Bozell	0	0	0	0
99.	Madison	0	0	0	0
100.	Moullis Advtg., Roy Apettach, Chennai	9	2	0	0
101.	Mudra Comm.	0	0	0	0
102.	National Saving	2	0	0	0
103.	NCYP	11	0	0	0
104.	PEN 'A' TRAIT	4	0	0	0
105.	Prominent	10	0	0	0
106.	Stracon, Nehru Place, New Delhi	0	0	0	0
107.	TNE Asia, Sakinaka, Mumbai	0	0	0	0
108.	United Television, Sakinaka, Mumbai	43	0	0	0
109.	DAVP, PTI, Bldg. New Delhi	0	0	15	0
Total		18605	16928	16549	21972

Gauge Conversion

3304. SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway has fixed a target period to complete the broad gauge conversion through out the country as part of 'Vision 2020';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the allotted budget amount of Rs. 25 crores for Trichirappalli-Manamadurai rail line will be spent during this year as per the formula of priority; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a)
No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) During 2003-04, an outlay of Rs.5 crore has been provided for Tiruchchirappalli-Manamadurai gauge conversion project. Efforts are being made to utilize the allotted funds.

Taking over of Units of Bharat Wagon and Engineering Limited

3305. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether taking over of Mokameh and Muzaffarpur units of Messers' Bharat Wagon and Engineering Limited is currently under examination of the Ministry of Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Ministry of Industry sent proposal of two manufacturing companies viz., Burn Standard and Braithwaite under BBUNL for their taking over by the railway;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry of Railways is considering sending team to those units for examination;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) and (b) Department of Heavy Industries has approached Ministry of Railways to take over Mokameh and Muzaffarpur units of Messrs. Bharat. Wagon & Engineering Ltd. as their captive units. The matter is currently under examination by the Railways.

(c) At present, no such proposal is under consideration.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Rail Projects in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

3306. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of ongoing rail projects and surveys in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand particularly in the tribal areas, project-wise;

(b) the target set for the completion of each of those projects;

(c) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred on each of the project, so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) to (c) The project-wise progress along with the target dates, wherever fixed, expenditure incurred up to 31/03/2003 and budget allocation during 2003-04 for various on-going New Line, Gauge Conversion, and Doubling projects passing fully or partly through Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and also the status of various ongoing survey works in these States are given as under :

Chhattisgarh

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Present Status	Expenditure incurred upto 31/03/2003 (Rs. in crores)	Budget allocation during 2003-04 (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
New Line				
1.	Dallirakajara-Jagdalpur (235 Km)	The first phase of this railway line, viz., from Dallirajahara to Rowghat, is to be constructed entirely at the cost of M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) who have not yet deposited the cost of this part-project with the Railways, for want of the requisite forestry clearance. The State Government is to obtain the requisite environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) for Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur new line project.	0.43	0.01
2.	Bishrampur-Ambikapur (20 Km)	All land except the forestland has been acquired and transfer of forestland is in progress. Earthwork and bridgework are in progress. The work is targeted for completion by December 2004.	11.01	26.00

1	2	3	4	5
Doubling				
1.	Korba-Gevra Road (8 Km)	The earthwork and bridge work are in full swing on Gevra-Kusurmunda (3 Km) section, which is targeted for completion during 2003-04.	23.11	10.00
2.	Bilaspur-Urkura (3rd Line) (110 Km)	Mid-section track linking between Nipania-Bhatapara has almost been completed. Work on Sheonath river bridge is in progress. The work of Bhatapura-Urkura section is being implemented under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY).	82.39	40.00
Jharkhand				
Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Present Status	Expenditure incurred upto 31/03/2003 (Rs. in crores)	Budget allocation during 2003-04 (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
New Line				
1.	Koderma-Giridih (Phase-I) (104 Km)	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition and forestry clearance is under progress. Earthwork and bridge work have been taken up from Koderma end. The project is targeted for completion in 2006-07.	48.17	15.00
2.	Koderma-Hazaribagh-Barkakana-Ranchi (189 Km)	Final Location survey has been completed. Land acquisition and forestry clearance is under process. Earthwork, bridge work, and other works have been taken up. The entire project is targeted for completion in 2006-07.	154.00	50.00
3.	Koderma-Tilalya (68 Km) (Partly in Bihar)	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition and forestry clearance is under process. The project is targeted for completion in 2006-07.	5.00	15.00
4.	Mandarhill-Dumka-Rampurhat (103 Km)	Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition is under process. Dumka-Rampurhat section is targeted for completion in 2006-07.	37.58	10.00
5.	Deogarh-Dumka (67.25 Km)	Land has been acquired partially. Earthwork and minor bridge work have been taken up. The project is targeted for completion in 2006-07.	20.17	15.00
6.	Deogarh-Sultanganj Incl. Banka-Barahat and Banka-Bhitlah Road (147 Km)	Land has been acquired partially. Earthwork and bridge work have been taken up on Deogarh-Katuria and Banka-Barahat sections.	34.61	9.00

1	2	3	4	5
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Gauge Conversion

1. Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension up to Tori (113 Km)	Land has been acquired fully on Ranchi-Lohardaga section where work is in full swing. Gauge conversion of this portion is targeted for completion by June, 2004. Land has been acquired partially on Tori-Lohardaga portion where earthwork and bridge work have been taken up. Work of this new line portion is targeted for completion by December, 2004.	44.54	17.34
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Survey

1. Ranchi-Kandra, New Line	Traffic survey is in progress.
2. Koderma-Hazaribagh-Garhwa Road New Line	Survey has been completed between Koderma-Hazaribagh and is in progress between Hazaribagh-Garhwa Road.
3. Jhajha-Giridih via Sonuchakal, New Delhi	Field survey is in progress.
4. Tori-Chatra New Line	The survey is in process.
5. Bhagalpur-Barharwa Doubling	Traffic survey has been completed. Engineering survey is in progress.

(d) The works are being progressed as per the availability of resources. Railways have taken a number of initiatives to get additional resources from sources other than the normal budgetary support which would expedite the progress of the projects.

Oriya Programmes on DD

3307. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various Doordarshan Kendras through which Oriya programmes are being produced and telecast and relayed at present;

(b) whether the Government has a proposal to increase the number of such Doordarshan Kendras in Orissa during Tenth Five Year Plan and Oriya speaking areas in other States to produce, telecast and relay such programmes; and

(c) if so, the details alongwith steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI

SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan Kendras at Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur and Bhawanipatna produce and telecast Oriya programmes. They have also informed that Doordarshan Kendras at Sambalpur and Bhawanipatna as well as following number of transmitters in Orissa relay Oriya programmes which are telecast from DDK, Bhubaneswar according to their needs :

HPTs	—	07
LPTs	—	68
VLPTs	—	19
Transposer	—	01

Prasar Bharati has informed that one VLPT is under implementation at Bahalda.

Viability of Assam Gas Cracker Project By GAIL

3308. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the GAIL was asked to carry out a

study and recommend the basis on which Assam Gas Cracker Project can be made viable;

(b) if so, whether GAIL has submitted the report and if so, the suggestions/recommendations made;

(c) whether the Union Government has discussed this matter with the Government of Assam and taken any decision;

(d) if so, whether the Government is contemplating a change in the promoters of the projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, GAIL have not sent report/suggestions/recommendations in the matter so far.

(c) to (e) Chief Minister of Assam and officials of Government of Assam have been meeting the Central Ministers/Government officials to press for speedy implementation of the Assam Gas Cracker Project. Since a considerable amount of subsidy is involved in making the project viable, it has been suggested that in today's environment, the State Government may also consider identifying alternative proposals.

[Translation]

Time Limit for Appointment of Dealers

3309. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

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

(a) whether the Government has not fixed any time limit for the appointment of a dealer;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the lack of a definite time period promotes corruption; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (d) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the Oil Marketing Companies

(OMCs) have framed their own guidelines for selection of dealers/distributors based on certain basic parameters conveyed by the Government. The guidelines of the OMCs contain a time frame for various steps in the selection process.

Welfare Schemes for SCs

3310. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated schemes for the welfare of Schedule Castes for Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated for Tenth Five Year Plan for the welfare of these classes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the schemes formulated by the Ministry for the Tenth Five Year Plan may be seen in the Annual Report of the Ministry.

(c) The allocations are not made State-wise under the schemes of this Ministry but allocation of funds to the States depends on receipt of proposals and utilization reports in respect of previous releases. Rs. 5786 crores has been provided in the Tenth Five Year Plan for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes.

Power Supply to Bihar and Jharkhand through NCES

3311. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target for the supply of power through non-conventional energy sources in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government so far for the supply of power in power deficit States like Jharkhand and Bihar through non-conventional energy sources during the last three years and as on date?

THE MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) and (b) A target capacity addition of 3075 MW from various non-conventional energy sources, i.e., 1500 MW from wind, 600 MW from small hydro power, 750 MW from biomass, 80 MW from urban and industrial wastes and 145 MW from solar has been set for the 10th Plan period in the country. State-wise targets have not been allocated as most of this capacity is expected to come in the private sector.

(c) Government is providing central financial assistance in the form of subsidy for setting up non-conventional energy power projects through out the country, including Bihar and Jharkhand. In addition, fiscal incentives and accelerated depreciation are also provided for the establishment of such power projects. This apart, under the remote village electrification programme, 90% subsidy is provided to remote villages and hamlets that are not likely to be connected to the grid by 2012. 3834 such villages have been identified by Jharkhand and 321 by Bihar under the said programme. So far, small hydro power projects of 44.90 MW and 4.05 MW have been set up respectively in Bihar and Jharkhand. In addition, 15 MW and 34.85 MW small hydro power projects are under implementation respectively in Bihar and Jharkhand.

Renovation and Modernisation of Power Projects in Bihar

3312. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the projects relating to renovation and modernization of Thermal Power Plants at Muzaffarpur and Barauni and also extension of the Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station have been sanctioned in order to improve power generation in Bihar;

(b) whether the hydel power project of the Indrapuri reservoir and Kalmur pump storage project is also lying pending with the Union Government;

(c) whether the State Government has asked for Central assistance to implement these projects; and

(d) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The responsibility for the expansion, modernization and renovation of Barauni and Muzaffarpur Thermal Power

Station lies with the Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB). Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has identified the Thermal power plant at Barauni for Life extension programme during the 10th Plan period. Handing over of Muzaffarpur TPS to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for Operation and Maintenance (O&M) on Long Terms Lease Basis to improve the performance of the station could be done after finalization of agreements between NTPC and Government of Bihar.

(b) The pre-feasibility Reports (PER) of four pumped storage projects namely Telhar Kund PSS (400 MW), Sinafdar PSS (345 MW), Panchgoita PSS (225 MW) and Hathidah & Durgawati PSS (1600 MW) in Kaimur Distt. Received in CEA from Bihar State Hydro-electric Power Corporation (BHPC) in the month of September, 2003, were examined by them and comments have been communicated to BHPC. Government of Bihar have requested Ministry of Power to implement Kadhwan Project (5x9 MW) renamed as Indira Puri Reservoir Project through National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC). NHPC could take up the project for implementation after economic viability is established and after receipt of 'in principle' approval from the participating State Governments.

(c) and (d) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) provides loans for renovation and modernization programme and an interest subsidy @ 3% is provided under Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP) on disbursement of such loan through PFC in the 10th Plan. The executing agencies could approach PFC and other financial institutions for financing the projects.

[English]

Development of Railway Network

3313. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had decided to spend a fixed percentage of amount of the Railway Budget (Demand for Grant) for the development of Railway network in the country;

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

(c) the amount actually spent during each of the last three years and the current year so far;

(d) whether the amount spent is in accordance with the decision taken by the Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) to (e) From 2002-03, the percentage share of the available funds to different States is being calculated based on a transparent formula based on three major criteria, viz., the area, population of the State and the throwforward of the projects in States. Weightage given to these three criteria is in the ratio of 15%, 15% and 70% respectively.

The available funds for this allotment are calculated as follows. Of the budgetary support available for capital expenditure approximately 70% is kept for projects. From this 70%, allocation is first made for works in the North Eastern States which has to be 10% of the total, for Metropolitan Transport Projects, Mega Bridges and Railways' share of projects in which States have contributed a two-third share as is being given by the State of Jharkhand. The balance constitutes the "available funds" which has been distributed in different States on the basis of the above formula.

The details of expenditure is kept project-wise and Railway-wise. The total amount spent on railway projects under plan heads New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doublings, Metropolitan Transport Projects and Railway Electrifications during the last three years is as follows :

(Rs. in crore)

Plan Head	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
New Lines	722.70	885.92	1415.11
Gauge Conversion	509.01	739.77	847.52
Doublings	527.30	603.29	583.41
Metropolitan Transport Project	266.24	282.93	314.15
Railway Electrification	304.83	271.34	251.97

The expenditure incurred during the current year on Railway projects will be known at the end of the year after finalization of accounts.

The actual expenditure on the project depends on the progress of the work, land acquisition, law and order situation and other extraneous factors.

[Translation]

Coverage of DD in Rajasthan

3314. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the arrangements made to improve the coverage/viewing of Doordarshan programmes in all cities of Rajasthan;

(b) whether there are complaints of poor reception in Bassi Parliamentary constituency of Rajasthan where programmes being telecast from Jaipur Doordarshan centre;

(c) If so, whether the programmes being telecast by Pak TV are clearly viewable in Jaisalmer and Barmer whereas programmes of our Doordarshan are not clearly viewable; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) One hundred and two TV transmitters (DD1-94, DD News-8) are currently functioning in Rajasthan, which provide TV Coverage to about 78.8% of the population of the State.

(b) Bassi assembly constituency lies in the coverage zone of HPT Jaipur. However, certain parts of Bassi constituency do not receive TV coverage as these lie in the shadow pockets caused due to intervening hilly terrain.

(c) and (d) Pak TV signals are received in parts of Jaisalmer and Barmer districts. Doordarshan coverage in Jaisalmer district is available through a 10 KW HPT (with 300 M tower) and an LPT and in Barmer district, through a 1 KW HPT (interim set up) and an LPT. TV coverage in Barmer district is expected to improve consequent upon commissioning of 10 KW transmitter on 100 M tower at Chautan hill, replacing the 1 KW HPT (interim set up), for which order has already been placed. TV coverage to uncovered areas of the country is now envisaged to be provided through satellite transmission in Ku-band, which is expected to commence during 2004.

Procurement of Warships

3315. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Navy has signed any agreement with the private companies for the purchase of warships;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Navy has formulated any scheme for seeking cooperation of the private companies for the development of related infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the policy of the Government for opening the Defence sector to private industry, capacity assessment of private shipyards has been undertaken for considering their participation in warship building programme. However, no private shipyard has been shortlisted as yet.

[English]

Promotion Policy

3316. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of Constitutional Amendment of article 16(4A) and subsequent DOP OM No. 20011/1/2001-Estt. (D) dated January 21, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has implemented the said circular with retrospective effect with effect from January 30, 1997;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Instructions contained in Department of Personnel and Training's O.M. dated 21.1.2002 nullifying their O.M. dated 30.01.1997 are being followed and the seniority of SC/ST Government servants on promotion has been revised appropriately, wherever necessary, in accordance with the said O.M.

(d) Not applicable.

Barak Defence System

3317. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during a trial, the recently acquired Barak defence system, has found to have fallen short of target by Indian Navy;

(b) if so, whether the Israeli military experts were consulted for diagnosing the fault in the system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Although the target was successfully shot down during one of the two firing runs, it was declared unsatisfactory because of certain technical malfunction.

(b) and (c) The malfunctioning noted during the trials have been analysed by the equipment manufacturer and faults in the system rectified. The Barak system successfully engaged a low flying Surface to Surface Missile target and destroyed it during the repeat Acceptance Test Firing conducted on 21.1.2004.

Reservation for Deaf and Dumb Students

3318. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has advised State Governments to reserve seats for deaf and dumb students in colleges of Fine Arts and other professional courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) to (c) Section 39 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 casts a duty upon all Government educational institutions and other educational institutions receiving aid from the Government to reserve not less than three percent seats for persons with disabilities. The State Governments/ U.T. Administrations have been requested to ensure implementation of this provision of the Act and advised to pay special attention to the vocational programmes for the hearing impaired.

**Guidelines to ONGC Videsh to Sell
Crude from Foreign Wells**

3319. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has fixed any guideline to ONGC Videsh to sell the crude from the Sakhalin, Sudanese and Iraqi oil fields.

(b) if so, whether the Government has directed ONGC Videsh to sell its crude from foreign wells and oilfields to India PSUs;

(c) if so, the objective of such directive to ONGC Videsh;

(d) whether it is feasible to bring crude from distant places to refineries in India; and

(e) the details of other policy to be adopted by ONGC to sell its products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (e) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has been acquiring Participating Interests in exploration blocks and development fields abroad for equity oil and gas in order that the country's supply of hydrocarbons is secure. Currently they have Participating Interest in only one oil producing asset located in Sudan. Oil production from Sakhalin and other assets has not yet commenced.

It is not envisaged that the entire equity hydrocarbons come to India at all times. It would depend upon logistics, technical flexibility and commercial viability.

However, Government has advised OVL that Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Mangalore Refinery Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) would take the crude oil (Nile Blend) from the Sudan asset to the extent of their requirement and that the balance quantity may be sold by OVL on a transparent manner on commercial considerations. Also, with a view on the energy security of the country, OVL has been advised not to bind the supplies of Nile Blend crude on a long-term contract basis with any party.

It is feasible to bring crude oil from distant places to refineries in India, if the refineries find it commercially viable.

**Subsidy Sharing Modalities between
Oil Companies and Marketing Firms**

3320. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

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

(a) whether the Government has set up a committee to work out the modalities of subsidy-sharing between oil producing companies and marketing firms;

(b) if so, whether this committee will also look into the losses accruing from the decision to freeze LPG and kerosene prices for a year despite rising costs;

(c) if so, whether the committee has been formed to devise a formula for sharing the cost;

(d) if so, whether the committee has given its recommendations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) to what extent the Union Government has accepted the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (f) As per the Government decision on dismantling Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector, the Government subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG is on flat rate basis and after accounting for the same, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) could vary the retail selling prices in line with the variations in the international prices of these products.

PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG are domestic fuels of mass consumption. Passing of higher international prices of these products in the domestic selling prices would have hurt the consumers. The matter was therefore re-examined and it was decided in consumer interest that the OMCs will not increase the selling prices of these products during 2003-04 and the resultant under-recoveries of OMCs would be absorbed/shared amongst the oil companies.

As per the broad mechanism finalized for sharing of these under-recoveries amongst the oil PSUs, the OMCs would strive to make up for about one-third of the projected under-recoveries by cross-subsidization, through other retail products and the balance under-recoveries would be

shared between the OMCs and the upstream companies (ONGC and GAIL).

Agreement between India and Turkey

3321. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India and Turkey have signed some agreements in railway development;
- (b) if so, the details of the agreements signed; and
- (c) the extent to which India has been able to help to develop railways in Turkey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Turkey had been signed in April 1995.

It was agreed that both the Railways could explore further means of extending their cooperation in the future.

In September 2000, a joint statement on cooperation between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Turkey was signed re-affirming the friendship and understanding existing between the two countries.

It was agreed to establish a "Working Group on Contracting" within the framework of the Turkish-Indian Joint committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation to examine in detail the possibilities and mutual benefits in further extending cooperation to cover the full spectrum on infrastructure projects in Turkey and India.

The two sides also agreed to examine the possibility of cooperation in areas of supply/manufacture of electric/diesel locomotives and their components and training of staff and the development of skilled manpower.

(c) IRCON International Ltd., a public sector unit under the Ministry of Railways has executed the following railway works in the past in Turkey :

- (i) Turkey railway electrification project of Turkish State Railways (TCDD) for electrification of Sincan—Eskisehir (261 kilometres) costing US Dollar 26.4 million, during January 1989—December 1992.

- (ii) Electrification project of TCDD for electrification of Sincan-Ankara Section (75 kilometres) costing approx. Us Dollar 9.2 million, during 1993-95.

Ultrasonic Testing of Moving Parts

3322. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether ultrasonic testing of all moving parts such as wheels, axles etc. is being conducted in Indian Railways periodically;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the officials are keeping records of wheel profiles after each periodic overhauling since derailment also occur whenever there is a substantial variation in the thickness of wheel flanges and the wheel diameter;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) Axles are subjected to periodic ultrasonic testing but wheels are not subjected to ultrasonic testing periodically.

(b) Ultrasonic testing on all wheels and axles for locomotives are done at the manufacturing stage by the manufacturers. Axles of Coaches, Wagons and Locomotives are periodically examined ultrasonically according to the following schedule :

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| (i) Locomotives (speeds 120 kmph or above) | — once in 06 months |
| (ii) Locomotives (speeds less than 120 kmph) | — once in 12 months |
| (iii) Coaches and EMU stocks | — once in 12 months |
| (iv) Wagon stocks | — once in 18 months |

(c) Rolling stock wheels are examined ultrasonically initially at the manufacturing stage. Periodic ultrasonic examination of wheels is not carried out normally since the life of the wheels is considerably lesser than that of axles. Periodic visual examination in the open line establishments

is carried out to find out defects developed on the wheels during service. Inservice ultrasonic examination of wheels is carried out only in exceptional circumstances.

- (d) Yes, Sir.
(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Archives of Engineering History

3323. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways has an institution which stores and maintains narratives and accounts of engineering works done earlier during British times;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all such documents and narratives have been destroyed due to callousness and neglect;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, where would narratives and historical versions of the buildings of bridges over a 100 years ago be available particularly between Chennai and Howrah for reference; and

(f) the steps proposed to properly maintain such documents for engineering knowledge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) Narratives are generally not prepared. In some of the cases books written by ex-railwaymen/private authors are available. However, drawings of bridges/buildings are prepared and mostly available in the railways. These drawings are being preserved even by digitizing them so that they can be available on floppies/compact discs to be used in computers.

Pension to Ex-Servicemen

3324. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government sanctioned pension to those Ex-Defence Services reservees who left service after their initial deployment and thereafter called up for active services and completed their qualifying period of

services for pension but opted a lump sum payment on demobilisation;

(b) if so, whether such pension is already being paid to the promotee ex-servicemen but is yet to be paid to airforce ex-servicemen of the same category only due to the erroneous paper work on the part of the defence service organisation;

(c) whether the Government plans to take action to rectify this non-payment to mitigate the hardship of such personnel who have well passed 70 years in age; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) An Ex-gratia of Rs. 600/- p.m. plus Dearness Relief applicable from time to time has been granted to reservists subject to fulfilment of specified conditions.

(b) An Ex-gratia of Rs. 600/- p.m. plus Dearness relief is being paid to the reservists of Armed Forces, including Air Force.

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

Defence Cooperation with Brazil

3325. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Brazil have signed a wide ranging bilateral defence cooperation agreement recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas identified and agreed to by both the countries for co-production and co-development;

(d) whether any working group has been set up to formulate the defence cooperation between the two countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) An agreement for cooperation in the field of defence and security between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the Republic of India was concluded on December 1, 2003 in New Delhi.

(c) The Agreement is an enabling instrument and the cooperative activities in the field of defence are to be progressed through measures such as exchange of visits by delegations to each others' country, staff talks, technical meetings, meetings between concerned defence institutions, participation in each others' training courses, seminars, discussions, visits by naval ships and military aircraft and development of defence industry related technology programmes. The specific areas for cooperative activities between the two sides would be identified after mutual consultations.

(d) The agreement provides for setting up of a Brazil-India Joint Defence Committee for promotion of smooth implementation of the agreement on cooperation in defence related matters. The Brazil-India Joint Defence Committee has, however, not been set up as yet.

(e) Does not arise.

Kurla-Mahul Rail Line

3326. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question number 5219 dated April 27, 2000 regarding Passenger traffic on Kurla-Mahul Rail line and State :

(a) whether in the month of January, 2004 Railway Ministry has agreed in principle to convert Kurla-Mahul goods Railway line in to passenger services;

(b) whether a joint visit, joint discussion were held between Central Railway officials, local Member of Parliament, Commuter Organizations and representatives of Maharashtra Government;

(c) whether the Railway has agreed to implement it in phases;

(d) if so, the details about latest development on the proposal sent by Central Railway, CAO Office Maharashtra Government:

(e) whether the project affected people of various Railway projects are being resettled, rehabilitated by Maharashtra Government, Railway's, MRVC, under MUP near Wasinaka (Trombay Yard) on this Railway line; and

(f) if so, the details about the Railway Board's in principle approval for first phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, no joint visit/inspection had been held with Commuter Organisations. But these aspects have been covered by the Traffic Survey Team which had contacted various Commuter Organizations in the area.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Central Railway conducted Preliminary Traffic-cum-Engineering Survey for introduction of Passenger services between Kurla & Mahul and submitted its Report in July, 2003 with estimated cost of Rs. 34.76 crore. Railway was further directed on the suggestion received from Hon'ble MP Shri Kirit Somaiya, to reduce the scope of work to Trombay only.

Central Railway carried out the exercise and the estimate has been revised to Rs. 24.07 crore (including Rs. 13.74 crore for rehabilitation of slum dwellers in the safety zone). Central Railway has also approached Government of Maharashtra for conveying its consent for sharing of cost of the Project.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Railway Board has not given any approval to the project.

[Translation]

Labour Contractors at Jubilee Outlets

3327. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2641 dated August 1, 2002 and state :

(a) the total amount spent till date by both the oil companies on their Jubilee Retail outlets;

(b) the total quantity of petrol and diesel sold between the period of commissioning and appointment of labour contractors alongwith the number of Jubilee outlets involved therein;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints against the officers of both the said oil companies in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government on those complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) The total amount spent by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) on the development of Jubilee Retail Outlets (JROs) in the State of Madhya Pradesh is Rs. 1,326.91 lakh.

(b) The total quantities of MS (petrol)/HSD (diesel) sold between the period of commissioning the IOC JROs and appointment of labour contractors are 21 KL and 457 KL respectively. The number of JROs involved in this is four. HPC has no such case.

(c) and (d) A complaint alleging irregularities in the operation of HPC JROs has been received and is being enquired into by a senior officer.

Exhibitions on DAVP

3328. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise and year-wise details of the number of exhibitions organised by the Exhibition Wing of DAVP and Regional Publicity Directorate during the last three years and till date;

(b) the extent to which it has been successful for promoting the Government policies; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline DAVP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The State-wise and year-wise details of the number of exhibitions organised by Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) including its Regional offices during the last three years and till date are given in the Statement I to IV.

The progress achieved in various sectors of the economy and various regions of the country including the North East have been brought to the notice of the members of public to empower them with information and to enable them to participate in the democratic process.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to streamline DAVP are as under :

(i) Revised Advertisement Policy of the

Government has come into effect since 1.5.2002.

(ii) Application form for newspaper empanelment and renewal of rate contract has been simplified since the year 2002-03.

(iii) Newspapers have the facility to download any advertisement through DAVP from DAVP's website (www.davp.nic.in).

(iv) Payment to newspapers through Electronic Clearance System has been introduced.

(v) Availability of status of pending bills and newspaper empanelment on DAVP's website.

Statement-I

Number of Exhibitions organised by DAVP for the period from April 2000-March 2001

Sl.No.	Name of the Unit	State	No. of Exh.	Exh. Days
1	2	3	4	5
Van Units				
1.	Ahmedabad (V)	Gujarat	61	61
2.	Aizwal (V)	Mizoram	Nil	Nil
3.	Bikaner (V)	Rajasthan	41	41
4.	Itanagar (V)	Arunachal Pradesh	7	9
5.	Kolkata (V)	West Bengal	27	48
6.	Port Blair (V)	Andaman Nicobar Islands	2	23
7.	Shillong V	Meghalaya	2	14
General Units				
1.	Agartala (G)	Tripura	Nil	Nil
2.	Ahmedabad (G)	Gujarat	7	52
3.	Bangalore (G)	Karnataka	13	150
4.	Bhubaneshwar (G)	Orissa	15	86
5.	Chandigarh (G)	Union Territory	7	49

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Chennai (G)	Tamil Nadu	18	157
7.	Guwahati (G)	Assam	5	64
8.	Hqr. I (G)	New Delhi	11	98
9.	Hqr. II Incl. Van prog	New Delhi	21	90
10.	Hyderabad (G)	Andhra Pradesh	2	12
11.	Imphal (G)	Manipur	6	39
12.	Indore (G)	Madhya Pradesh	6	61
13.	Itanagar (G)	Arunachal Pradesh	7	43
14.	Jammu (G)	Jammu Kashmir	18	110
15.	Jorhat (G)	Assam	18	122
16.	Kohima (G)	Nagaland	12	84
17.	Kolkata (G)	West Bengal	11	91
18.	Lucknow (G)	Uttar Pradesh	10	78
19.	Mumbai (G)	Maharashtra	9	106
20.	Shimla (G)	Himachal Pradesh	13	83
21.	Trivandrum (G)	Kerala	19	167
22.	Tura (G)	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil
Total			368	1938
FW Units				
1.	Bhopal (FW)	Madhya Pradesh	16	140
2.	Hqr. (FW)	New Delhi	13	107
3.	Jaipur (FW)	Rajasthan	9	64
4.	Kolkata (FW)	West Bengal	16	126
5.	Lucknow (FW)	Uttar Pradesh	13	104
6.	Patna (FW)	Bihar	8	59
7.	Varanasi (FW)	Uttar Pradesh	12	192
Total			87	792
Grand Total			455	2730

Statement-II

Number of Exhibitions organised by DAVP for the period from April 2001-March 2002

Sl.No.	Name of the Unit	State	No. of Exh.	Exh. Days
1	2	3	4	5
Van Units				
1.	Ahmedabad (MV)	Gujarat	Nil	Nil
2.	Aizwal (MV)	Mizoram	Nil	Nil
3.	Bikaner (MV)	Rajasthan	41	46
4.	Itanagar (MV)	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil
5.	Kolkata (MV)	West Bengal	24	41
6.	Port Blair (MV)	Andaman Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil
7.	Shillong (MV)	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil
General Units				
1.	Agartala (G)	Tripura	2	24
2.	Ahmedabad (G)	Gujarat	8	57
3.	Bangalore (G)	Karnataka	13	88
4.	Bhubaneshwar (G)	Orissa	10	72
5.	Chandigarh (G)	Union Territory	5	31
6.	Chennai (G)	Tamil Nadu	16	219
7.	Guwahati (G)	Assam	3	34
8.	Hqr. I (G)	New Delhi	7	72
9.	Hqr. II Incl. Van prog	New Delhi	35	141
10.	Hyderabad (G)	Andhra Pradesh	3	21
11.	Imphal (G)	Manipur	10	82
12.	Indore (Raipur) (G)	Madhya Pradesh	2	14
13.	Itanagar (G)	Arunachal Pradesh	5	46
14.	Jammu (G)	Jammu Kashmir	18	118

1	2	3	4	5
15. Jorhat (G)	Assam		8	56
16. Kohima (G)	Nagaland		5	48
17. Kolkata (G)	West Bengal		13	110
18. Lucknow (G)	Uttar Pradesh		9	64
19. Mumbai (G)	Maharashtra		6	45
20. Shimla (G)	Himachal Pradesh		10	50
21. Trivandrum (G)	Kerala		15	112
22. Tura (G)	Meghalaya		0	0
Total			268	1591

(FW) Units

1. Bhopal (FW)	Madhya Pradesh		7	52
2. Hqr. (FW)	New Delhi		13	84
3. Jaipur (FW)	Rajasthan		6	44
4. Kolkata (FW)	West Bengal		14	111
5. Lucknow (FW)	Uttar Pradesh		4	31
6. Patna (FW)	Bihar		7	59
7. Varanasi (FW)	Uttar Pradesh		10	83
Total			61	464
Grand Total			329	2055

Statement-III

*Number of Exhibitions organised by DAVP
For the period from April 2002-March 2003*

Sl.No.	Name of the Unit	State	No. of Exh.	Exh. Days
1	2	3	4	5

Van Units

1. Ahmedabad (MV)	Gujarat		73	73
2. Aizwal (MV)	Mizoram		1	5
3. Bikaner (MV)	Rajasthan		155	155

1	2	3	4	5
4. Itanagar (MV)	Arunachal Pradesh		Nil	Nil
5. Ranchi (MV)	Jharkhand		13	25
6. Port Blair (MV)	Andaman Nicobar Islands		Nil	Nil
7. Shillong (MV)	Meghalaya		Nil	Nil
General Units				
1. Agartala (G)	Tripura		1	11
2. Ahmedabad (G)	Gujarat		5	36
3. Bangalore (G)	Karnataka		16	104
4. Bhubaneshwar (G)	Orissa		19	106
5. Chandigarh (G)	Union Territory		10	66
6. Chennai (G)	Tamil Nadu		15	168
7. Guwahati (G)	Assam		7	36
8. Hqr. I. (G)	New Delhi		8	37
9. Hqr. II (G)	New Delhi		9	63
10. Hyderabad (G)	Andhra Pradesh		6	48
11. Imphal (G)	Manipur		6	26
12. Raipur (G)	Madhya Pradesh		6	45
13. Itanagar (G)	Arunachal Pradesh		2	10
14. Jammu (G)	Jammu Kashmir		18	106
15. Jorhat (G)	Assam		2	14
16. Kohima (G)	Nagaland		2	14
17. Kolkata (G)	West Bengal		15	104
18. Lucknow (G)	Uttar Pradesh		13	89
19. Mumbai (G)	Maharashtra		9	57
20. Shimla (G)	Himachal Pradesh		9	66
21. Trivandrum (G)	Kerala		20	171
22. Tura (G)	Meghalaya		1	10
Total			441	1635

1	2	3	4	5
(FW) Units				
1. Bhopal (FW)	Madhya Pradesh		12	108
2. Hqr. (FW)	New Delhi		14	110
3. Jaipur (FW)	Rajasthan		7	47
4. Kolkata (FW)	West Bengal		14	104
5. Lucknow (FW)	Uttar Pradesh		2	14
6. Patna (FW)	Bihar		1	25
7. Varanasi (FW)	Uttar Pradesh		6	42
Total			56	450
Grand Total			497	2085

Statement-IV*Number of Exhibitions organised by DAVP**For the period from April-December 2003*

Sl.No.	Name of the Unit	State	No. of Exh.	Exh. Days
1	2	3	4	5

Van Units

1. Ahmedabad (MV)	Gujarat		112	112
2. Aizwal (MV)	Mizoram		1	5
3. Bikaner (MV)	Rajasthan		52	52
4. Itanagar (MV)	Arunachal Pradesh		Nil	Nil
5. Ranchi (MV)	Jharkhand		39	58
6. Port Blair (MV)	Andaman Nicobar Islands		Nil	Nil
7. Shillong (MV)	Meghalaya		Nil	Nil

General Units

1. Agartala (G)	Tripura		Nil	Nil
2. Ahmedabad (G)	Gujarat		7	52
3. Bangalore (G)	Karnataka		9	50
4. Bhubaneshwar (G)	Orissa		2	12

1	2	3	4	5
5. Chandigarh (G)	Union Territory		4	30
6. Chennai (G)	Tamil Nadu		8	133
7. Guwahati (G)	Assam		Nil	Nil
8. Hqr. I. (G)	New Delhi		6	40
9. Hqr. II (G)	New Delhi		6	36
10. Hyderabad (G)	Andhra Pradesh		10	76
11. Imphal (G)	Manipur		Nil	Nil
12. Raipur (G)	Madhya Pradesh		1	1
13. Itanagar (G)	Arunachal Pradesh		Nil	Nil
14. Jammu (G)	Jammu Kashmir		14	74
15. Jorhat (G)	Assam		Nil	Nil
16. Kohima (G)	Nagaland		Nil	Nil
17. Kolkata (G)	West Bengal		13	95
18. Lucknow (G)	Uttar Pradesh		4	29
19. Mumbai (G)	Maharashtra		8	54
20. Shimla (G)	Himachal Pradesh		9	63
21. Trivandrum (G)	Kerala		11	95
22. Tura (G)	Meghalaya		Nil	Nil
Total			316	1067

(FW) Units

1. Bhopal (FW)	Madhya Pradesh		9	67
2. Hqr. (FW)	New Delhi		13	110
3. Jaipur (FW)	Rajasthan		4	28
4. Kolkata (FW)	West Bengal		10	73
5. Dehradun (FW)	Uttar Pradesh		Nil	Nil
6. Patna (FW)	Bihar		1	25
7. Varanasi (FW)	Uttar Pradesh		5	50
Total			42	353
Grand Total			358	1420

*[English]***Movie on Indo-Afghan**

3329. SHRI Y. V. RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Indo-Afghan movie is being shot;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be screened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) In accordance with the guidelines for shooting feature films/foreign films/foreign co-production by foreigners in India, permission is required from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for shooting foreign films and foreign co-productions in India. No proposal has been received by this Ministry for shooting an Indo-Afghan movie in India in the recent past.

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

Oil Refinery at Paradeep

3330. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision to complete the work on Paradeep Oil Refinery in Orissa within a time schedule;
- (b) if so, the original plans to complete the project;
- (c) whether there are any change in the plan and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reason of halting the work;
- (e) whether there is proper understanding and co-operation from State Government to complete the work; and
- (f) if not, the points of difference and attempts made to resolve the problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (f) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) have proposed to implement the Paradeep Refinery Project with completion scheduled in 2009-2010. The Government

had approved the Paradeep refinery project in July, 1998 with a completion schedule of 48 months from the date of issuance of Government approval of the project. In view of continuing uncertainties in respect of participation of M/s Kuwait petroleum Corporation and to avoid delay in implementation of the project, the Board of IOCL in August 1999 approved implementation of the project by IOCL on its own. The project has been delayed due to several factors including withdrawal of M/s Kuwait Petroleum Corporation from the joint venture, withdrawal of the originally granted tax incentives by Orissa Government and change in demand supply position on an all India basis.

At present Government of Orissa and IOCL are in the process of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding defining terms and conditions of implementation of the project.

OBC Staff in Auto Industries

3331. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether in most companies the OBC staff strength is far less than what it should be in corresponding to the total strength, particularly in Group A and B;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representations for the OBC in these companies;
- (c) whether the Government has the detailed reports from the various auto industries regarding the current status of OBC representations in Group A, B, C and D, particularly from Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Auto industries in private sector do not follow any reservation policy in the liberalized atmosphere. Scooters India Ltd. (SIL), Lucknow is the only Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) dealing in Automobiles under the administrative control of this Ministry. On account of surplus manpower, no recruitment has been done by SIL in regular basis since 1985. As per records of SIL, there are 16 OBC employees out of a total of 148 employees in Group "A" and 17 OBC employees out of 91 in Group "B".

(c) and (d) information with regard to SIL is available with the government.

Crisis in Film Industry

3332. SHRI PRABODH PANDA :
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :

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

- (a) whether Indian cinema industry is in a deep crisis;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether more than 90 percent of films made last year lost money;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the number of films made last year; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to stop such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (f) The film industry in India is in the private sector. Data regarding the returns on investment of the films produced by the industry are not centrally maintained.

According to information received from the Central Board of Film Certification, 877 Indian feature films were certified during the last year.

Several initiatives have been taken up by the Government for the overall development of the film industry :

- In order to facilitate a greater flow of institutional finance to the film industry, a Notification dated 16.10.2000 was issued by the Ministry of Finance whereunder "entertainment industry, including films" has been specified as an approved activity for extending loans under the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) Act. Consequently, Industrial Development Bank of India has been facilitated to advance film finance. Reserve Bank of India has formulated guidelines for financing film production.
- The Foreign Direct Investment Policy of the Government in the film sector was liberalized in

2002 with FDI now being permissible on the automatic approval route up to 100%, without any other conditions. This has been done to encourage foreign firms to enter into the production, distribution, exhibition sector of the film industry.

- During the years 2001, 2002 and 2003, Indian industry participation in the Cannes Film Market was facilitated by setting up a pavilion/stalls in a common area.
- A large delegation of Indian Film Exporters were facilitated by National Film Development Corporation Ltd. to participate in the film market in Hong Kong, which took place in 2002 and 2003.
- A package of 30 Indian films called "Indian Summer" was shown as part of the prestigious Locarno International Film Festival held in Switzerland in August 2002.
- During the last two years along with the International Film Festival of India, a Film Bazaar was set up by the Government to provide a platform for interaction between Indian film industry and international buyers and sellers.
- A special Plan scheme has been included in the 10th Plan, and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has set aside a budget to participate in film markets in India and abroad.
- In order to bring about a receptive investment regime in the entertainment sector, within India, which would in turn allow for better corporate practices in the sector, a Committee has recently been set up to suggest strategies to facilitate the flow of venture capital into the sector.

LPG Cylinders for Light Vehicles

3333. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Automotive Research Association of India have developed a new technology for using replaceable cylinders as fuel for two wheelers and three wheelers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to introduce LPG as auto fuel using replaceable cylinders;

(d) if so, by when they propose to introduce this system; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Automotive Research Association of India, Pune has informed that it has not developed any specific technology for use of replaceable cylinders in Motor Vehicles running on LPG.

(c) to (e) There are no plans of introducing replaceable cylinders in automobiles running on LPG due to safety reasons.

Liberalised Pension to War Widows

3334. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Army took up the proposal to get the liberalised pension to war widows exempted from Income-tax;

(b) if so, the time by which the said proposal was made;

(c) whether this proposal has since been accepted by the Ministry of Finance;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Ministry of Defence has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Finance for early clearance of the proposal; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Ministry of Finance thereto?

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

(b) to (f) The proposal was made in May, 2001. The issue being a policy matter relating to taxation, is under active consideration of the Ministry of Finance from all possible angle and a decision in the matter is likely to be taken in due course.

CNG to Private Vehicles

3335. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM And NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether private vehicles have been barred from getting CNG;

(b) if so, whether CNG stations are still supplying CNG to such private vehicles;

(c) if so, whether cases have been initiated against those violating such a directive;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Villages Electrified by Solar Batteries in U.P. and H.P.

3336. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh electrified through the solar batteries during the last two years;

(b) the funds allocated to both the States for this purpose in the first phase of the project during the current financial year and funds spent thereon, State-wise;

(c) whether the State Governments are also contributing towards this; and

(d) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) Nine remote villages in Uttar Pradesh and two remote villages in Himachal Pradesh were electrified through solar photovoltaic systems during the last two years.

(b) to (d) State-wise annual allocations are not made for remote village electrification projects. Projects are sanctioned and funds released on the basis of project proposals received from the States. Central Financial Assistance to the extent of 90% is provided for these projects subject to certain benchmarks. The balance funds are to be provided by the respective State/beneficiaries.

No funds have so far been released to these two States during the current financial year.

[English]

Exploration of Oil in Rajasthan

3337. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

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

- (a) whether a large petroleum reserves has been found recently in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the estimated availability in the reserve found and places where exploration of oil is being done at present;
- (c) the time by which the oil extraction and production is likely to commence;
- (d) its likely impacts on import of oil;
- (e) whether in view of huge discovery of oil reserves in Rajasthan, the Government propose to set up oil refineries in the State particularly in Barmer District; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) M/s Cairn Energy (India) Pty. Ltd. has informed of a new oil discovery made recently in the Block RJ-ON-90/1 in the Barmer district of the state of Rajasthan. The initial inplace oil reserves estimate of the discovery made by the operator are in the range of 60-150 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) approximately. In addition, initial inplace reserves of oil in Saraswati and Rageshwari discoveries in the same block are estimated to be about 14 MMT respectively, as on 1.4.2003.

As per Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), the exploration work has been undertaken in five exploration blocks in the districts of Barmer, Bikaner, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh and Jaisalmer of the State of Rajasthan.

A high level delegation would visit the block on 10th February, 2004 to assess the situation.

(c) As per provisions of the PSC, the commencement of oil production from the discovery depends on the commerciality after appraisal and submission of development plan by the operator.

(d) Increase in domestic oil production from the discovery is likely to reduce the import of oil to that extent.

(e) and (f) Setting up of a new refinery in the State of Rajasthan would be considered based on the demand-supply scenario emerging in the country.

Doordarshan Channels Through Cable

3338. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT .
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :

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

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to amend the cable laws to promote Doordarshan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Cable operators in the country are not clearly telecasting Doordarshan channels and violating the cable laws; and
- (d) if so, the stringent steps to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Section 8 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 requires every cable operator to re-transmit at least two Doordarshan terrestrial channels and one regional language channel of the State in prime band, as notified by the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), in satellite mode on frequencies other than those carrying terrestrial frequencies. The Doordarshan channels cited shall be retransmitted without any deletion or alteration of any programmes.

(c) and (d) Constant interaction is maintained by Doordarshan with the major cable operators so as to ensure proper distribution of must-carry channels through the cable T. V. network. Public are also kept informed through promos/captions on DD network.

*[Translation]***Allotment of Outlets in Violation of Policy**

3339. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether allotment policy of the Government was not followed recently while allotting new petrol pumps and outlets by oil companies;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government against the persons involved; and

(d) the outline framed by the Government to check recurrence of such things in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (d) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002 selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products is made by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) as per their own guidelines based on certain basic parameters conveyed by the Government.

*[English]***Earnings of Revenue Through Advertisements on DD and AIR**

3340. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
DR. M. P. JAISWAL :

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

(a) whether the revenue earnings of Doordarshan and AIR have increased continuously from the telecast of advertisements;

(b) if so, the revenue earned by telecasting of advertisements on Doordarshan and AIR during the last one year and till date;

(c) the percentage of hike in rates of advertisement during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken to attract more and more advertisements through Doordarshan and AIR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the revenue earnings of AIR have increased during the last few years. However, in case of DD these were fluctuating. Revenue earnings of AIR & DD during last year and during the current financial year are as follows :

(Rupees in crores)		
Year	AIR	Doordarshan
2002-03	131.05	553.81
2003-04	66.96 (Up to 30.11.2003)	274.96 (Up to 30.01.2004)

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan rate card for advertisements etc. has not been revised since the year 2001-02. The AIR has rationalised its rate case in the year 2002 according to the changing market scenario. The Prasar Bharati has informed that rates of advertisement have been increased marginally only in respect of FM Rainbow Channels.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that various steps have been taken by Doordarshan to attract the clients on Doordarshan Channel, which include volume discount schemes for direct booking of the advertisements on DD and bonuses for telecast of advertisements including for Government schemes/projects. Value addition are also being given to clients in the form of branded promos of DD channels, to promote the programmes free of cost. As regards AIR, rationalization of rate card and aggressive marketing of the medium are amongst the steps taken to attract more advertisements.

*[Translation]***Techno-Economic Sanction to Chandil LBC Power Project**

3341. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Techno-Economic sanction has been accorded to the Chandil LBC Power Project;

(b) if so, the manners in which the said project is likely to meet the power crisis;

(c) the percentage of work executed till date on

this project and the time by which the same is likely to be completed; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : As per hydro policy of the year 1998 of the Ministry of Power, the subject related to all hydro projects below 25 MW has been transferred to Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES). However, on the basis of information received from MNES, the reply is given below :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Chandil LBC hydro power project which is under construction would have an installed capacity of 8 MW. Once commissioned, the project would augment the power supply in the State.

(c) and (d) 85% of the project work has been reported as completed and the remaining work is expected to be completed within a Period of six months. The progress of the project is presently held up after the creation of Jharkhand State. The Government of Jharkhand has requested the Bihar State Hydro Power Corporation (BHPC) in Patna which was earlier executing the Chandil project, to hand over the necessary papers & details of the project for completion of the balance work.

[English]

World Bank Loan for Power Sector

3342. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States who sought loan from the World Bank during the last three years for restructuring power sector;

(b) the amount of loan sanctioned by the World Bank to each State for power sector reforms;

(c) whether the State Government of Orissa has been sanctioned any loan from the World Bank for the above purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have

taken loan from the World Bank for restructuring their power sector.

(b) to (d) Details of loans sanctioned by the World Bank to these states and loan amount utilized by them is as under :

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Amount in Million US\$	
		Loan Amount	Loan Utilization till 31.12.2003
1.	Andhra Pradesh	210.00	176.00
2.	Orissa	237.67	191.09
3.	Rajasthan	180.00	72.08
4.	Uttar Pradesh	150.00	126.77

Selling up of Power Generation and Transmission

3343. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to sell power generation and transmission assets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the sale of power generation and transmission assets would have any impact on the financial conditions of PSUs run by Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) There is no proposal to sale power generation and transmission assets of PSUs under the administrative control of Ministry of Power.

Procurement of Sukova Aircraft Carrier

3344. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement was signed in 1996 to purchase Sukova Aircraft Carrier; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

[Translation]

DTH under KU Band

3345. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend Doordarshan facilities to the areas where this facility was not available so far through its long awaited Direct-to-Home (DTH) system under KU Band;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made effective;

(c) whether all the broadcasts through it will be free of cost and will be available without cable connection; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) TV Coverage to uncovered areas of the country is now envisaged to be provided through satellite transmission in Ku-band in free-to-air mode.

(b) Ku-band transmission is expected to commence during the year 2004.

(c) It will be possible to receive Ku-band signals (30 channel bouquet), free of cost, directly with the help of a small sized dish antenna receive system.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Completion on DVPP

3346. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Projects under Damodar Valley Corporation have been completed; and

(b) if so, the total Installed capacity of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The power projects and their capacities, commissioned till date by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Name	Capacity (Original)	Capacity (Derated)
Hydel		
Tilaiya	4 MW (2x2 MW)	4 MW
Malthon	60 MW	60 MW
Panchet	80 MW (2x40 MW)	80 MW
Total Hydel	144 MW	144 MW
Thermal		
Bokaro 'A'	247.5 MW (3 x 57.5 MW) + (1 x 75 MW)	175 MW (3 x 45 MW) + (1 x 40 MW)
Bokaro 'B'	630 MW (3 x 210 MW)	630 MW
Chandrapura	780 MW (3 x 140 MW) + (3 x 120 MW)	750 MW (3 x 130 MW) + (3 x 120 MW)
Durgapur	500 MW (2 x 75 MW) + (1 x 140 MW) + (1 x 210 MW)	350 MW* (1 x 140 MW) + (1 x 210 MW)
Mejia	630 MW (3 x 210 MW)	630 MW
Total Thermal	2787.5 MW	2535 MW
Gas Turbine		
Malthon	82.5 MW (3 x 27.5 MW)	82.5 MW
Grand Total	3014 MW	2761.5 MW

*Units Nos. I & II 75 MW each decommissioned in Oct., 1985.

[Translation]

Responsibilities of PFC

3347. DR. M. P. JAISWAL :
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the projects undertaken by the Power Finance Corporation during the last three years; and

(b) the present status of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is a Developmental Financial Institution (DFI) set up in 1986 for funding the power projects in the country. Details of generation projects funded by PFC since 1.4.2001 and their present status is given in attached statement.

Statement

Generation Projects funded by Power Finance Corporation during 01.04.2001 to 28.01.2004

Sl.No.	Name of State	Scheme type	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Present Status of Project
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hydel	Singur HEP (2x7.5 MW)	15	Completed
		Hydel	Counterpart for Srisaillam LB HEP (6x150 MW)	900	Completed
		Thermal	6 MW Biomass Based Power Project at Suryapalem	6	Completed
		Thermal	12 MW Biomass Based Power Project	12	Under implementation
		Thermal	6 MW Biomass Based Power Project at Nizamabad	6	Completed
		Thermal	6 MW Biomass Based Power Project at Chittoor	6	Under implementation
		Thermal	6 MW Biomass Based Power Project at Vizianagaram	6	Completed
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Hydel	Ranganadi HEP (3x135 MW)	405	Completed
3.	Delhi	Thermal	CCGT at I.P. Estate, New Delhi (2x104.6 + 1x121.18 MW)	330	Completed
4.	Gujarat	Thermal	106.617 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant at Dhuvaran	107	Under implementation
		Thermal	Lignite Based TPP At Nannichher (2x125 MW)	250	Under implementation
5.	Haryana	Hydel	Western Yamuna Canal HEP STG-II (2x7.2 MW)	14	Under implementation
		Thermal	Panipat TPS Unit 6 (1x210 MW)	210	Completed
		Thermal	Panipat (TDL) TPS STG-V unit-7 & 8 (2x250 MW)	500	Under implementation
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Hydel	Nathpa Jhakari HEP (6x250 MW)	1500	Completed
		Hydel	BASPA-II HEP (3x100 MW)	300	Completed
		Hydel	Larji HEP (3x42 MW)	126	Under implementation
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	Hydel	Chenani-III HEP (3x2.5 MW)	8	Completed
		Hydel	Sewa HEP (3x3 MW) STG-III	9	Completed
		Hydel	Upper Sindh HEP STG-II (2x35 MW)	70	Completed

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Karnataka	Hydel	Sharavathi (Gerusoppa) Tail Race HEP (4x60 MW)	240	Completed
		Hydel	Almatti Dam Power House (5x55 + 1x15 MW)	290	Under implementation
		Thermal	20 MW Biomass Based Power Project At Hiriyur	20	Under implementation
9.	Kerala	Hydel	Lower Periyar HEP (3x60 MW)	180	Completed
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Hydel	Bansagar Tons HEP PH-II (2x15 MW) Ph-III (3x20 MW)	90	Completed
		Hydel	Marhikheda (Mohini Sagar) HEP (2x20 MW)	40	Under implementation
		Hydel	Bansagar Tons HEP (2x10 MW)	20	Under implementation
		Thermal	Sanjay Gandhi (Birsinghpur) TPS STG-I Unit 3 & 4 (2x210 MW)	420	Completed
		Thermal	Coal Based TPP at Birsinghpur (1x500 MW)	500	Under implementation
11.	Maharashtra	Thermal	Khaparkheda TPS Unit 3 & 4 (2x210 MW) (Addl. Loan)	420	Completed
		Thermal	Parli TPS Extension (1x250 MW)	250	Under implementation
12.	Nagaland	Hydel	Horangki HEP (3x500 KW)	2	Under implementation
		Hydel	Likim Ro HEP (3x8 MW)	24	Completed
		Hydel	Telangsao Mini HEP (3x200 MW)	1	Completed
13.	Rajasthan	Thermal	Suratgarh TPS STG-II (2x250 MW)	500	Completed
		Thermal	Ramgarh CCGT Extn. (75.825 MW)	76	Completed
		Thermal	Suratgarh TPS STG-III Unit-5 (250 MW)	250	Completed
		Thermal	Kota TPS STG-IV Unit-6 (1x195 MW)	195	Completed
14.	Tamil Nadu	Hydel	Bhavani Kattalai Barrage-I HEP (2x15 MW)	30	Under implementation
		Thermal	119.8 MW Gas Based Cobined Cycle Power Plan at Karuppur	120	Under implementation
		Thermal	18 MW Biomass Based Power Project at Ramand	18	Under implementation
		Thermal	Kovilakalappal CCGT (69.65+38.23 MW) (Addl. Loan)	108	Under implementation
		Thermal	95 MW Natural Gas Based Combined Cycle at Valathur	95	Completed
15.	Uttar Pradesh	Thermal	AUG of Captive Co-Generation Plant (9 to 19 MW) at Meeranaj	10	Completed
16.	Uttaranchal	Hydel	Tehri Dam HEP STG-I (4x250 MW)	1000	Under implementation

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Hydel	4x100 MW Vishnu Prayag HEP in UP		400	Under implementation
	Hydel	Maneri Bhali STG-II (4x76 MW)		304	Under implementation
17. West Bengal	Hydel	Lodhama STG-II HEP Augmentation (4x12.75 MW)		51	Under implementation
Total Capacity				10433	

[English]

Crimes in Trains

3348. DR. M. V. V. S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the crimes in rains are increasing year by year and there are growing perception of insecurity among rail passengers;

(b) if so, whether the Government has convened a high level meeting in this regard and also to discuss RPF Act; and

(c) if so, the decisions taken in the meeting and the progress made on their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Railways constituted a Committee on 15.1.2000 to go into the issue of Security of Railway passengers. The High level Committee after detailed deliberations made various recommendations in accordance with the terms of reference.

The Committee recommended that since policing on the Railways is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments, certain matters relating to the security of Railway passengers could be segregated from the policing functions and be given to the Railway Protection Force. The Railway Protection Force should take up these security duties without going into the realm of policing, which will continue to be the responsibility of the State Governments.

The Committee also recommended that the Railway Protection Force may be given the following additional duties relating to security of passengers :

(i) Escorting of passenger trains in vulnerable areas.

(ii) Providing access control, regulation and general security on the platforms, in passenger area and circulating areas.

The Railway Ministry accepted the above recommendations of the Committee and made certain amendments in the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957, where :

(i) Railway Protection Force will be legally enabled to provide protection and safeguard to the passenger and his luggage.

(ii) Railway Protection Force will be able to take steps for prevention of any cognizable offence against the passengers and will also be legally empowered to apprehend any person who is involved in such offences.

(iii) Railway Protection Force will be able to provide security to the passenger areas including platforms and trains.

As far as the Railways Act, 1989, is concerned, there are adequate provisions in the Act to take care of most of the problems of the Railways. Under Section 179 of the Act, Railway servants are empowered to arrest the offenders committing offences mentioned without warrant and to produce the offenders before the nearest Magistrate. Any member of the Railway Protection Force, as a Railway servant, can exercise these powers of arrest. However, the Railway Protection Force was not empowered to either investigate or enquire into the cases or launch prosecution in the court of law against such offenders.

It was felt that for effectively dealing with the cases under the Railways Act, the Railway Protection Force may be empowered to enquire and launch prosecution against the persons committing offences under the Railways Act.

Accordingly, RPF by an amendment of the Railway Act/RPF Act has been empowered to deal with the offences, which directly relate to the functioning of the

Railways, as the Police being preoccupied with the law and order duties, have little time for these minor offences.

It was against this backdrop that the RPF Act and the Railways Act have been amended. The main purpose is to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to reinforce the security of the passengers and the passenger area on Indian Railways.

Approval of Programmes

3349. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 415 dated December 4, 2003 and state :

(a) whether the Government has received report of the High Powered Committee constituted under Chairmanship of Shri M.L. Mehta to look into the alleged irregularities at Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the recommendations of the Committee are given in the attached statement. The action taken by Prasar Bharati on the recommendations of the Committee are as under :

- (i) The court cases concerning M/s Rainbow Productions Ltd./Aarambh Advt. & Mktg. Ltd. are now being dealt with by Sh. Rajeev Sharma, Senior Standing Counsel, Prasar Bharati, New Delhi association with the Senior standing Counsel, Kolkata.
- (ii) An SLP was filed in Supreme Court on 12.11.2003 for vacation of the stay given by Kolkata High Court to M/s Aarambh Advt. & Mktg. Ltd. on 09.10.2002.
- (iii) The petition for vacation of stay given to M/s Rainbow Production Ltd. regarding telecast of the programme "Khas Khabar" by Kolkata High Court on 26.12.02/05.02.03 has been slated for hearing on 13.02.2004.

Action on the remaining recommendations is underway.

Statement

Recommendations of High Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri M. L. Mehta to look into the complaints against DDK, Kolkata are as under :

- (i) To entrust the case of Janambhoomi to a reputed lawyer firm in Delhi or Kolkata. Also to take second opinion from a senior lawyer preferably from the Solicitor General or Attorney General about interpretation of the order of status quo issued by the High Court or seek clarification from the court about the applicability or otherwise of this order to telecast of new releases by the party.
- (ii) The explanation of Sh. Adhrikari, Executive Producer at DDK, Kolkata be sought in the case of the programme 'Suryabrata' submitted by M/s. Telescreen.
- (iii) In the case of M/s Channel 8, DDK Official allowed bank guarantees of Rs. 53.0 lakhs to lapse. Validity period of these guarantees lapsed on 18th May, 2001. These should have been invoked before this date. This matter should be looked into and responsibility fixed on delinquent officials for taking appropriate action for their negligence.
- (iv) There are many programmes approved earlier which are waiting to be slotted. Unfortunately a practice has grown at the DDK to approve programmes and keep them on the waiting list for endless period. This causes pressure and gives rise to complaints and allegation. Approval of bids should be valid for a fixed period of 3 or 6 months as Prasar Bharati may decide for after the expiry of validity period, the programmes would lose status of approved programmes.
- (v) Programmes were given approval using phrases like "for initial period of given days of telecast" The use of word "initially" in the approval order needs to be avoided as it conveys a meaning that further extension may follow after the initial period is over.
- (vi) Affairs at DDK Kolkata need regular high power review at the headquarters.

- (vii) Senior officials at the DDK Kolkata and other Kendra's should greatly benefit from training in legal matters and financial management including inviting bids, making and awarding of contracts, contract liability, budgeting etc. Technical staff lack knowledge of financial and legal matters and would benefit greatly from such training.
- (viii) The Kendra should be provided with an officer of the level of Dy. Director with legal background to look into all legal cases or a firm of solicitors in Delhi who is having an office in Kolkata may be retained for advising the Kendra on all legal and contract matters.

- (b) the amount allocated and spent thereon so far, project-wise;
- (c) whether the expenditure of these projects has drastically increased;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether some projects are getting overdelayed; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the timely completion of the said projects?

[Translation]

Rail Projects in Bihar

3350. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the present status of new/on-going and pending rail projects and surveys in Bihar along with the targets fixed for completion;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) to (f) The status of various new/ongoing projects in Bihar, their outlay for 2003-04, expenditure incurred upto 31-03-03 and the target date of completion, wherever fixed, are given as under. There has been no drastic increase in the expenditure of these projects. The pending projects are considered as those projects, which had been included in the Budget with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances. No such project is pending in the State of Bihar. The list of surveys in progress, falling fully or partly in Bihar along with the target date for completion is also given below :

Name of Project	Approximate expenditure incurred upto 31-3-2003 (Rs. in Crores)	Outlay provided during 2003-04 (Rs. in Crores)	Current status and target date for completion wherever fixed
1	2	3	4
New Lines			
1. Ara-Sasaram	45.55	16.00	Land acquisition is in progress. Sasaram-Nokha is targeted for completion in 2003-2004. Earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress on Nokha-Sanjauli section.
2. Deogarh-Sultanganj including Material Modification Ext. from Banka-Barahat and Banka-Bhitia Road	31.45	9.00	Final location survey is in progress. Earthwork, bridge works & station building at Banka are in progress.
3. Fatuha-Islampur—Restoration with Material Modification for new line from Biharsharif-Barbigha	98.62	12.00	Fatuha-Islampur line completed and commissioned. Work is in progress on Daniawan-Biharsharif-Barbigha. Land acquisition is in progress on Barbigha-Shekhapura and Neora-Daniawan.
4. Khagaria-Kusheshwarsthan	8.84	2.00	Final location survey completed. Land acquisition and earth work are in progress.

1	2	3	4
5. Koderma-Tilaiya	10.00	15.00	Final location survey completed. Land acquisition, earthwork and bridge works are in progress. Targeted for completion during 2005-2006.
6. Kosi Bridge	-	10.00	New work included in Budget 2003-2004. Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges in approaches have been finalized. The work is under National Rail Vikas Yojana.
7. Madarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	29.56	10.00	Land acquisition in progress on Madarhill-Dumka-Rampurhat. Rampurhat-Dumka targeted for completion by 2006-2007.
8. Munger-Rail Bridge on Ganga	5.00	30.00	Final location survey including detailed investigations completed. Sub-structure works started. The project is under National Rail Vikas Yojana.
9. Muzaffarpur-sitamarhi	22.81	12.00	Land acquisition, earthwork and bridge works are in progress.
10. Patna-Ganga bridge with linking lines between Patna and Hajipur	85.38	50.00	Land acquisition and earthworks in progress. Road over bridge at Bailey Road in progress. Targeted for completion by 2007-2008. The work is under National Rail Vikas Yojana.
11. Rajgir-Hisua-Tilaiya	29.74	12.00	Earthwork and bridge works in progress. Jagdishpur-Tilaiya targeted for completion in 2003-04.
12. Sakri-Hassanpur	22.00	10.00	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress.
13. Hajipur-Sagauli	-	0.10	New work included in supplementary budget 2003-04. Final location survey and preliminary works are in progress.
Gauge Conversion			
1. Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Narkatlaganj	25.57	18.00	Earthwork and bridge works in progress.
2. Kaptanganj-Thave-Siwan-Chhapra	6.08	10.00	Earthwork and bridge works on Kaptanganj-Chhapra in progress.
3. Katihar-Jogbani (including Katihar-Radhikapur)	35.34	21.00	Earthwork and bridge works in progress. Targeted for completion in 2005.
4. Mansi-Saharsa incl. Material Modification for extension upto Dauram Madhepura.	38.51	16.00	Earthwork and bridge works in progress. Mansi-Saharsa targeted for completion in 2004-05.
5. Samstipur-Khagaria	6.00	5.00	Earthwork and bridge works are in progress.
Doubling			
1. Barauni-Tilrath Bypass	-	1.00	New work included in Budget 2003-2004.

1	2	3	4
2. Chhapra-Hajipur	19.06	8.00	Earthwork and bridge works in progress.
3. Gaya-Chakhand	2.00	2.00	Tenders for earthwork and minor bridges awarded. Targeted for completion by 2004-2005.
4. Jahanabad-Bela	-	1.00	New work included in Budget 2003-2004. Preliminary works in progress.
5. Bela-Chakand	-	0.10	New work included in Supplementary Budget 2003-2004. Preliminary works in progress.
6. Kajra-Kiul	-	2.56	Detailed estimate sanctioned. Earthwork and bridge works are in progress.
7. Karpurigram-Siho	18.03	7.00	Siho-Dholi completed. Balance section targeted for completion in 2003-2004.
8. Katihar-Semapur	1.66	2.00	Earthwork and bridge works in progress.
9. Mansi-Maheshkhunt	-	1.00	New work included in Budget 2003-2004. Preliminary works in progress.
10. Punpun-Taregna (Patna-Gaya Phase-III)	15.34	5.00	Earthwork and bridge works in progress. Targeted for completion during 2003-2004.
11. Taregna-Jahanabad	-	2.00	Preliminary works in progress.
Electrification			
1. Patna-Gaya	30	5.50	Work completed in May 2003. Residual jobs are in hand.
2. Sitarampur-Dunapur-Mugalsarai	381.31	1.45	Work completed in February 2002. Residual jobs are in hand.

These projects are being progressed as per the overall availability of resources. The availability of resources in the past two years has considerably increased in comparison to earlier years due to various initiatives taken for augmenting resources for expediting completion of the ongoing projects. These include cost sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence and funds for National Rail Vikas Yojana.

The following surveys are in progress fully or partly in the State of Bihar :

Name of the Survey	Target Date for Completion
1	2
Gaya-Chatra new line	31.12.04

1	2
Patna-optimisation of maintenance facilities	: To be taken up. Target date for completion not yet fixed.
Pirpainty to Merry Go Round new line	: 31.03.04
Jaynagar-Raidighi via Udalampur new line	: 30.04.04
Jhajha-Girdih via Sonuchakai new line	: 31.03.04
Jaynagar to Jamtala new line	: 31.03.04
Bhagalpur-Barharwa doubling	: 31.03.04

[English]

**Guest Houses of Damodar
Valley Corporation**

3351. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of guest houses for accommodation of DVC officials, staff and executives in all places in the country particularly in Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) the number of guest houses running by Damodar Valley Corporation by own sources and its department;

(c) the number of guest houses constructed by own building and running in private houses/buildings; and

(d) the amount incurred by the DVC for rent and maintenance of the guest houses in all cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Twenty-seven out of which two are located in New Delhi.

(b) Twenty-five.

(c) Twenty-three guest houses are run in own building and four are in rented houses.

(d) Monthly expenditure incurred towards rent for the rented guest houses is Rs. 1,45,576/- (Rupees on lakh forty five thousand five hundred seventy-six only). Building maintenance of the guest houses are done as and when required.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Castes in SCs List

3352. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nonia, Mallah, Turha and Tanti-Tatava castes are included in the most backward classes category in Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) whether the Institute of Social Studies and the State Governments have recommended inclusion of these castes in the list of Scheduled Castes category on the basis of their social and educational backwardness;

(c) whether all these castes are included in the

Scheduled Castes category in other States of the country; and

(d) if so, the action taken/to be taken by the Government to include the said castes in the Scheduled Castes category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL) : (a) Presently Nonia, Nonia, Mallah (Surhia), Turha and Tanti (Tatwa) (not Tanti-Tatava) found a place in the Central List of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Bihar and Jharkhand.

(b) The Government of Bihar, based on the report of the Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi, had sent a recommendation for inclusion of the Nonia community in the list of Scheduled Castes. In respect of the Turha and Tanti-Tatava castes, no proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar.

(c) The Mallah community has been specified as a Scheduled Caste in West Bengal and the NCT of Delhi, the Turaha (not Turha) community has been specified as a Scheduled Caste in Uttar Pradesh and the Nuniya (not Nonia) community has been specified as a Scheduled Caste in West Bengal. Tanti-Tatava community has not been included in the list of Scheduled Castes in any State in the Country.

(d) As the proposal of the State Government regarding inclusion of the Nonia community in the list of Scheduled Castes furnished to this Ministry since lacked the requisite ethnographic details. Therefore, the Government of Bihar has been requested to furnish the requisite details for examination of the proposal as per the approved modalities.

**Priority to Regional Programmes
on DD/AIR**

3353. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States of the country where Doordarshan Centres and AIR Stations have accorded priority to the regional programmes;

(b) whether Doordarshan and AIR stations of Rajasthan are also among them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action taken to accord priority to the programmes promoting culture of the State and rural life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that all the Doordarshan Kendras and AIR Stations situated in all the States of the country including Rajasthan accord priority to the regional programmes keeping in view the regional aspirations and national priorities.

(c) Prasar Bharati has also informed that DDK, Jaipur telecasts a number of programmes everyday, highlighting the regional cultural ethos etc. Regional AIR Stations at Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Barmer, Bikaner, Churu, Mount Abu, Suratgarh and Udaipur; Local Radio Stations at Alwar, Nagaur, Banswara, Chittorgarh, Sawai Madhopur, Jhalawar and Kota and Relay station at Ajmer are carrying programmes with regional/local content.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Promotion Policy

3354. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of Constitutional Amendment of article 16(4A) and subsequent DOP OM no. 20011/1/2001-Estt.(D) dated January 21, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has implemented the said circular with retrospective effect with effect from January 30, 1997;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) The Ministry circulated the Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T) Office Memorandum (O.M.) No. 20011/1/2001-Estt.(D) dated 21st January, 2002 to all concerned for guidance and compliance. The provision of DOP&T OM dated 21st January, 2002 has been given effect from 17th June, 1995. No instance of non-compliance of the said orders has been received in the Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

Television Audience Measurements

3355. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) period for which latest Television Audience Measurement (TAMs) are available; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that latest Television Audience Measurement (TAM) data is available for the period 11th to 17th January, 2004. They have further informed that TAM provides data for 27 markets which covers around 70 cities. This data is processed weekly in respect of programmes, which are telecast.

The details of latest TAM data in respect of Doordarshan and private satellite channels and also that of various news channels are given in the attached statement.

Statement

TVR and Share of DD and Private Satellite Channel

(11-17 Jan., 2004)

(2100-2300 hrs : all days)

Channel	All 4 + YRS			CS 4 + YRS		
	OOOs	TVR %	Share %	OOOs	TVR %	Share %
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
DD1	13085	9.06	33.18	850	0.99	3.46

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sony Entertainment TV	1771	1.23	4.49	1771	2.06	7.2
Star Plus	5485	3.6	13.91	5485	6.39	22.3
Zee TV	630	0.44	1.6	630	0.73	2.56
Sun TV	1779	1.23	4.51	1779	2.07	7.23
DD Bharati	16	0.01	0.04	16	0.02	0.06
DD News	799	0.55	2.03	142	0.17	0.58
Watching Other Channels	15867	10.99	40.24	13922	16.23	56.8
Watching Any Channel	39432	27.31	100	24595	28.67	100
(0700-2300 hrs : all days)						

Channel	All 4 + YRS			CS 4 + YRS		
	OOOs	TVR %	Share %	OOOs	TVR %	Share %
DD1	3490	2.42	17.29	240	0.28	1.78
Sony Entertainment TV	483	0.33	2.39	483	0.56	3.59
Star Plus	1775	1.23	8.79	1775	2.07	13.18
Zee TV	361	0.25	1.79	361	0.42	2.68
Sun TV	1171	0.81	5.8	1171	1.36	8.7
DD Bharati	8	0.01	0.04	8	0.01	0.06
DD News	521	0.36	2.58	79	0.09	0.59
Watching Other Channels	12378	8.57	61.32	9348	10.89	69.42
Watching Any Channel	20187	13.98	100	13465	15.69	100

(Sun : 0900-1300 hrs.)

Channel	All 4 + YRS			CS 4 + YRS		
	OOOs	TVR %	Share %	OOOs	TVR %	Share %
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
DD1	5327	3.69	30.9	483	0.56	4.24
Sony Entertainment TV	256	0.18	1.49	256	0.3	2.25
Star Plus	353	0.24	2.05	353	0.41	3.1
Zee TV	184	0.13	1.07	184	0.21	1.61
Sun TV	951	0.66	5.51	951	1.11	8.35

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
DD Bharati	1	0	0.01	1	0	0.01
DD News	329	0.23	1.91	80	0.09	0.7
Watching Other Channels	9842	6.82	57.08	9086	10.59	79.74
Watching Any Channel	17243	11.94	100	11394	13.28	100
Universe in 000'		144376			85800	

TVR and Share of Various News Channels

(11-17 Jan., 2004)

(0730-0830 hrs.)

Channel	TVR		All 15+ Share among		TVR		C&S 15+ Share among	
	OOOs	%	All Channels %	News Channels %	OOOs	%	All Channels %	News Channels %
Aaj Tak	89	0.08	1.18	15.03	89	0.14	1.75	26.92
BBC World	11	0.01	0.14	1.78	11	0.02	0.21	3.23
CNBC TV18	2	0	0.03	0.38	2	0	0.04	0.62
CNN	2	0	0.02	0.25	2	0	0.03	0.46
DD News	313	0.29	4.14	52.74	51	0.08	0.99	15.23
Headlines Today	3	0	0.03	0.38	3	0	0.05	0.77
NDTV 24x7	10	0.01	0.13	1.68	10	0.02	0.2	3.08
NDTV India	53	0.05	0.7	8.92	53	0.08	1.03	15.85
Sahara Samay National	18	0.02	0.24	3.08	18	0.03	0.36	5.54
Star News	56	0.05	0.74	9.43	56	0.09	1.1	16.92
Zee News	38	0.04	0.5	6.37	38	0.06	0.74	11.38
Watching Other Channels	6979	6.49	92.14		4777	7.28	93.5	
Watching Any Channel	7574	7.04	100		5109	7.78	100	

(2030-2200 hrs)

Channel	TVR		All 15+ Share among		TVR		C&S 15+ Share among	
	OOOs	%	All Channels %	News Channels %	OOOs	%	All Channels %	News Channels %
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Aaj Tak	223	0.21	0.72	18.05	223	0.34	1.11	31.44

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BBC World	8	0.01	0.03	0.75	8	0.01	0.04	1.13
CNBC TV 18	29	0.03	0.09	2.26	29	0.04	0.15	4.25
CNN	4	0	0.01	0.25	4	0.01	0.02	0.57
DD News	632	0.59	2.03	50.80	102	0.15	0.5	14.16
Headlines Today	3	0	0.01	0.25	3	0	0.01	0.28
NDTV 24x7	32	0.03	0.1	2.51	32	0.05	0.16	4.53
NDTV India	97	0.09	0.31	7.77	97	0.15	0.48	13.60
Sahara Samay National	49	0.05	0.16	4.01	49	0.08	0.24	6.80
Star News	83	0.08	0.27	6.77	83	0.13	0.41	11.61
Zee News	82	0.08	0.26	6.52	82	0.13	0.41	11.61
Watching Other Channels	29888	27.78	96.01		19440	29.62	96.46	
Watching Any Channel	31131	28.94	100		20153	30.7	100	
Universe in 000'		107581					85635	

Sale of Crude by ONGC to other Oil Companies

3356. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has directed the ONGC to sell its crude to other PSU oil companies for another year;

(b) if so, the objectives of this order of the Government; and

(c) to what extent ONGC is likely to lose profits by not offering its crude in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) There is sizeable gap between the domestic production of crude oil and the requirement of domestic refineries. During the APM (Administered Pricing Mechanism) period, many PSU refineries came up taking into consideration domestic crude oil availability. Taking various factors into consideration, it has been decided that the system of allocating domestic crude amongst PSU refineries would need to continue for the time being.

(c) With the dismantling of APM effective 01.04.2002, the pricing of indigenous crude oil of ONGC and OIL has been decontrolled.

Filling up of Vacancies in Safety Category

3357. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has issued directions to its 16 zones asking them to fill up vacancies in the safety category on priority;

(b) whether all the vacancies in these zones have been filled up so far;

(c) whether the main reasons for accidents are also due to shortage of staff;

(d) if so, the total recruitment made so far; and

(e) the extent to which the Railways is now fully prepared to protect the railways properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Occurrence and filling up of vacancies

is a continuous process and they are filled up by direct recruitment or promotion of serving employees. While a few vacancies are bound to exist in this continuous process at any given point of time, the policy of the Government is to fill up the vacancies promptly.

(c) and (e) No, Sir. To prevent accidents on Indian Railways, necessary measures are taken on a continuous basis. These measures include induction of appropriate modern technologies, upgradation of human resources and more effective and efficient supervision. Action is in progress to fill up the vacancies in Railway Protection Force.

(d) Railway Recruitment Boards have empanelled 5071 candidates against Safety Category posts during nine months of the current year i.e. from April, 2003 to December, 2003. Further action for recruitment of the empanelled candidates is in process.

Rail Museum

3358. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) to role of Rail Museum;

(b) whether the Rail Museum maintains photographic and documentary details of the development of the railways;

(c) whether the Rail Museum has refused to take over critical archival material from various sources; and

(d) If so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) Preservation of Railway artifacts and heritage and their display, so as to create awareness of Indian Railways history and glorious past.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

New Connections by Mahanagar Gas

3359. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has asked Mahanagar

Gas to expedite the new connections for new areas to be covered in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the people representatives, Consumer Organizations and customers have demanded Mahanagar Gas connection in Chembur;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(d) the number of connections and areas covered in Mumbai by Mahanagar gas; and

(e) the status of Mahanagar Gas connections as on December 31, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) a Joint Venture Company of GAIL (India) Limited, British Gas and Government of Maharashtra has mandate to implement Mumbai City Gas Distribution Project. MGL have set up a gas distribution network covering Chembur, Slon, Vikhroll, Kurla, Bhandup upto Mulund on the North Eastern side, Bandra upto Dahisar on the North Western side and Mahim upto Colaba on Southern side. In the last two years MGL has provided 1 lakh additional connections to households covering the above areas. In addition MGL propose to provide connections to around 50,000 households in the existing as well as new areas covering Santacruz (East & West), Slon, Worli, Colaba and North East suburb areas.

(b) and (c) Representation are received from time to time for gas connections from various areas. MGL in 1995 started its connection programme from Chembur area. As on date around 37, 000 connections have already been provided in Chembur. Further work of providing additional connections to households in the Chembur area is going on a regular basis.

(d) and (e) The number of connections and areas covered by MGL as on December 31, 2003 are given below :

Sl.No.	Zone	Number of Connections
1	2	3
1.	Central Zone (Chembur, Ghatkopar to Mulund)	45,132

1	2	3
2. Western-I Zone (Kandivili to Dahisar)		50,114
3. Western-II Zone (Santacruz to Malad)		70,372
4. Southern Zone (Sion, Bandra to Colaba)		22,039
Total		1,87,657

Land Purchase by IOCL

3360. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2780 dated August, 01, 2002 and state :

(a) the location of three plots on land purchased by Indian Oil Corporation Limited on the basis of 'power of attorney'; and

(b) the total amount paid by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited for above three plots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) The three locations in the State of Madhya Pradesh, where Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) had, during 1999-2000, purchased land for development of its retail outlets (petrol pumps), through Power of Attorney, are as under :

Sl.No.	Location	District
(i)	Deharda Crossing	Shivpuri
(ii)	Shivpuri NH-3	Shivpuri
(iii)	Satrati	Khargone

The total amount paid by IOC towards the cost of these plots of land was Rs. 28.48 lakh (approximately).

Conversion of Base Hospital into Medical College

3361. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Base Hospital at Delhi Cantt. into a Medical College;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this Medical College is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Government does not have any plan to convert Base Hospital at Delhi Cantonment into a Medical College. However, Army Welfare Education Society has approached the Government for allotment of land adjacent to Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt for opening a Medical College. A firm date for the start of the Medical College can only be indicated after allotment of land.

Subsidy on LPG to Private Sector Oil Companies

3362. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide subsidy on LPG to private sector oil companies equivalent as given to Public Sector oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the justification of providing subsidy on LPG to private sector oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The proposal of allowing private sector companies in the marketing of subsidized LPG is under the consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Import of CNG and Export of Diesel

3363. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether an agreement has been signed recently between India and Pakistan regarding import of CNG and export diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of benefits derived from this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Control of Bangalore Airport**

3364. SHRI Y. V. RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) controls the Bangalore Airport and air traffic;

(b) if so, whether HAL is charging for parking, landing and navigation facilities; and

(c) if so, the reasons for giving exclusive rights to HAL?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) controls all airport related functions except in the terminal area of Bangalore Airport and controls air traffic over Bangalore airspace.

(b) HAL is charging for parking and landing facilities at HAL Bangalore Airport. Airport Authority of India, which controls the terminal function, charges for navigational facilities.

(c) As owner of the Bangalore airport, HAL has the exclusive right on the land and the operational area except the terminal building.

Programmes Through Direct-to-Home Television

3365. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
DR. M. V. V. S. MURTHI :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to introduce Direct-to-Home TV services to keep away Cable Operators and CAS as reported in the Hindustan Times dated January 22, 2004;

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

(c) whether Tata-Star DTH venture has been announced;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the DTH is likely to be

introduced and monopoly of Cable Operators to be eliminated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a), (b) and (e) Direct-to-Home (DTH) Broadcasting Service, refers to distribution on multi channel TV programmes in Ku band by using a satellite system, by providing TV signals direct to subscriber's premises, without passing through an intermediary such as cable operator. The Government had, in the year 2001, announced guidelines, for obtaining license for providing Direct-to-Home (DTH) Broadcasting Services in India. So far, four applications have been received for starting DTH Broadcasting Service in the country. Of these, M/s ASC Enterprises Limited has been granted license for the same, who have launched their services w.e.f. 2nd October, 2003.

(c) and (d) No intimation has been received in this regard.

*[Translation]***Discontinuation of Cable in South Delhi**

3366. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently the multi system operators discontinued the broadcasting of pay channels without Set Top Box in South Delhi immediately after the implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS);

(b) if so, whether it is essential for every consumer to get Set Top Box installed;

(c) if so, the current fixed price of each Set Top Box;

(d) if not, the reason for discontinuing the broadcasting of pay channels without Set Top Box by multi system operators; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government against those multi system operators who are harassing the Consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e) Pursuant to the order dated 4th December, 2003 passed by Delhi High Court, the multi-system operators decided to implement the Conditional Access System in Zone-1 of Delhi w.e.f. 15th

December, 2003. The implementation of Conditional Access System was challenged in Delhi high Court by the Consumer Coordination Council, a consumer organization, in which the Delhi High Court has issued certain directives to the Government on 26th December, 03. A subscriber is required to install a Set Top Box for viewing pay channels in the notified area; whereas no set top box is required for watching free to air channels. The multi-system operators have offered various schemes for procurement of these boxes by the consumers (e.g. easy installments, loan schemes, hire/outright purchase etc.). MSOs have also been advised to ensure the easy affordability and availability of the set top boxes to the consumers so as to ensure smooth implementation of Conditional Access System.

Meanwhile, the Government, through a notification dated 9th January, 2004, brought the broadcasting services and cable services under the ambit of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Act 1997, wherein the functions of TRAI have been laid down. The TRAI has also been assigned additional functions, which inter alia, include making recommendations regarding the terms and conditions on which addressable system (STBs) shall be provided to the customers and the parameters for regulating maximum time for advertisements in pay channels as well as other channels.

Uneconomic Rail Routes

3367. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether rail services at various rail routes are running into losses;

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

(c) the amount of loss incurred thereon during the last three years, route-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) Some lines are incurring losses.

(b) and (c) A statement showing details of amount of losses incurred by these railway lines, route-wise, during the last three years is enclosed. Low Density of traffic, short-lead and severe competition from road traffic are some of the reasons making these lines unviable.

(d) Steps are being taken, which include curtailment in staff strength, reduction in number of train services, dismantling of redundant sidings, introduction of rail-bus services, observance of economy in operations etc. Besides, Ministry of Railways have also constituted a Committee of Railway Officers to carry out a comprehensive study of uneconomic branch lines to identify the major causes for losses, the remedial measures for implementation and also to examine the feasibility of concessioning some of the branch lines.

Statement

(Year-wise loss in thousands of rupees)

Sl.No.	Railway Routes	Railway	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ait-Konch (BG-14 Kms)	Central	20447	21916	24061
2.	Karjat-Khopoli (BG-15 Kms)	Central	13603	17145	18352
3.	Daund-Baramati (BG-44 Kms)	Central	NIL	19537	NIL
4.	Gwalior-Shoepur-Kalan (NG-200 Kms)	Central	152628	126080	127758
5.	Neral-Matheran (NG-21 Kms)	Central	62939	63089	62592
6.	Kurdwai-Miraj-Latur (NG-327 Kms)	Central	104778	72550	113659

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Pachora-Jamner (NG-56 Kms)	Central	13662	15541	17386
8.	Dholpur-Tantpur-Sirmutra (NG-89 Kms)	Central	43435	36836	38772
9.	Diva-Roha (BG-103 Kms)	Central	NIL	NIL	138876
10.	#Panwel-Uran (BG-27 Kms)	Central	(+)1093	NIL	NIL
11.	Jamalpur-Monghyr (BG-10 Kms)	Eastern	7294	10451	18587
12.	Lashmikantapur-Kulpi (BG-10 Kms)	Eastern	60705	98130	85114
13.	Tinpahar-Rajmahal (BG-12 Kms)	Eastern	3709	11206	2890
14.	Dildarnagar-Tarighat (BG-19 Kms)	Eastern	3390	4260	NIL
15.	Bhimgarh-Palasthali (BG-27 Kms)	Eastern	3716	4716	6036
16.	Sonarpur-Canning (BG-29 Kms)	Eastern	16181	39890	15424
17.	Sheoraphuli-Tarakeswar (BG-35 Kms)	Eastern	3266	1292	16849
18.	Baruipur-Lashmikantpur (BG-37 Kms)	Eastern	24193	51299	2706
19.	Kalyani-Kalyani Simanta (BG-4 Kms)	Eastern	10128	12499	4795
20.	Bhagalpur-Mandarhill (BG-50 Kms)	Eastern	13796	18467	28717
21.	Barasat-Hasnabad (BG-53 Kms)	Eastern	29633	70007	19966
22.	Santipur-Nabadwipghat (NG-27.5 Kms)	Eastern	11642	12379	9928
23.	Bardhman-Katwa (NG-53 Kms)	Eastern	22929	23044	29216
24.	Salempur-Barhaj Bazar (BG-22 Kms)	North Eastern	10706	10750	8540
25.	Kashipur-Ramnagar (BG-27 Kms)	North Eastern	28296	34881	27780
26.	Mankapr-Katra (BG-30 Kms)	North Eastern	18327	23021	23563
27.	Rampur-New Haldwani (BG-89 Kms)	North Eastern	71173	87329	89919
28.	Mathura-VrIndaban (MG-13 Kms)	North Eastern	4773	4930	4198
29.	Banmankhi-Bihariganj (MG-27 Kms)	North Eastern	22771	26636	21306
30.	Indara-Dohrighat (MG-40 Kms)	North Eastern	24420	40666	11221
31.	Jhanjharpur-Laukaha Bazar (MG-43 Kms)	North Eastern	35451	39951	30037
32.	Narkatiaganj-Bhikhnatori (MG-47 Kms)	North Eastern	23650	22441	19768
33.	Anandnagar-Nautanwa (MG-49 Kms)	North Eastern	25893	35126	27928
34.	Sakri-Jayanagar (MG-70 Kms)	North Eastern	87081	90199	81373

1	2	3	4	5	6
35.	Mandhana-Brahvarta (MG-9 Kms)	North Eastern	3085	3177	2885
36.	Singabad-Old Malda (BG-24 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	35920	45515	17396
37.	Karimganj-Mahisashan (MG-10 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	10141	17014	12011
38.	Katihar-Jogbani (MG-108 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	103190	118068	129962
39.	Simulguri-Naglmara (MG-14 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	44	49	53
40.	Mariani-Jorhat Town (MG-17 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	11610	19121	18149
41.	Tezpur-Rangapara North (MG-27 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	32013	38610	31814
42.	Baraigram-Dullavchorra (MG-28 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	13723	31881	43417
43.	Katakhar-Lalabazar (MG-28 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	10541	33539	9995
44.	Mukum-Dangari (MG-30 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	48	439	333
45.	Ballpara-Gamai-Bhalukpong (MG-35 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	48937	48085	41938
46.	Katihar-Maniharighat (MG-36 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	52955	57352	53540
47.	Dharmanagar-Pancharthal-Kumarghat (MG-41 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	62028	134246	52504
48.	Lalabazar-Jamira-Bhairabi (MG-45 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	44359	75155	69807
49.	Silchar-Jiribam (MG-49 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	41798	65516	59628
50.	Barsol-Radhikapur (MG-53 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	41968	43679	66462
51.	Simulguri-Moranhat (MG-54 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	2101	2467	2048
52.	Fakiragram-Dhubri (MG-65 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	59685	56172	56951
53.	Allpurduar-Bamanhat (MG-71 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	61430	62118	58624
54.	Chaparmukh-Silghat (MG-81 Kms) and Chaparmukh-Halbargan (BG-27 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	3777	12986	13670
55.	New Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling (NG-88 Kms)	Northeast Frontier	64525	100765	115934
56.	Suratgarh-Anupgarh (BG-77.53 Kms)	Northern	NIL	65528	70871
57.	Pokhran-Jaisalmer (BG-107 Kms)	Northern	NIL	28364	23592
58.	Merta Road-Metra City (BG-14.5 Kms)	Northern	5836	6346	6499
59.	#Bhatinda-Suratgarh (BG-142.33 Kms)	Northern	NIL	(+)4991	(+)8600
60.	PTK-MDPB (BG-15 Kms)	Northern	5327	5698	6792
61.	Batala-Quadlan (BG-19 Kms)	Northern	16227	18006	18650
62.	Daimau-Daryapur (BG-25 Kms)	Northern	5099	5593	6044

1	2	3	4	5	6
63.	Amritsar-Attari (BG-25 Kms)	Northern	12785	25145	26638
64.	Rohtak-Gohana (BG-32 Kms)	Northern	NIL	3895	3693
65.	Phagwara-Nawan Shahar Doaba (BG-36 Kms)	Northern	31169	33108	35699
66.	JRC-HSX (BG-38 Kms)	Northern	9982	29588	31101
67.	Lalgarh-Srikolayat Jee (BG-46 Kms)	Northern	17339	62084	19198
68.	Verka-Derababa Nanak (BG-46 Kms)	Northern	33468	35492	36330
69.	Rohtak-Bhiwani (BG-49 Kms)	Northern	6756	21462	21127
70.	Ambala-Kalka (BG-69.97 Kms)	Northern	NIL	3550	4586
71.	Amritsar-Khemkaran (BG-77 Kms)	Northern	13869	48672	47559
72.	PTK-JDNX (BG-165.92 Kms)	Northern	NIL	18280	35484
73.	Garhi-Harsaru-Farukhnagar (MG-11 Kms)	Northern	3203	3554	3383
74.	Samdari-Munabao (MG-248 Kms)	Northern	117391	135028	136654
75.	Sardar Shahar-Ratangarh (MG-43 Kms)	Northern	12052	13495	13334
76.	Raniwara-Bhildi (MG-71 Kms)	Northern	65549	71109	73074
77.	Kalka-Shimla (NG-97 Kms)	Northern	119474	120708	127494
78.	Adllabad-Pimapalkutti (BG-20 Kms)	South Central	14609	18432	11670
79.	Bhimavaram-Narasapur (BG-29 Kms)	South Central	3523	3134	14551
80.	Nadikude-Macheria (BG-35 Kms)	South Central	NIL	20253	20249
81.	Mudkhed-Adllabad (MG-162 Kms)	South Central	30119	32956	23467
82.	Jankampet-Bodhan (MG-20 Kms)	South Central	4805	9544	7587
83.	Gudivada-Machillpatnam (BG-40 Kms)	South Central	14828	NIL	NIL
84.	#Alnawar-Ambewadi (BG-31 Kms)	South Central	(+)5887	NIL	NIL
85.	Telapur-Patancheru (BG-8 Kms)	South Central	NIL	NIL	5807
86.	Hatia-Nawgaon (BG-18 Kms)	South Eastern	40652	117353	256546
87.	Bobli-Salur (BG-18 Kms)	South Eastern	6739	13347	8374
88.	Kanhan-Ramtek (BG-24 Kms)	South Eastern	19189	20499	NIL
89.	Tumsar Road-Tirodi (BG-24 Kms)	South Eastern	18945	9968	NIL
90.	Santragachi-Baragachia (BG-24 Kms)	South Eastern	61351	77828	74202
91.	#Cuttack-Paradeep (BG-29 Kms)	South Eastern	NIL	(+)1507	NIL

1	2	3	4	5	6
92.	Jakhpura-Daitari (BG-33 Kms)	South Eastern	111475	118873	65972
93.	Tupkadli-Talgaria (BG-35 Kms)	South Eastern	87538	NIL	37353
94.	Khurda Road-Puri (BG-43 Kms)	South Eastern	116452	153339	172015
95.	Tata-Badampahar (BG-99.05 Kms)	South Eastern	27595	44905	31222
96.	Satpura Railways (NG-1007 Kms)	South Eastern	716628	846237	470848
97.	Purulia-Kotshila & Ranchi-Lohardaga (NG-104 Kms)	South Eastern	146627	130402	158709
98.	Raipur-Dhamtari (NG-89 Kms)	South Eastern	68807	76903	92939
99.	Rupsa-Talbandh (NG-89 Kms)	South Eastern	32976	35782	37333
100.	Nawpada-Gunupur (NG-90 Kms)	South Eastern	19743	18803	24185
101.	Bondamunda-Nawgaon-Purnapani (BG-29 Kms)	South Eastern	7302	NIL	NIL
102.	#Koraput-Machilguda-Rayaguda (BG-146 Kms)	South Eastern	NIL	NIL	(+)293232
103.	Bangarapet-Marikuppam (BG-16 Kms)	Southern	4282	8250	14854
104.	#Chitradurg-Rayadurg (BG-99 Kms)	Southern	27079	10991	(+)15774
105.	#Ernakulam-Alleppey (BG-57 Kms)	Southern	NIL	896	(+)7798
106.	Madurai-Bodinayakanur (MG-90 Kms)	Southern	12218	12559	6268
107.	Mettupalayam-Udhagamandalam (MG-46 Kms)	Southern	20440	31181	40902
108.	Nanjangud-Chamraj Nagar (MG-35 Kms)	Southern	7206	NIL	3602
109.	Sagarajmbaguru-Talaguppa (MG-16 Kms)	Southern	11778	3245	3136
110.	Shoranur-Nilambur (BG-66 Kms)	Southern	8328	14481	20628
111.	Thiruthurai-poondi-Kodikkarai (MG-46 Kms)	Southern	3740	5825	9432
112.	Tirunelveli-Tiruchandur (MG-62 Kms)	Southern	15838	18375	20332
113.	Trichur-Guruvayur (BG-24 Kms)	Southern	5960	7953	10587
114.	Villupuram-Pondicherry (MG-38 Kms)	Southern	15200	22258	30392
115.	#Alleppey-Kayankulam (BG-43 Kms)	Southern	NIL	NIL	(+)22284
116.	Anand-Cambay (BG-51 Kms)	Western	13540	49780	49389
117.	Boriavi-Vadtal-Swaminarayan (BG-6 Kms)	Western	2811	8611	7732
118.	Gandhidham-New Bhuj (MG)	Western	7003	16763	303
119.	Talala-Deivada (MG)	Western	NIL	1796	NIL
120.	Gandhidham-New Kandla (MG-12 Kms)	Western	32213	30183	31230

1	2	3	4	5	6
121.	Pranchi Road-Kodinar (MG-26 Kms)	Western	13233	13126	11951
122.	Sihor-Palitana (MG-27 Kms)	Western	8378	8078	10201
123.	Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma (MG-55 Kms)	Western	779	3437	18327
124.	Mehsana-Tarang Hill (MG-56 Kms)	Western	2905	6629	25024
125.	Mawli Jn. Bari Sadri (MG-82 Kms)	Western	44314	48332	57419
126.	Rajula Jn.-Rajula City (MG-9 Kms)	Western	2911	2882	3453
127.	Chota Udaipur-Jambusar (NG-150 Kms)	Western	8159	45892	38200
128.	Choranda-Motikoral (NG-19 Kms)	Western	1988	6207	6187
129.	Chhuchhapura-Tenkhal (NG-38 Kms)	Western	938	11344	11143
130.	Samni-Dahej (NG-39 Kms)	Western	2197	12752	12804
131.	Nadiad-Kapadvanj (NG-45 Kms)	Western	2102	15474	15384
132.	Nadiad-Bhadran (NG-58 Kms)	Western	1620	18047	18474
133.	Billimora-Waghai (NG-63 Kms)	Western	13907	13897	15660
134.	Broach-Jambusar-Kavi (NG-76 Kms)	Western	3709	23696	23932
135.	Chanded-Malsar (NG-87 Kms)	Western	8616	32384	30734
136.	Ranuj-Patan	Western	5301	4749	24987
Grand Total			4005635	5119056	4469048
Total number of lines			121	126	126

1. NIL indicates line remains remunerative in the year.
2. The figures in () refer to the Gauge of track length of the section.
3. #Return is less than 7%, hence unremunerative.

[English]

Waiving of Airlift Bills

3368. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has preferred a demand of Rs. 3 crores from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the Aircraft used during floods in 2000 to assess the flood situation in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to waive the airlift bills in view of the unprecedented drought conditions

which have severely shrunk the financial resources; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken on the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh for neutralizing the demand?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh was considered. It was found not possible to waive the airlift bills as airlift is provided from the limited budgetary resources of Indian Air Force.

**Privatisation of Power Grid
Transmission Lines**

3369. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has been seriously considering privatization of Power Grid Transmission lines and also to those State Electricity Boards which are not working satisfactorily;

(b) if so, the details of such Power Grid Transmission lines and SEBs to which Government propose to privatize;

(c) whether the corruption in power sector has also become rampant; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to privatize existing transmission lines of POWERGRID. However, in order to augment its capability, POWERGRID is securing private sector investment in construction of new transmission lines/Inter-connections. POWERGRID has formed a Joint Venture with M/s. TATA Power for implementing certain transmission lines under Transmission System associated with Tala HEP, East-North Interconnector and Northern Region Transmission System. POWERGRID has also identified a pilot project i.e. Bina-Nagda-Dehgam Transmission line for implementation under Independent Power Transmission Company (IPTC) route.

Privatization of distribution of electricity by the States is one of the options envisaged for bringing about a turnaround in distribution.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Problems of Consumers by
Implementation of CAS**

3370. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Conditional Access System introduced by the Government has created lot of problems in Metropolitan cities and other cities like Bangalore and Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have decided to cancel the system completely; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Sir, The Conditional Access System has been notified only in specified zones of Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and for the whole of Chennai metropolitan area.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Power Projects Funded by International
Financial Institutions**

3371. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names and number of power projects funded by International Financial Institutions;

(b) the total estimated cost of the projects; and

(c) the extent of state participation in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Inclusion of Panchet Hill Thermal
Power Project**

3372. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of proposals under Tenth Five Year Plan of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC);

(b) whether Panchet Hill Thermal Power Project of DVC is also included in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The details of proposals for setting up of power plants in the Tenth Five Year Plan of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) are as under :

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Installed Capacity
1.	Mejia TPS Extn. U-4 (1x210 MW)	210 MW
2.	Mejia TPS Extn. U-5&6 (2x250 MW)	500 MW
3.	Chandrapura TPS Extn. U-7&8 (2x250 MW)	500 MW
4.	Malthon RB TPS (4x250 MW) (under implementation through MPL, a wholly owned subsidiary of DVC)	1000 MW
Total		2210 MW

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Rural Electrification in Bihar
during Ninth Plan**

3373. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the targets fixed for electrification for villages of Bihar during the Ninth Five Year Plan and whether the desired results have been achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which all the villages of States are likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Against the target of electrification of 4500 villages in Bihar including Jharkhand during the 9th Five Year Plan Period, as per Central Electricity Authority (CEA), 122 villages have been electrified during the same period.

(b) Target could not be achieved due to non-availability of adequate financial resources and financial losses of Bihar State Electricity Board.

(c) Bihar State is required to complete electrification of all villages by 2007.

**400 KVA Line from Purnia,
Muzzaffarpur and Bihar Sharif**

3374. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which Purnia-Muzzaffarpur-Bihar Sharif are likely to be connected to the 400 KVA transmission line; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to complete the incomplete transmission in Begusarai and Hajipur of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The construction of 400 KV Purnia-Muzzaffarpur line has been approved by the Government of India as part of Transmission System Associated with Tala HEP and is to be commissioned by July, 2006. The construction of 400 KV Muzzaffarpur-Bihar Sharif line is covered under the Supplementary Scheme for Transmission System associated with Tala HEP and is to be commissioned by April, 2006.

(b) Though the work on 220 KV Bihar Sharif-Begusarai line has been completed in February 2001, work at Begusarai 220 KV substation has yet not been completed. Therefore, this line has been charged at 132 KV. Bihar State Electricity Board has submitted a proposal to the Government of Bihar for inclusion of the incomplete transmission system in Phase-II of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana.

[English]

**Purchase of Oilfields by ONGC-
Videsh in USA**

3375. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC-Videsh is looking into offer of purchase of oilfields in USA;

(b) if so, the details of offers from USA being considered by ONGC-Videsh;

(c) whether ONGC-Videsh has been offered oilfields in USA which have passed their peak-production capacity;

(d) if so, the core strategy behind such acquisitions by ONGC-Videsh; and

(e) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) and (e) ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL) has been acquiring Participating Interests in exploration blocks and development fields abroad for equity oil and gas in order that the country's supply of hydrocarbons is secure. They have already entered into collaboration for exploration and production of oil and gas in Iran, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Russia, Sudan, Syria and Vietnam.

Railway Prabasi Suraksha Abhiyan

3376. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Member of Parliament and Railway Commuters Organisation have launched Awareness Campaign Railway Prabasi Suraksha Abhiyan in Central suburbs of Mumbai;

(b) whether Commuters Organisation, Member of Parliament have requested the Ministry to take up Railway Prabasi Suraksha Abhiyan, awareness prevention campaign;

(c) whether the Railway Board has agreed to take appropriate measures to bring down human casualties in Mumbai zone;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Enquiry Against Chairmen/ Managing Directors

3377. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of chairmen-cum-Managing Directors and Heads of Public Sector Undertakings against whom CBI, CVC and Departmental enquiry has been conducted from year 2000 to till date;

(b) the officers who were promoted during the period of enquiry;

(c) the details of the officers against whom enquiry is being conducted after their retirement;

(d) the details of the C.M.D., M.D., Directors against whom complaints were received during this period; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (e) Matters relating to enquiries/complaints against Board level executives of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are dealt with by the concerned administrative Ministry/Department in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and CBI, wherever necessary. Similarly, appointments to Board level posts in PSUs are made by the concerned administrative Ministry/Department on the recommendations of Public Enterprises Selection Board and after obtaining vigilance clearance from CVC and approval of the competent authority. Information on these matters are not maintained centrally.

[English]

Cess Levied on Products

3378. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total cess levied by the Government on petrol, diesel and other petroleum products during last six months till date for funding various projects;

(b) the total amount likely to be raised annually in this way; and

(c) the likely impact of these levies on diesel prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Examination of Gangmen

3379. COL. (RET.D.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the written examination for 'Group D' (Gangmen) in Railways held on January 1, 2004 has been postponed due to leakage of question paper;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an enquiry has been conducted by CBI in this regard;

(d) If so, the number of officers/staff found guilty in this regard;

(e) the action taken by the Government against them; and

(f) the action taken/being taken to stop the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) and (b) Written examination for 'Group D' (Gangmen) to be held by Railway Recruitment Board, Patna on 4.1.2004 has been postponed due to alleged leakage of question paper. An FIR had been lodged with the local police on the same date.

(c) No, Sir. However, efforts are underway for entrusting the investigation to the CBI.

(d) and (e) Do not arise at this stage.

(f) Action as appropriate, will be taken.

[English]

Mini Hydro Power Projects

3380. SHRI Y. V. RAO : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has cleared any new proposals for starting new mini hydro power projects during the current financial year;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of new projects started during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) and (b) Central financial assistance/subsidy is provided for the installation of small hydro power projects (upto 25 MW station capacity)

in the state and private sectors. So far, central financial assistance/subsidy has been provided for setting up of 3 new small hydro power projects during 2003-2004.

(c) In the last three years, i.e., 2000-01 to 2002-03, 48 new projects have been supported in the state sector and 33 in the private sector.

[Translation]

Increase in Prices of Natural Gas

3381. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Ministry of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase price of natural gas;

(b) If so, the details and main reasons therefor;

(c) whether increase in the price of natural gas is likely to affect prices of other essential commodities; and

(d) If so, effective measures proposed to be taken by the Government to check it so that it does not affect our economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (d) The natural gas prices were last revised in year 1997 and were to be reviewed in year 2000 with a view to achieve 100% parity with fuel oil prices. However, natural gas prices have not been revised so far and same pricing regime is continuing. While deciding the issue, Government will take into account all factors including impact of price revision on other sectors of economy.

[English]

Monopoly of Cable Operators

3382. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :
SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY :
SHRI K. E. KRISHNAMURTHY :
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :

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

(a) whether TRAI has taken a decision to break

the monopoly of Cable Operators as reported in the Statesman dated January 22, 2004; and

(b) If so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has decided to evolve appropriate policies for orderly growth of the cable and broadcasting services in the country. For this purpose, it has issued a 'Consultation Note' which is aimed at a meaningful examination of various issues involved in implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS), standard rates and conditions at which services are to be provided by the cable operators to the consumers, etc. The TRAI has invited comments and other inputs from the stakeholders to formulate a more detailed consultation paper on this issue.

To bring some certainty in the rates prevailing for cable services, TRAI has specified as ceilings the rates at which the charges will be paid by cable subscribers to cable operators, by cable operators to Multi-System Operators (MSOs) and by cable operators/MSOs to Broadcasters, as those prevailing on 26th December, 2003, with respect to both Free-to-Air (FTA) and pay channels [for both CAS and non-CAS areas]. This order will stand until a final determination.

Power Generated by DVC

3383. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of power being generated by all the Power plants under Damodar Valley Corporation;

(b) the total installed capacity of each plant under the Corporation for power generation;

(c) the percentage of the installed capacity being used for power generation;

(d) the names of the States to whom the generated power is being sold out along with the rate thereto; and

(e) the percentage of generated power sold out to Jharkhand during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) As against original installed capacity of 3014MW, capacity (de-rated) of Power Plants of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) is 2761.5 MW.

(b) The total installed capacity of each plant under the Corporation for power generation is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The percentage of installed capacity being used for power generation during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (up to December, 2003) is 36.42%, 41.86% and 44.30% respectively.

(d) Power generated by DVC is being sold to Jharkhand State Electricity Board and West Bengal State Electricity Board for supply of power to Government of Jharkhand and West Bengal. Basic Tariff for firm supply to all consumers of DVC w.e.f. September, 2000 are as follows :

AT 33 KV

Demand Charges	Rs. 365/KVA/Month
Energy	163 Paise/KWH
Fuel Cost S/Charge	50.24 KWH (w.e.f. October, 2003)

AT 132 KV

Same as above with 5% rebate both on demand charge and energy charges.

State Electricity Boards are allowed a further special rebate of 15% both on demand charge and energy charges.

(e) The percentage of generated power sold out to the consumers in Jharkhand during the years 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (upto December, 2003) is 77%, 78%, 70% and 64% respectively.

Statement

Name	Capacity (Original)	Capacity (Derated)
1	2	3
Hydel		
Tilaiya	4 MW (2x2 MW)	4 MW

1	2	3
Maithon	60 MW	60 MW
Panchet	80 MW (2x40 MW)	80 MW
Total Hydel	144 MW	144 MW
Thermal		
Bokaro 'A'	247.5 MW (3 x 57.5 MW) + (1 x 75 MW)	175 MW (3 x 45 MW) + (1 x 40 MW)
Bokaro 'B'	630 MW (3 x 210 MW)	630 MW
Chandrapura	780 MW (3 x 140 MW) + (3 x 120 MW)	750 MW (3 x 130 MW) + (3 x 120 MW)
Durgapur	500 MW (2 x 75 MW) + (1 x 210 MW)	350 MW* (1 x 140 MW) + (1 x 210 MW)
Mejia	630 MW (3 x 210 MW)	630 MW
Total Thermal	2787.5 MW	2535 MW
Gas Turbine		
Maithon	82.5 MW (3 x 27.5 MW)	82.5 MW
Grand Total	3014 MW	2761.5 MW

*Units Nos. I and II of 75 MW each decommissioning in Oct., 1985.

**Complex for International Children
Film Festival at Hyderabad**

3384. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that Hyderabad City has been hosting International Children Film Festival since 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal to the Union Government for construction of the Complex at Hyderabad and release of funds for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) The International Children's Film Festivals are being organised by the Children's Film Society, India in collaboration with the Government of Andhra Pradesh once in two years, beginning from 1995. The Festival is spread over a number of venues to facilitate access to films by people living in different areas. A proposal for construction of dedicated complex at Hyderabad is at the conceptual stage.

**Leasing of Railway Land to
Unauthorized Shopkeepers**

3385. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways has issued policy guidelines for leasing land to unauthorized shopkeepers at one-way side station on each division as an experimental measure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some stations have been selected for this purpose;

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

(e) whether Railways is contemplating implementing this guideline for all Divisions to help them sustain their small business; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) No, Sir. Railways have, however, allowed development of shopping complex on Railways land through co-operative societies of existing shopkeepers as an experimental measure on one station per division. Unauthorized shopkeepers who are willing to pay the arrears of licence fee will also be eligible for allotment of shop on licence basis under the scheme.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Potential of Geo-Thermal Reserves

3386. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has studied Potential Geo-thermal Reserves in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether exploration of those reserves has been considered to be profitable, environment friendly and could meet the increasing demand of energy;
- (d) whether exploration has been done so far; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the further steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The studies carried out in the country by the Geological Survey of India have observed existence of about 340 hot springs in the country. Magneto-telluric (MT) investigations carried out subsequently by the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad have confirmed existence of potential geothermal fields in Jammu & Kashmir and Chhattisgarh. NGRI is implementing a project supported by the MNES to undertake MT investigations in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand.

(c) to (e) Exploratory deep drilling up to the depth of geothermal fields have not yet being taken up in the country so far due to estimated high initial capital cost of the projects and uncertainty about the realizable power generation capacity.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Shekhpora and Lakhisarai Railway Stations

3387. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has received a demand for modernization/upgradation of Shekhpora and Lakhisarai railway station in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands raised were (i) for provision of foot-over-bridge covering, two retiring rooms, PRS, shed on platform No. 1, Coolie room, Pay & Use toilet and improvement of platform surface and benches, waiting hall, concourse, circulating area, etc. at Shekhpora Railway station and (ii) for provision of platform shed on West side of Down platform, First Class waiting hall and improvement to platform including extension and widening and to lighting & water supply at Lakhisarai railway station.

(c) (i) At Shekhpora-All the works related to passenger amenities have been taken up & most of them completed.

(ii) At Lakheesarai-Work of improvement to foot-over-bridge and improvement to platform surface has been taken up.

[English]

Road-Rail Synergy System

3388. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Konkan Railways has introduced a unique road-rail synergy system to increase freight earnings;
- (b) whether Konkan Railways has introduced a system where loaded trucks will be transported on wagons to their destinations in different parts of the country;
- (c) if so, the details of this system;
- (d) the advantages of this system; and
- (e) the zonal railways which are using this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Under the Ro-Ro (Roll-on-Roll-off) service, introduced in January 1999, Konkan Railway carries loaded road trucks on rail wagons between Kolad (near Mumbai) and Verna (Goa).

(d) This service on Konkan Railway, envisages to combine Railway's strength in long-haul with the flexibility of door-to-door road transport services in such terrains where the concept is mutually beneficial to the Railways.

road transporters and the customers, besides capturing additional traffic on underutilized sections.

- (e) Konkan Railway Corporation Limited.

Financial Health of SEBs

3389. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the poor financial health of State Electricity Boards in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether due to poor financial health of SEBs, the private sector is not showing any interest to invest in power sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the financial health of SEBs and also to encourage private sector participation in the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) As per the last Annual Report of the Planning Commission on the working of the State Electricity Boards, the commercial losses (without subsidy) of the SEBs increased from Rs. 4,560 crore in 1992-93 to Rs. 25,259 crore in 2000-01.

The Government of India has initiated various steps to revive the poor financial health of SEBs/Power Utilities. The Ministry of Power has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with States on power sector reform envisaging support of Central Government subject to States progressing satisfactorily on agreed reform agenda. The Union Government, in order to help the State Electricity Boards/Utilities is providing funds to States under Accelerated Power Development & Reform Programme (APDRP) for investment in identified distribution areas for, inter alia, reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also incentivizing, through grants, reduction of cast losses. Past debts of SEBs due to Central Public Sector Undertakings have been securitized and current payments streamlined under tripartite agreements. These

steps have started showing definite signs of improvement in the functioning of the State Electricity Boards/power utilities. In the year, 2001-2002 four states namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, and Rajasthan have reported aggregate cash loss reduction of Rs. 2138.44 Crores for the year 2000-2001. In addition 11 states namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal have reported deduction in over all losses during the year 2002-2003.

The Electricity Act, 2003 enacted recently is a progressive legislation that provides for measures conducive to development of electricity industry, promoting competition therein, protecting interests of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas, rationalization of electricity tariff, ensuring transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies etc. Funding of power projects based on the above factors is expected to give a boost to private sector investments.

Private sector companies have shown limited interest in power projects for a variety of reasons. One of the main reasons has been the delays in achieving financial closure due to the poor finances of the State Electricity Boards (SEB) who were the sole customers of the power produced by the Independent Power Producers (IPPs), the SEBs were thus unable to provide bankable payment security mechanism in the form of Escrow, Letter of Credit and Guarantees.

The Electricity Act, 2003 provides for a 'multiple buyer model' under which generating companies can sell to third parties (i.e. other than the States Utilities) utilizing the provisions of 'open access' to transmission. Encouraged by the said Act and the reforms it has brought in, the Indian Financial Institutions have also shown willingness to consider funding the power projects on the basis of the credibility of the promoters, viability of tariff and a proper distribution mechanism.

Introduction of Kisan Channel

3390. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has started Kisan TV Channel in January, 2004;

(b) if so, whether the channel remains open for 24 hours in addition to DD-I;

(c) if so, the details alongwith objectives of this channel; and

(d) the extent to which it will be beneficial to the agriculturists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRAŞAD) : (a) The Kisan channel was launched on 21 January, 2004 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

(b) Doordarshan will terrestrially telecast the Kisan Channel programmes for one hour per day only on its transmitters. In addition, one hour programme will be telecast four times daily on IGNOU's satellite channel. Within next two years, the duration of the programme is envisaged to be increased to two hours to be telecast four times daily.

(c) The Kisan channel programmes, to be telecast over 988 LPTs and HPTs of Doordarshan in a phased manner, have the objective to deliver area-specific Agricultural development programmes. The programmes on IGNOU Satellite channel would have relevance for farming community throughout the country.

(d) Since Doordarshan's transmitters cover around 90% of the country's population, the Kisan Channel on DD is being set up to educate and inform the vast mass of the agriculturists and provide them with the latest know-how for improving their farming skills and practices, thereby optimizing farm productivity according to local conditions. The programmes on IGNOU Satellite channel would increase awareness/knowledge of the farming community.

Research in Tidal Power

3391. SHRI Y. V. RAO : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is taking up the tidal power and research programme in a big way;

(b) if so, whether any potential sites have been identified for setting up tidal projects in the country including Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the steps taken by the Government during the last three years and during the current financial year in this regard; and

(d) the details of the projections being made for the next five years for the tidal power?

THE MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has a programme, which supports research and development; potential assessment studies and setting up of tidal power projects.

(b) Durgaduani in South 24 Pargana District of West Bengal and Hansthal Creek in Gulf of Kachchh in Anjar Tehsil of Kachchh District of Gujarat have been identified as potential sites for setting up tidal projects. No potential site has been identified in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has supported a study for preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for setting up tidal power plant in Durgaduani Creek in Sundarbans area of West Bengal. Based on this study West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA) has proposed to set up a tidal power project of 3.6 MW capacity at Durgaduani in South 24-Pargana district. As a follow up an environment impact assessment study has been sanctioned by the Ministry to the WBREDA for seeking environmental clearance for the proposed project.

Refund of Railway Tickets

3392. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has recently simplified the procedure for refund of railway tickets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether special counters would be set up at railway stations to refund the money;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which the general public would be benefited by the new system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) to (e) Railways have introduced the system of Computerised Coaching Refund. The information regarding refund due

based on Travelling Ticket Examiners' reports will be entered into the refund system computer. On presentation of ticket at any Passenger Reservation System centre, upto five days from the scheduled departure of the train, refund will be granted to passengers for whom refund is due in cash. Refunds under the system will only be granted to reserved or RAC passengers. This system has been introduced in addition to existing system of refund. All eligible passengers who are unable to get refund of the ticket within the normal time limit, can now get refund under this system.

[Translation]

Induction of Defence Equipment

3393. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Army has raised some objections to the inclusion of indigenous state of the art defence equipment like Arjun Tanks and Helicopters in the armed services;

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

(c) the amount incurred on the projects of the manufacturing of Arjun Tanks and Helicopters so far?

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

(b) Question does not arise, in view of the reply to part (a) above.

(c) The development cost incurred on the project of Arjun Tank is approximately Rs. 352 crore. The amount incurred on the project of manufacture of Advanced Light Helicopter for Army is Rs. 360.36 crore.

[English]

Task Force for Utilisation of Natural Gas

3394. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has constituted sub-groups under the task force to formulate long-term policy framework for utilization of natural gas available from various sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought the representation on the sub-groups constituted by his Ministry; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken on the representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have constituted three Sub-Groups under the Task Force to formulate long-term framework for utilization of natural gas available from various sources. The sub-Groups have senior members/officials from major stake holders i.e. upstream companies like Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPCL), transportation companies like GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) and Assam Gas Company, officials from concerned Ministries/Departments like Power, Fertilizers and Steel and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) suppliers like Shell India, apart from Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Director General Hydrocarbon (DGH) and Planning Commission.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The representative of Government of Andhra Pradesh has been included in all the three Sub-Groups.

Social Justice/Security Package for Un-Employed Youths

3395. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has finalized the Social justice/Security Package for un-employed youths;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the policy and programmes of the Government to solve the unemployment especially to Dalits, weaker sections, women and handicapped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI) : (a) to (c) The Government has finalized a report on "Special Group on Targeting Ten Million Employment Opportunities Per Year in May, 2002" which is available on the website of the Planning Commission.

The report emphasized the need to extend social security coverage to the unemployed youth including dalits, weaker sections, women and handicapped persons by way of strengthening and converging the existing infrastructure and resources in the organized sector and to develop a legislative and administrative framework for significant cover in the unorganized sector.

Power Disruptions

3396. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether power disruptions occurs more than twice a day in the States of Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Mumbai as reported in the Economic Times of December 5, 2003; and

(b) if so, the details of the facts along with reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Electricity is a concurrent subject. Supply and distribution of electricity in a State including cities is the responsibility of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned. Load shedding is resorted to on day-to-day basis by the States/State utilities depending upon the demand vis-a-vis availability of power. No statutory cuts have been reported during the month of December, 2003 in the NCT of Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Mharashtra.

[Translation]

Funds for NCES in Bihar

3397. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned the grants/loans for non-conventional energy source especially in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of such projects for which loans have been granted during the current financial year; and

(c) the names of the pending projects in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) and (i) Government is providing central financial assistance in the form of subsidy for non-conventional energy programmes/

schemes throughout the country, including Bihar. A subsidy of Rs. 94.22 lakhs has been sanctioned during 2003-04 to Bihar for the installation of 1210 solar home lighting systems and 250 solar street lighting system under the solar photovoltaic demonstration programme.

(c) No non-conventional energy project for Bihar is pending in the Ministry.

[English]

Circulation of Remix Songs Albums

3398. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of circulation of remix songs albums in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the eminent singers of the old songs and musicians have strongly opposed the entry of such remix songs albums;

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

(d) whether the Union Government propose to take any steps to preserve the sanctity of old songs and to ban circulation of remix songs albums; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Funds for Power Transmission and Distribution

3399. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :
DR. M. P. JAISWAL :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government plans to fund several crores to revamp and revitalize the entire power transmission and distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds which are likely to be spent would cut T&D losses;

(d) if so, in what manner; and

(e) the details of other strategies to be adopted to cut T&D losses in power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has launched Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) with annual budget provision of Rs. 3500 crores, for strengthening the sub-transmission and distribution and improve financial viability of the States APDRP has the following two components :

(a) Investment Component : Government of India provides financial assistance to the States additional Central Assistance over and above the normal Central plan allocation, for strengthening and upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network APDRP finances 50% of the project cost in the form of 50% grant and 50% loan to SEBs in the case of Non Special Category States. SEBs/Utilities have to arrange remaining 50% of the fund from Power Finance Corporation (PEC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), other financial institutions or from own resources as counter-part fund. For Special Category States, Government of India provides 100% of the project cost as financial assistance in the ratio of 90% grant and 10% loan. (States of north-eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Sikkim are covered under special category).

(b) Incentive Component : The State Government are incentivised up to 50% of the actual cash loss reduction by SEBs/Utilities, as grant. The year 2000-01 is taken as the base year for the calculation of loss reduction. Under this component, funds would be provided by Government of India to State Governments as 100% grant. This component has been introduced to motivate the SEBs/

Utilities to reduce their financial losses. The cash losses are calculated net of subsidy and receivables.

(c) and (d) Under APDRP, schemes for 100% feeder and consumer metering, installation of capacitors at all levels, Reconductoring of over loaded conductors, installation of energy efficient distribution transformers, re-configuration of feeder lines segregation of industrial feeders, etc. are undertaken with implementation of these schemes at reduction in T&D losses is expected.

(e) Other strategies to bring down T&D losses are to ensure accountability of staff at all levels, designating the Junior Engineer as feeder manager, mandatory energy audit at feeder/sub-station/circle level, and distribution circles to operate as profit centres etc.

FDI in Print Media

3400. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether new FDI proposals in publication of magazines are pending with the Union Government;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has proposed to clear such proposals within a specified time; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (d) Proposals for Foreign Investment in Print Media are received in this Ministry on a regular basis. These proposals are examined through inter-ministerial consultations and cleared as per the procedure laid down in the guidelines. The details of such proposals under consideration in this Ministry are given in the enclosed statement. In view of the time taken in consultations for examining the proposals, time frame for clearing such proposals has not been prescribed.

Statement

List of Cases under Consideration

Foreign Investment in Indian entities publishing scientific/technical/speciality/magazines/journals/periodicals

Sl.No.	Name of Applicant Company	Name of Magazine
1	2	3
1.	M/s Tata Infomedia Limited	Tata Press Neighbourhood Guide

1	2	3
2. M/s. Sage Publications India Limited		Insage
3. M/s. TBW Publishing & Media Private Limited		Intelligent Computing Chip
4. M/s. Birla Sun Life Distribution Co. Limited		Investime
5. M/s. Sorabjee Automotive Communications Private Limited		Autocar India
6. M/s Tata Infomedia Limited		Photo Imaging
7. M/s. Banyan Netfaqs Pvt. Ltd.		Not indicated by the applicants
8. M/s. IBS Publishing Private Limited		International Banking System

Foreign Direct Investment in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing in news and current affairs

1. M/s. Business Standard Limited	News and current affairs periodicals
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12.11 hrs.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

[English]

Bird Flu in Asia

4. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that millions of people are facing strain of bird flu in Asia;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has taken any concrete efforts to track the reported cases and outbreak among the population in the country;

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

(d) whether the WHO has given some instructions to check the spread of this disease; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and further concrete steps the Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e) According to the World Health Organization, an epidemic of avian influenza A (H5N1) has been reported in Asian countries of Republic

of Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, China, Laos, Indonesia and Cambodia. So far, a total of 17 laboratory confirmed human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) has been reported from Vietnam (13) and Thailand(4). However, in India, no case of avian influenza A (H5N1) has been reported among poultry or among humans. .

Though no case of avian influenza A (H5N1) has been reported in India so far, the following precautionary measures have been taken by the Government :

(i) Secretary (Health) on 19th January, 2004, has written to the Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs and Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, to keep a close watch on fatality among bird population, especially poultry and appearance of severe respiratory illness in the exposed human population and to inform any such occurrence to the Department of Health.

(ii) Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has forwarded the guidelines for prevention and to control the spread of the disease in poultry to the Chief Secretaries and Directors of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services of all the States/UTs. They have also imposed a complete ban on import of poultry related product into India.

(iii) Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of

Shipping have been requested to keep vigil on the movement of poultry/related articles across the borders/through ports. Similarly, Ministry of Environment and Forests has been requested to keep vigil in the bird sanctuaries and to report any incidence of unusual death of the bird population to the Department of Animal Husbandry and Department of Health.

- (iv) Nodal agencies for investigating any suspected cases/outbreak among human population as well as for laboratory diagnosis of human influenza have been identified.
- (v) A joint Monitoring Group consisting of officials from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Communicable diseases, Delhi, representative from WHO and the Department of Animal Husbandry under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services has been constituted to monitor situation and advise appropriate actions.
- (vi) Ministers of Health & Family Welfare and Agriculture reviewed the situation for ensuring sectoral coordination between the Departments of Health and Animal Husbandry to have effective monitoring. A coordination committee comprising the relevant officers from the two Ministries has also been set up.

12.12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : On behalf of Shri George Fernandes, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Annual Administration Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Cantonment Boards, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8858/2004]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House :

- (1) A copy of the Jute Manufacturers Development Council (Procedural) (Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 6(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2004 under sub-section (3) of section 25 of the Jute manufacturers Development Council Act, 1983.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8859/2004]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8860/2004]

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Birds Jute and Export Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8861/2004]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the

year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8862/2004]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jute Manufacturers Development Council, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jute Manufacturers Development Council, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8863/2004]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jute Industries' Research Association, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jute Industries' Research Association, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8864/2004]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Jute Diversification, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Jute Diversification, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8865/2004]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8866/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on behalf of Shri Kariya Munda :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Renewable Energy, Jalandhar, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Renewable Energy, Jalandhar, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8867/2004]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : On behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8868/2004]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL) : Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House on behalf of Kumari Mamata Banerjee :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8869/2004]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Kolar Gold Fields, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Kolar Gold Fields, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Two Statments (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8870/2004]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY) : I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy of the report (Hindi and English versions) of

the comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Commercial) (No. 6 of 2004)-Public Sector Undertakings-(Steel Sector), for the Year ended the March, 2003 under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8871/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : On behalf of Shri Sangh Priya Gautam, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Khadi and Village industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8872/2004]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) A copy of the Reivew (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8873/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : On behalf of Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8874/2004]

- (2) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Children's Film Society, India, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Children's Film Society, India, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8875/2004]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, for the year 2002-2003.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8876/2004]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8877/2004]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 2002-2003.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8878/2004]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : On behalf of Shri Bandaru Dattatraya, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Review by the Government of the working

of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8879/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section (3) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :

- (1) G.S.R. 778 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2003 permitting the sale of only 5% ethanol-blended petrol in some States and Union Territories.
- (2) S.O. 39 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2004 permitting the sale of only 5% ethanol-blended petrol in some States and Union Territories.
- (3) S.O. 39 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2004 permitting the sale of only 5% ethanol-blended petrol in Uttaranchal and Madhya Pradesh from the dates mentioned in the Notification.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8880/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : On behalf of Shri Subhash Maharia, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964 :

- (1) The Food Corporation of India (Staff) (1st Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. E.P. 2(5)/91-Vol.II in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2003.

- (2) The Food Corporation of India (Staff) (2nd Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. E.P. 16(3)/92-Vol. II in Gazette of India dated the 11th December, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8881/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the Following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. .
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8882/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) ; I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8883/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

- (1) G.S.R. 44(E)/Ess.Com./Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 14th January, 2004, notifying the minimum sugarcane prices payable by sugar factories for the year 2003-2004.
- (2) The Sugar (Price Determination for 1999-2000 Production) (Second Amendment) Order, 2003, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 964(E)/Ess.Com/Sugar in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 2003.
- (3) The Sugar (Price Determination for 2000-2001 Production) (Second Amendment) Order, 2003, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 965(E)/Ess.Com/Sugar in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 2003.
- (4) The Sugar (Price Determination for 2001-2002 Production) (Second Amendment) Order, 2003, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 966(E)/Ess.Com/Sugar in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 2003.
- (5) The Sugar (Price Determination for 2002-2003 Production) Order, 2003, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 17(E)/Ess.Com/Sugar in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2004.
- (6) The Sugar (Price Determination for 2002-2003 Production) (Second Amendment) Order, 2003, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 967(E)/Ess.Com/Sugar in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8884/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Border Security Force (Combatised Veterinary Officers) Recruitment Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 417 in Gazette of India dated the 6th December, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 141 of the Border Security Force Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8885/2004]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 50 of the National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987 :
 - (i) The National Dairy Development Board Officers (Conduct Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. DEL:NDDB in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 2002.
 - (ii) The National Dairy Development Board Officers (Appointment, Pay and Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. DEL:NDDB in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 2002.
 - (iii) The National Dairy Development Board Workmen (Appointment, pay and Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. DEL:NDDB in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 2002 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. 236 dated the 25th October, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8886/2004]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8887/2004]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 1 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of

India dated the 2nd January, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum making further amendments to the Schedule of the Narcotic Durugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 issued under section 3 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8888/2004]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :

(i) G.S.R. 88 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

(ii) G.S.R. 80 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notifications mentioned therein.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8889/2004]

(3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Housing Bank, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of section 40 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8890/2004]

(4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.r. 96 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 9/2003-ST dated the 20th June, 2003 under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8891/2004]

(5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 97 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notifications mentioned therein under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8892/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Motilal Nehru Regional Engineering College, Allahabad, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Motilal Nehru Regional Engineering College, Allahabad, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8893/2004]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2001-2002.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8894/2004]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur, for the year 2002-2003.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8895/2004]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, for the year 2002-2003.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8896/2004]

12.15 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

[English]

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi English versions) of the Thirty-ninth sitting of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during second part of the current session.

12.15½ hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the secretary General of Rajya Sabha :

'(i) In accordance with the provisions of rule 115 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha,, at its sitting held on 4th February, 2004, agreed to the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha

at its sitting held on the 30th January 2004, in the Foreigners (Amendment) Bill, 2003 :

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1,-

for "Fifty-fourth" substitute "Fifty-fifth"

CLAUSE 1

2. That at page 1, line 3,-

for "2003" substitute "2004"

'(ii) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2004, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd February, 2004 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.'

'(iii) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2004, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd February, 2004 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.'

'(iv) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the appropriation (Railways) No.2 Bill, 2004, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd February, 2004 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.'

'(v) In accordance with the provisions of rule 115 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business

in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 4th February, 2004, agreed to the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd February, 2004, in the British Statutes (Repeal) Bill, 2003 :

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1,—
for "Fifty-fourth" substitute "Fifty-fifth"

CLAUSE 1

2. That at page 1, line 3,—
for "2003" substitute "2004"

12.17 hrs.

MEMBERS OF LOK SABHA (DECLARATION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES) RULES

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL : I beg to lay on the table under sub-section 4 of section 75A of the Representation of People Act, 1951 a copy of the Members of Lok Sabha (Declaration of Assets and Liabilities) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) made by the Speaker under sub-section 3 of section 75A of the Representation of People Act, 1951.

12.18 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Sixty-first to Sixty-third Reports

[English]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2003-2004) :

- (1) Sixty-first Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) on Chapter-3 of Audit Report No. 10 of 2002 (Indirect Taxes-Customs) relating to "Non-realisation of Foreign Exchange";
- (2) Sixty-second Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) on the Report of C&AG of India No. 5A of 2000,

Union Government (Scientific Departments) relating to "Ganga Action Plan"; and

- (3) Sixty-third Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) on Preliminary Report on "Pilgrimage to Sabarimla-Human problems and Ecology."

12.19 hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PAC REPORT RELATING TO SHORT LEVY OF CUSTOMS DUTY

[English]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Sir, with your permission, I wish to lay Item No. 4—Report on the short levy of customs due to incorrect classification of...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai, South Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, seven Members of the Committee had opposed it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is this item existing? Only three items are listed here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you agitated? He has only asked permission to lay item No. 4.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not listed here.

(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Sir, I have authenticated the Report duly adopted by the Committee. Therefore, I am laying it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not taking it on record. I cannot take it because it is not listed here.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can it be possible?... (Interruptions) Seven Members of the

Committee had opposed it and four Members gave their consent on it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please speak only after I permit you. I have not asked you anything.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please let me know what Sardar Buta Singh has to say.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Sir, I have authenticated it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, you cannot put that item because it is not listed.

(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Sir, these Reports were adopted but the full Public Accounts Committee on the 30th of January, 2004. Sir, the Report was adopted. Well, at the end, some hon. Members made a Statement...*(Interruptions)* He had some ideas. He wanted those ideas to be included.

I asked the Secretariat to take those points and include them in the report. They were subsequently included and then the report was authenticated by the Chairman as per the rules and procedure of the House. Now, Sir, I do not find a mention here. Therefore, I thought I would make it possible to take this report. It has been duly adopted by the full Public Accounts Committee. There is no question of anybody questioning its authenticity now in the House.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : I have a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he cannot say...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not told to say.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I want to listen to the point of order.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : My point of order is that, as per the rule book, the report was authenticated by the Chairman after being adopted by the Committee...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is the rule number? Please tell me the rule number.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : It is rule 376...*(Interruptions)* Rule 279 relates to the statement...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to that. Sir, in the List of Business, we do not find mention of presentation of this report which was unanimously adopted...*(Interruptions)* Otherwise, there could have been note of dissent. There is no note of dissent. I was present there. In the presence of all the Members, it was adopted. It was authenticated by the Chairman. How is it that it was not included?

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, the rule permits it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : It cannot be freed. The offender cannot be exonerated in such a manner.

MR. SPEAKER : May I read rule no. 376(1)? Will you please read the rule? The rule is different from what you are saying.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Rule is 279. Rule 376 is the rule relating to the point of order.

"279(2) In presenting the report the Chairman or, in his absence, the member presenting the report shall, if he makes any remarks,—he has made a remark—confine himself to a brief statement of fact, but there shall be no debate on that statement at this stage."

What I want to say is that I have been present in the meeting. It was unanimous. This is for the record of the House.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : How can it be presented?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : This is something unprecedented. It never happened. There are so many hon. Members who have been associated with so many Committees. I have been a Member of this Public Accounts Committee and other Committees for decades...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I must listen to the arguments. Please sit down.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I also feel that it is a unanimously adopted report and relates to a very sensitive subject. There is an escape of levy of Rs. 22 crore by a person. He had misused...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can talk only on this rule as to why it is not being listed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : It has not been listed in the List of Business. There are only three items which have been listed. The hon. Member has said that it is listed, but it is not listed in the List of Business...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, this is a very important matter. How can it be while the report was unanimously adopted?...*(Interruptions)* It was sent to the Lok Sabha. You will find that it is excluded.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : There are three items which have already been listed.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : On the same day, in the same meeting another report was adopted. That is item number one...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not permitted you. When I permit, you can speak. But you do not get agitated. You can put your point of view when I ask you to do so.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Why has it not been accepted? That is my first question because on the same day, two reports had been adopted. One is mentioned as number one, that is, the Sixty-first Report relating to the non-realisation of foreign exchange. On the same day, in the same meeting another report was unanimously adopted. It was also authenticated by the Chairman and sent along with this Report to the Lok Sabha Secretariat. One has not been included in the List of Business. Sir, how can it take place? How can it happen? On the same day, in the same meeting two unanimously adopted Reports had been sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat. One was excluded and only one was taken into account. How?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Why?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I want to raise a point.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it on the same point of order?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : It is a little different, but on the same point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : If it is on the same point, you can guide the Chair.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, the first submission that I have to make is that when the Committee decides and a report is prepared, it becomes the bounden duty of the Chairman to present the report to the House.

Had Sardar Buta Singh not presented this report on the last day of the House here, he would have committed a folly, a breach of duty. As the Chairman, he has to present the report. Therefore, that is the first thing.

In this context, I would first read rule 277.

"(1) Where the House has not fixed any time for the presentation of a report by a Committee the report shall be presented within one month of the date on which reference to the Committee was made :

Provided that the House may at any time, on a motion being made—subsequently—direct that the time for the presentation of the report by the Committee be extended to a date specified in the motion. (2) Reports may be either preliminary or final."

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : First get it listed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Minister, let me read it. I know what you are. I know. You should also know that when hon. Members are speaking and if the matter is not concerned with you and with your Ministry then you should sit...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Will you kindly permit me? Would you please ask the Minister to sit down?

MR. SPEAKER : I am requesting the Minister not to interfere. If you want to make an argument on this point of order, you can do so later on.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have only permitted Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to speak. You can go ahead.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Harin Pathak, please sit down.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : What has happened to him?

[Translation]

What has happened to him today?

[English]

Rule 277 (3) says :

"The report of the Committee shall be signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee :

Provided that in case the Chairman is absent or is not readily available the Committee shall choose another member to sign the report on behalf of the Committee."

The responsibility extends to that level that even if the Chairman is not present and if the Committee had deliberated upon the matter and discussed it, somebody else has to be chosen to present the report. The House cannot be deprived of the report for the simple reason that till the time the report is presented to the House, we do not have access to it. We want to know as to what the Committee has discussed. If the Committee has come to a conclusion, it is the right of the House, and through the House the right of the people and the country to know as to what has happened. For that transparency, this report is needed.

In this context, I would also like to read one more rule, that is, rule 261.

"All questions at any sitting of a Committee shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting."

Here we are told and the hon. Chairman of the Committee has said that the report was unanimous. You have to believe it. I am going a step further that even if it is not, even if it has not been adopted by a majority of the Members, the other Members, who do not agree with the report, cannot stall the proceedings, cannot prevent the Chairman from laying the report on the Table of the House. It is not only his responsibility but it is his

duty, which you have to ask the hon. Chairman to present the report. I request you to kindly even direct him. Since he has presented it already, I would urge you with all humility that you may kindly accept the report because not accepting the report, not permitting the Chairman to lay the report on the Table of the House would be dereliction of duty on our part.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai, North East) : Sir, first of all, I would like to place the facts correctly. Whoever persons who are trying to argue may be the Members of the Committee and they are making the statement that the report was unanimous. Let me make the facts clear. Hon. Member, Shri Rupchand Pal, who attended the meeting, left the meeting after the discussion just started. He just stated I support the report as it is. He said, "I want to go and I want to attend the House."

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I have a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is speaking on a point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : How is he concerned? I want to clarify the facts. He said that the report was unanimous. So, he is blaming me...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I am sorry. Sir, as the custodian of the rules of the House, you have the responsibility to safeguard the rules...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please keep silence. I am going to listen to the Members. I am giving the opportunity.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I do not know whether Shri Kirit Somaiya is a Member of the Committee. If he is not a Member, then there is no alternative. If he is Member, he cannot speak in the House...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, there could be a privilege issue on this...*(Interruptions)* Out of the 14 only four Members were present there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Let them bring a Resolution...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Hon. Members had tried to

create an impression that this report was unanimous. It will be sheer injustice with those seven Members who have asked to incorporate corrections and also additions. It was seven versus two, seven hon. Members said that this report was far from the fact and that is why they suggested corrections. They called for an addition in the paragraph and they made 1.5 pages of addition. Only two hon. Members did all that. We knew that this is going to happen, so seven hon. Members have intimated you in writing that the report has been adopted by only two hon. Members and it is they who are presenting this. It is seven versus two. Only one hon. Member says that this report should be presented in a particular manner. What were the corrections and whether those suggestions were adopted?

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an established practice that the proceedings of the Committees are not discussed in the House. If Shri Kirit Somaiya is a Member of the Public Accounts Committee, this is a serious violation...*(Interruptions)* We do not discuss in the House what transpires in the Committee...*(Interruptions)*

The Chairman of the Committee has the responsibility of presenting the Report...*(Interruptions)* I would like to speak again on this point.

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak again but only after Shri Kirit Somaiya completes his submission.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, I may also be allowed to speak after that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : They are making allegations against the Chairman. They have to be held accountable...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : It is seven versus two. I would like to tell you that I was on that Committee but those hon. Members were not present. We seven people said that as the report is wrong, we reject it and that is why PAC has rejected that report. It was seven versus two. Seven hon. Members said that the report was wrong and they should correct it and they were rejecting this. Only two hon. Members said in negative.

[English]

We support this Report. So, how can this Report be presented?

MR. SPEAKER : I have not got it presented. Let me make it clear for the information of the House, the Report is not presented. I have stopped its presentation.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Seven hon. Members have intimated you in writing.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, it was unanimously agreed in the meeting itself...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : They are misusing the table of the House and trying to mislead the people of the country. They are presenting wrong report.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Should we start mentioning whatever happened in the meeting. Please give your ruling on this otherwise in future this new tradition will be started. Will we leave this house after initiating a new tradition?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

They are breaking new ground...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : One after another, I will dispose of the points of order. On this point of order also, I will give a ruling.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is also a Member of the Committee. He is also permitted to make his submission.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, is the last day of this Session. We are all grateful to you for the way you have conducted the House. Today, at the fag end, I would not like to create any acrimony. I would like to submit to you with all humility that Reports of all Committees appointed by you are normally placed in the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Sir, it should not be abused. In the name of democratic rights, they are abusing it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him speak. He has every right.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, what did I say? Did I say something unparliamentary?...*(Interruptions)*

The standing practice of all the Committees appointed by you—be it a Standing Committee or an Institutional Committee like the Public Accounts Committee or the Committee on Public Undertakings—is that the Reports are made available to the hon. Speaker either in a unanimous form or as Reports with dissent notes or as Reports with recorded objections. That is the practice...*(Interruptions)*

Several hon. Members of the Public Accounts Committee met you and I was also present in that meeting. So far as the matters raised are concerned, I would not like to name anybody. I had the privilege of joining the full Committee deliberations in Mumbai on this matter where the officers of the Customs Collectorate and other revenue officials...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Sir, all these things cannot go on record. He is talking about what the Committee has deliberated and what the Customs Collector has said...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I did not say what they said.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kirit Somaiya, why do you get agitated? Let him make his submission.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We recorded all the evidence of the officials. Based on that, as every Committee does, we prepared a Report...*(Interruptions)*

One hon. Member may have strong and valid objections to the Report. He can argue and put in a dissent or objection. I was also present there but I got a bad news and so I had to immediately leave the meeting of the Committee. I endorsed the full Committee's Report because I took the evidence as an Alternate Convener. After that, the Report was prepared. If my distinguished colleagues from any side of the House had any reservation, they should have politely given a dissent note to the Secretariat

on the day of the meeting saying, 'We dissent on this paragraph, on this language, on this word'...*(Interruptions)*

But not doing anything in the Committee and coming after giving some letters, it devalues the institution and it devalues the system. That is my submission...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : When the deliberations took place in the meeting, seven Members said 'this paragraph' because the report was being discussed. It was a draft report and the report shows paragraphs. Seven Members said that it should be rejected and then six paragraphs are to be adopted. The two Members only said that 'we do not support'...*(Interruptions)* So, there is no question of a dissent note...*(Interruptions)* The corrected report was to be presented and that report which was a draft report was to be rejected. It was seven versus two...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, please give your ruling in the matter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is very unfortunate that with regard to deliberations before a Committee or the report of a Committee, such disputes will occur. This is a very important institution. The system of Committees is an integral part of the House itself. It is really an extension of the House. It is the Committee of the House itself. It has no other independent existence.

Now, this is the second time I find the hon. Member feels disturbed about the filing of a report. There are some well-established procedures; otherwise no Committee can function. Whether one likes it or not, whether one is a part of the majority or not, whether one has serious observations or not, there are methods of expressing that reservation. If the Chairman of a Committee or the Chairman of Committees are being described in this manner where serious allegations have been alleged, then it will be very difficult in future. It will be difficult to conduct the deliberations of a Committee as a Chairman.

Sir, many of us have had a great opportunity and great pleasure of presiding over several Committees. It may be that during the deliberations, we have a different opinion. But, ultimately, Chairman's authentication has to have some meaning...*(Interruptions)* Otherwise, there will be anything and everything and a challenge can be thrown on the floor of the House. If everything is nullified as to what happened in a Committee and the Chairman's signature becomes an irrelevant matter, then I do not know how any Chairman with any self-respect can function.

Therefore, my appeal to you is, if my hon. friend did not have an opportunity to file a minute of dissent, he can ask for an opportunity. If that is permissible—according to me not—you can permit him. But if the Chairman says that 'I have authenticated the report', for which there is evidence, then how can it be determined here on the floor of the House or by voting will be decided?...*(Interruptions)* It has to be on the basis of the report which comes to you from the Chairman. The report is so important here. Let not the Chairman be devalued in the way as it is being attempted.

My request to you is that Chairman has authenticated it. If they have any objection, let it be recorded here. ...*(Interruptions)* My appeal to you is to maintain the traditions of this House and the Committee...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, short-while ago very senior Members belonging to opposition spoke. The told about established procedure and while concluding hon. Somnath Ji talked about traditions. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say with utmost respect that you also conduct this House through established procedure. Normally you do not show any laxity in rules and you rightly run the House by the rule-book. Hon. Pawan Kumar Bansal ji has put forth some facts. He himself is not a Member of the Committee. That is why either the obtained information in regard to these facts from hon. Chairman or from somewhere else. There are two facts. You said that this report has been unanimously adopted...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I said that there can be two issues. Unanimously

[English]

If not unanimously by majority.

[Translation]

I did not talk of facts...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Let me complete...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, one thing has been said...*(Interruptions)* I have obtained information from some quarter. I have not said anything like this. I have tired to keep legal proposition on the basis of rules. I did

not say that the report is unanimous. I simply said that the report is of two kinds. I told after reading rules that the report is unanimous. If it is not unanimous then it is based on majority...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Two members can give note of dissent...*(Interruptions)* How can it be seven versus two?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem is that he does not allow to complete the sentence....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister complete her submission. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, you can understand the matter. Let her complete.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, it is an insinuation...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : What is an insinuation in it that you have given any fact...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I, not being even a Member of this Committee, got information from some quarter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It is not an insinuation...*(Interruptions)* This is also a fact that you are not a Member of the Committee...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : You have said that an information has been obtained...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You did not allow me to complete this sentence that the report was adopted unanimously or by majority. My point is that this report must be laid whether adopted unanimously or by majority. You did not allow completion of my sentence. My contention is that it is not a fact... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You cannot say it like that...*(Interruptions)* Sir, how can the hon. Minister say it?...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Sir, it is not correct. How can she say it?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : It is because I have mentioned; it is seven *versus* two...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I will tell it. Please listen to me...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : The hon. Minister is not yielding...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let me know what she has to say. Let her complete her point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : How does she know?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : If you sit down, then I will tell you...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

If he allows me to speak, then only I can tell him...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, being a Minister of parliamentary Affairs. I have also received a copy of that letter which you have received. Therefore, I have to give its reply.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : How does she know it?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : How does she know it? It is correct...*(Interruptions)* Sir, a Member is going from his seat and briefing the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : What is wrong?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I have asked for the information because a copy of the dispatched letter has also been sent to me being the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs...*(Interruptions)* If he sits down, then I will tell him. A copy of the letter has been sent to hon'ble Speaker has also been dispatched to me as a Minister of Parliamentary Affairs...*(Interruptions)* If he sits down, then only I can tell him...*(Interruptions)* Being the Minister of Parliamentary

Affairs copies of the letters which have been sent you, have also been dispatched to me. I am factually telling all this...*(Interruptions)*. The letters which are sent to the Speaker, copies of those letters are forwarded to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs...*(Interruptions)* He does not know the procedure...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You cannot say like that...*(Interruptions)* How do you know? How can you say that it is a fact? You cannot say it like that...*(Interruptions)* You cannot do in everything like this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : She has the report but she does not know how to read it. It has been clearly stated in Paragraph 4 that it was adopted and the Chairman had made an announcement...*(Interruptions)* Though she is having report but she does not know how to read it.

[English]

Sir, she does not know how to read English. The problem with Sushmaji is she does not know English. You look at the minutes of Para 4 of the 64th meeting...*(Interruptions)* Sir, she is not telling the truth.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the letter which is sent to you, a copy of that is also forwarded to me as a Minister of Parliamentary Affairs...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Whether this has been done to protect a person of the country who betrays the Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Majority of the Members have given me this in writing.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, she is deliberately misleading the House.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : No, I am not...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, let me say on this. The hon. Minister is making her argument. After she makes

her argument. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, if you want to speak, I will permit you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not want everybody to interrupt other Members because then anybody who is speaking from this side will be disturbed by them. Therefore, let her complete her argument. You can speak later.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The norm is you must allow her to speak.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I am not talking on the basis of speculations. The fact is that the letter which is sent to the hon'ble Speaker, a copy of that is also forwarded to me being a Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. This is the procedure. Out of the 11 Members who were present there, letters of 6 Members were sent to you and its copies were forwarded to me. I have also got that letter in which it was stated that they were rejecting this report in its present form. It was also stated that if Paragraph 6 was deleted or amended only then they would adopt this report...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I never talk on the basis of guesses, I always speak with full responsibility. The letters which have been sent to you, the copies of that have also been forwarded to me. I am talking on the basis of those letters...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, is it the practice?...*(Interruptions)* They cannot write to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs...*(Interruptions)* This is not the procedure...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Since when are the Committee Members supposed to write to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : They have written to me and copies were sent to her. It is for the Members to decide.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The letter which is sent to hon'ble Speaker, a copy of that is also forwarded to me...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : It was seven versus two. We have given copies to her because we doubted about it that moment itself. So, Sir, letters were given to you and also the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Therefore, I would like to tell him that this report neither has been adopted unanimously nor with majority. Majority of the Members have rejected this report. It is not listed in the papers to be laid therefore permission cannot be given to present it.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I draw your attention, as a non-Member of the Committee, to the last sentence of paragraph four of the minutes of the 16th meeting of the Public Accounts Committee. I do not wish to read it out here because my access to it is unauthorised, by your access to it, Sir, is completely authorised. If what the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has just now stated is not in accord with the last sentence of paragraph four, then it is clear that the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has dishonourably misled this House...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation].

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have objection on his words.

[English]

How can he use the word 'dishonourably'?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : There is a procedure with regard to it, but what has been told by Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, I say with all responsibility, has been completely contradicted by the last sentence of paragraph four of the minutes which are as much in your possession as they are in the possession of the hon. Minister. I charge the hon. Minister with having deliberately misled this House with regard to what happened in that Committee, as stated in the official minutes of that Committee which are with you and which are with her. She has misled this House.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : He has unauthorised access to it, but I have authorised access to it...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has unauthorised access and he can speak on it whereas I have received authorised letters. What is written in para 4? I have received the copies of the letters which were sent to you...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I demand that the Speaker looks into the records and drag her arraigned before the Committee of Privileges for telling the untruth in the Parliament...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, a number of points have been raised.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You have also raised the point of order.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I have a point that it is well-known to everyone in this House that particularly in a Committee like the prestigious Public Accounts Committee, they have to take a decision and discuss on the basis of observations of the C&AG. The document of C&AG is a public document...(*Interruptions*) It is known to the nation what is there in it about the...(*Interruptions*) who has been projected as a journalist in the Defence scam. Now, the Committee has unanimously taken a decision on the particular paragraph... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : When Shri Somaiyaji speaks then he says that he is a member of the Committee and he cannot speak while he himself can speak on unauthorised access. I have authorised access, authorised letter... (*Interruptions*) whether he will conduct the house according to his own wish?

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : After deliberations and evidence, the Report has been finalised, which has been authenticated and submitted by the Chairman to the Lok Sabha Secretariat...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I may be allowed to complete...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I want to give my ruling on this.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, No Member of the Committee had earlier submitted any note of dissent. In the absence of any note of dissent, it is taken that it is a unanimous Report. That is the procedure...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, I want to know from you whether this particular item is listed or not. It is not listed in today's List of Business. Then, how can the matter be raised?

It can be discussed only if the matter was listed. The item is not listed in today's List of Business. That is the only point that I want to make.

I am not discussing about the procedure, what has happened in the Committee, etc. It is not listed in today's List of Business. How can it be discussed here if it is not listed in today's List of Business? It is the only query that I have to put before you. There is no point before us. You cannot discuss anything that is not listed in the List of Business.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : When we cannot even change the serial number of items mentioned on the order paper then how can we talk about presenting other things.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : If the staff member gives him in writing...(*Interruptions*) It was five O' clock he can only...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Unless and until the House gives permission, the serial number of order paper cannot be changed...(*Interruptions*) Here we are talking about presenting unlisted paper.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : May I, with the permission of the House, go to my ruling?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you give your ruling, I will only submit one thing. I will not question your ruling, and we have never questioned it also. We have the liberty and leave to disclose the facts and evidence, as we like, to the nation as to how this Government is trying to protect a third person.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, nobody has tried to do that.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : If it is done then it will set a precedent. How can it be done?

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The way you are protecting him, people will tell you...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You will set an opportunity during election...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : May I speak?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, Kindly allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : How can you speak on a point twice or thrice?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, this is unacceptable. They are destroying every institution. It is a disgrace...(*Interruptions*) and they say that India is shining.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, you will have the final say in this matter...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I would like to read from 'Kaul and Shakdher'.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, we want a ruling from you. We cannot go on discussing this matter.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : One thing has become very clear...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You have already spoken twice, how can I give you another opportunity to speak.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : One thing has become very clear that some Members have written letter to you and to the hon'ble Minister afterwards...(*Interruptions*). But that is an after thought...(*Interruptions*) If earlier he had the right and responsibility for something and if he was not agree with a reasonable point...(*Interruptions*) If he was not in agree with anything...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : How long this debate will continue?...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I want to give a ruling on this issue.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am reading from 'Kaul and Shakdher', page 824—Preparation and Presentation of Report.

"The draft report is then submitted to the Chairman for approval and a copy thereof if forwarded to the Comptroller and Auditor-General (C&AG) for factual verification."

It has also been done. It further states :

"When the Committee sits to consider the draft report as approved by the Chairman, the Comptroller and Auditor-General is also present at the sitting to point out changes in the facts and figures, where necessary."

In the presence of the C&AG representative only the draft report was presented and no objection was raised...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, have you permit him to read it?

MR. SPEAKER : I have not permitted him to read it. No.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, then nothing should go on record...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, It is just a clarification.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Sir, why these people are speaking when the matter has already been rejected...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : May I speak now? Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

12.54 hrs.

**OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER
RE: PRESENTATION OF PAC REPORT
RELATING TO SHORT LEVY OF
CUSTOMS DUTY**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : A very serious matter has come before me for a decision. The matter pertains to the Public Accounts Committee Report to be presented to the House.

I have not allowed the Chairman to present it only because it is not listed, and there is no other reason for that. I did not allow him to present it because it is not listed and why it was not listed needs an investigation, but this was not listed.

The Chairman says that he has completed all formalities. On one side, there were views expressed by the Chairman and few other Members, and on the other side a few other Members had expressed their views exactly opposite to what the hon. Chairman had to say in the matter.

A number of rules have been quoted. You are aware that Shri Rupchand Pal, thereafter, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, then, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Kirit Somaiya and the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, have expressed their views on this particular matter.

I would only like to make a few things clear that I am in agreement with Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi that this is the last day of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha and, therefore, this issue should not be stretched at and, as far as possible, this issue should be amicably settled.

In the morning the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee rang me up at my residence. I immediately said, "Let us discuss the matter." We met at 10.30 a.m. in my Chamber. He was kind enough to meet me in my Chamber and explained the whole position to me.

The position regarding the presentation of the Report and the Minutes of the Report is really confusing. The Minutes have not been circulated so far. I must say that the Chairman came to me and explained the procedure to me. I just wanted to know the procedure. Therefore, after

my discussion with him, I called another Member of the Committee, Shri Kirit Somaiya, and he also told me as to what the matter is.

About two days back Shri Kirit Somaiya told me that the Members have not given their consent to this Report. I said, "Your saying is not enough, and that the Members have to write to me." Thereafter, seven Members have written to me saying that they did not agree with this during the meeting. I am not going into the facts as to whether what the Chairman is saying is correct or what the Members are saying is correct because that is very difficult to decide.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : It is an after thought.

MR. SPEAKER : One Member had written a letter to me mentioning the names of others. I said that I must get letters from all the Members. Now, I am in possession of the letters from the seven Members.

The House will agree with me that this matter has become serious. I would now reply to Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal's point of order that in a normal case, the Members do not speak in the House, when any issue concerning the Committee is raised. But when the procedural issue comes before me, I have to permit the Members and I have to understand what the Members have to say. Therefore, three Members of the Committee were allowed to speak. Unfortunately two Members who spoke were not present in the final stage of the meeting of the Committee. Therefore, I went through some documents. The question of procedure, of course, exists. Therefore, I had to hear the Members of the Committee. I had also suggested to the hon. Chairman that he could take another meeting and he could resolve the issue because as far as possible, for the general convenience of the House, I would say that such issues are to be settled in the Committee itself.

It is very unfortunate that the Members of the Committee are saying one thing and the Chairman is saying something else. In future, I would advise the Chairman to see that the issues are settled, as far as possible, in the Committee itself. It looks to me, sometimes, there is a gap of communication and, sometimes, there is a misunderstanding. I will have to go through the Minutes in respect of para 4, which Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has referred to. I have to go through the Minutes, I have to see all the rules, and have to see the previous precedents relating to this particular case.

I would be able to make up my mind about this only after going through all this. Since the facts are confusing, there is no alternative before me but to reserve my ruling for some time. I will try my best to come before the House before it ends today. Now, let us go to the next item.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : What about 'Zero Hour'?

MR. SPEAKER : I will go to 'Zero Hour'. I am taking up 'Zero Hour' notices now.

13.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I now go to the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir, there is a Calling Attention Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : I am going to take up the Calling Attention Motion after the recess. Hon. Member Shri Chaoba Singh has an important matter to raise.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH (Inner Manipur) : Sir, I wish to bring to your kind notice a very serious matter.

A banned underground extremist group in Manipur called KYKL has passed death sentence on me.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Sir, there are two more papers to be laid on the Table.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : There are papers yet to be laid on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : We will do that do that after him. This is a serious matter. Let me listen to him first.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Sir, KYKL, a banned underground extremist group in Manipur has passed a death sentence on me, a sitting Member of Parliament. The death sentence was published in a newspaper dated 30th January, 2004. They say that I am an agent of the Government of India. This Group has also said that it will target the BJP workers and office-bearers because I am the President of the BJP in Manipur...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a serious matter. It is published in the same article that this militant group has sent out militants to kill me at any time. This is a challenge made by this militant group against the Parliament of India and the democracy of the country as a whole. I have already informed the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Governor of Manipur, the Minister of State for Home, and the Home Secretary about this in writing also. However, no action has so far been taken by the Government of Manipur even after seven days of the publication of this threat.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now. No more time can be given.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : No action has been taken by the Government of Manipur so far to protect the lives of innocent BJP workers and office bearers in Manipur.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already written a letter to the Home Minister to take care of this.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Sir, in 1990, my wife and my son were also shot dead by these extremists.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri TH. Chaoba Singh, I have written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister in this regard today.

[English]

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Sir, I would request you to kindly direct the Central Government, and particularly the Government of Manipur, to take all steps to protect the lives of Members of Parliament and party workers in that State.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I know the case. The Government of India should take note of the situation and protect the life of the Member.

MR. SPEAKER : I have requested the Government to give him necessary protection. Please sit down now.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Sir, please direct the Government of Manipur to take steps.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We all want that special support be given to him. His family was destroyed, I know. His house was burnt down. He is the last target

of the extremists. The Government of India should give all support to him.

MR. SPEAKER : I have requested the Deputy Prime Minister to look into his case and give him necessary protection immediately.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, it is not only Shri Chaoba Singh but all the BJP workers in the State are being threatened. If not him, other workers will be killed. So, all BJP workers should also be protected. If they are all killed, who will come to this Parliament?

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, we all fully sympathies with him.

13.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Eighteenth Report

[English]

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (Phillaur) : Sir, I beg to present the Eighteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on the subject 'Functioning of Self-Help Groups for Economic Empowerment of women'.

13.04½ hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR SOFT DRINKS, FRUIT JUICE AND OTHER BEVERAGES

Evidence

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House, a copy of the record of evidence of the meetings of the Joint Committee on Pesticide Residues in And Safety Standards for soft drinks, fruit juice and other beverages.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

13.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch
till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at
four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur) : Sir, I want to raise the issue of 'Turbans'.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sardar Mann, Kindly hear me first.

As per the Agenda, the House were to take up Discussion under Rule 193. It was to be taken up at 2 p.m. Since in the morning session Zero Hour continued up to 1 p.m., the Calling Attention business could not be taken up. There is only one Member who has given notice to call the attention of the Minister and the Minister is also present in the House, we may take up the Calling Attention for about half an hour.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Sir, there is also item No. 30. I request that item numbers 29 and 30 taken up before we go on to the Discussion under Rule 193.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : After the Calling Attention, we will take up Discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : It will take only two minutes. Sir, there is a very serious matter. It involves my credibility.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I suppose you will take two minutes only. We will now take up the Calling Attention.

14.05 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Sir, Matters under Rule 377 be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I take your constructive suggestion. As usual, for the last few days, Matters under Rule 377 are casualty.

Today also, if the House agrees with me, Matters under Rule 377 are laid on the Table of the House.

(Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

- (i) **Need to convert the existing rail line between Jammusar and Bharuch in Gujarat into a broad gauge line and also reschedule the timings of trains running on this route**

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there passes a narrow gauge railway line between Jammusar and Bharuch in my parliamentary constituency Bharuch and a train has also been in service between these two places. However, the timings of the train are not suitable to people. The train should run from Jammusar to Bharuch in the morning and from Bharuch and Jammusar in the evening. Instead the timings of the train are exactly opposite to it due to which the people are not being benefited. Several industrial areas fall along this railway line. The people of several of the villages in the vicinity of Jammusar travel by train to Bharuch and as there is no other means of transport available there and people have to travel by train only. If this existing rail line is converted from narrow gauge into broad gauge, revenue collection from this route could be raised. Besides the laying of broad gauge line this backward region would also make it convenient for the people to travel to Bharuch as it would help cut the time taken to travel and add to the frequency of trains on this route.

Hence, through the House, I would like to request the Government to change the narrow gauge line between Jammusar to Bharuch into broad gauge and to reschedule the timing of the train by running it from Jammusar to Bharuch in the morning and return journey in the evening.

- (ii) **Need to expedite conversion of Kurla-Mahul goods railway line into passenger railway line**

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Kurla-Mahul goods railway line is required to be converted into

passenger railway line. The Ministry of Railway has agreed to this in practice. It is understood that the Railway Board has submitted a proposal to the Maharashtra Government regarding rehabilitation of project-affected people of Kurla-Mahul Railway line. There is an urgent need to expedite the proposal and to start the project at the earliest.

- (iii) **Need to enquire into the irregularities being committed in the implementation of rural development projects in Pratapgarh Parliamentary constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH (Pratapgarh) : Sir, I had drawn the attention of the House towards irregularities being committed in the implementation of the rural development projects in Pratapgarh Parliamentary constituency and had also requested that a Central train should be constituted to visit and probe into these irregularities in the expenditure of the funds. However the Government has still not taken any corrective measures in this regard due to which the rural development projects are being adversely affected.

Through the House, I would like to request the Union Government to investigate into the delay caused in taking the follow up action regarding any earlier proposal and also to take the necessary action to ensure the proper implementation of the rural development projects in my parliamentary constituency Pratapgarh.

- (iv) **Need to set up an L.P.G. Bottling Plant at Bhagalpur, Bihar**

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I request the Union Government to immediately set up an L.P.G. bottling plant at Bhagalpur, Bihar which would facilitate the consumers of the Cooking gas besides leading to the industrial development.

- (v) **Need to provide special grants to Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Limited in Andhra Pradesh to make viable**

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Limited, a Government of India Undertaking, established in Vishakhapatnam in 1966, is facing acute financial hardships due to lack of adequate orders. Hence financial stringency is coming in the way

of the company's performance and a stage has come to the extent of company's survival at stake.

The company has a talented managerial team and skilled work force. The Company should get immediate relief from the Government of India to put it back on the progress path. I, therefore, seek the intervention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to come to the rescue of the Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Ltd., Visakhapatnam by way of immediately extending special grants under Prime Minister's discretion and provide budgetary support of Rs. 39 crores to clear employees dues as well as salary wage support from November, 2003 to July, 2004 besides Government of India counter Guarantee for Rs. 180 crores to State Bank of India to cover the banking facility being availed by BHPV.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (SANGRUR) : Sir, yesterday, the hon. Speaker had given me an assurance that for three minutes I would be allowed to raise the question of turban, which is being disallowed in France. If you give me three minutes, I will complete my very-very important question which deals with the minority people in India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are a very senior Member of this House. I esteem you always. Now, we have come to the afternoon session and at this hour we never take up Zero Hour matters.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Sir, I may be allowed as a special concession. It is the last day of the Session and the feel-good factor is being created by everybody. During this feel-good factor, let me also feel good.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us take up the Calling Attention and if some time is left, we will take it up.

14.08 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

Situation arising out of Regional Imbalance in the Development of North Bengal Region due to plan process of Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Plans and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, I

call the attention of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Situation arising out of regional imbalance in the development of North Bengal region due to plan process of Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Plans and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : Hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has raised a matter regarding the situation arising out of the regional imbalance in the development of North Bengal region due to Plan process of 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Plan periods. It may be stated that the hon. Member had also tabled a Calling Attention Motion on 15th May, 2002, the subject matter being "situation arising out of reported regional imbalance in various parts of the country including North Bengal and West Bengal." The issue regarding the perceived backwardness of the North Bengal region was adequately covered in the discussion.

The hon. Member has also been raising matters under Rule 377 regarding the situation arising out of regional imbalance in northern part of the State of West Bengal.

Similar concern has also been raised by the hon. Member about the overall economic development of the North Bengal region on a number of occasions by raising Matters under Rule 377, Zero Hour Motions, letters to the Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and his anxiety for the development of the area and its people is well appreciated.

The hon. Member often raised the issues of regional imbalance and lack of infrastructure development like road network, health, rural electrification, industry, education and construction of overbridges on railway crossings, etc. in the North Bengal area as also relating to the socio-economic and cultural development of backward communities like Rajbangshis of the North Bengal.

While raising these issues, the hon. Member has dwelt on the perceived imbalance in the development of

North Bengal region as compared to the other areas of the State and the country.

The issues raised by the hon. Member from time to time, have been examined in the Planning Commission. However, the planning and development of areas and allocation of funds for the purpose are primarily the responsibility of the Government of West Bengal as they come under the purview of the State Government. In spite of this, it may be stated that the Central Government also supplements the efforts of the State Government through appropriate Central sector schemes in respect of the issues like flood control, road network, health, rural electrification, industry, etc. for supplementing the efforts of the State Government ensuring balanced regional development. It may be seen that almost all the matters raised by the hon. Member fall within the overall responsibility of the State Government. Inter-sectoral allocation of Plan funds is entirely the prerogative of the State Government concerned. However, Central Government allocates funds for selected area development programmes such as the Border Area Development Programme (BADP), Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP), Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY), etc. Further, Central assistance has been provided through appropriate Centrally-Sponsored Schemes to take up flood protection and riverbank erosion measures.

The attention of the Chief Minister of West Bengal has been drawn to the issues raised by the hon. Member requesting for appropriate action to be taken at the level of the State Government.

It may also be mentioned that the State Government have also constituted a body, namely, North Bengal Development Council with the objective of formulating schemes for the development of North Bengal region.

Besides keeping in mind the repeated requests for development of North Bengal, made the hon. Member, as a special case, it was decided that a Study should be conducted in respect of the North Bengal region in order to understand and address the issues involved therein. A Study, named "Research Study on the Comparative Backwardness of North Bengal Region" was assigned to the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, an autonomous institution under the Planning Commission in September, 2001. The Report has since been submitted and accepted. The Report says that "while the disparity between the North Bengal districts and the rest of the State is sharp when we consider outcome variables such as State Domestic

Product, the disparity in input variables such as social infrastructure are not that sharp. This would then call for better convergence between development agencies such as District Rural Development Agency, financial institutions, and *Panchayati raj* institutions.

The district of Jalpaiguri has been included under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana and Central assistance of Rs. 15 crore per annum is being allocated for three years for all round development of the district.

It may be appreciated from the foregoing that the problems of the region have received due consideration from time to time and efforts are being made to tackle the problems of floods, river bank erosion, and equitable development of the area.

Sir, if I may add, the hon. Finance Minister in the Interim Budget speech has stated :

"Tea is an important agro-processing industry, employing a large number of our citizens in North Bengal, Assam, the North-East and some of the Southern States. Currently, this industry is beset by many problems. I had, therefore, tasked the Indian Banks Association to prepare a revival package. This has now been finalised. Special Tea Term Loan, repayable in five years, with a moratorium of one year, shall be provided. In case of small tea growers, bank have agreed to extend fresh working capital limits up to Rs. 2 lakh, at an interest rate of 9 per cent only.

In addition, steps will be undertaken to examine the feasibility of a debt amelioration scheme in the tea sector, too."

Sir, yesterday, the hon. Finance Minister also stated that a direct subsidy of Rs. 8 per kilogram to promote domestic production and to make tea prices competitive in markets abroad has also been thought of. Apart from this, the *Uttarbanga Unnyan Parishad* which is a State committee has been set up by the State of West Bengal. The broader area plan allocation has also been made from time to time.

Sir, I would now give the figures. A sum of Rs. 108.02 crore was released under the Border Area Development Programme, West Bengal in the Eighth Plan. A sum of Rs. 140.02 crore was released under the Ninth Plan and a sum of Rs. 72.93 crore, uptill now in the Tenth Plan has been released.

Sir, I submit that it is a matter of concern for all of us, including the Union Government, to see that the North Bengal area is properly developed and the disparities are removed. With these words, I conclude my statement.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am really very shocked to hear the statement of the hon. Minister. The issue of North Bengal, as he has admitted, have been referred to the Planning Commission and the hon. Prime Minister time and again.

Sir, I would like to mention about three agitations here. One agitation, the name of which has now found a place in the dictionary, namely, the Naxalite Movement took birth in a place called Naxalbari in North Bengal and now it has spread to various other parts of the country as well. The meaning of it is agitation of extreme violent nature by the people who are victims of a situation of backwardness and under-development of a region.

The second agitation was the GNLFF agitation in the district of Darjeeling in North Bengal. This agitation was handled jointly by the late Rajiv Gandhi and the then Hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu. A special provision was made to accommodate them through the Gorkha Hill Council which was headed by Shri Subhas Gheising.

The third agitation that is now on is that of the Kamtapuri movement. It has got two wings. One unit of this movement, known as the KLO, went for armed agitation and their activists have been detained by the Bhutan Government and have been taken into custody. The other unit has chosen to protest through the democratic path and is contesting elections. All these are in North Bengal.

Sir, I have brought this matter to the notice of the hon. Minister. One should understand the sensitivity of the region. It may not be like it is in the State of Jammu and Kashmir but this region is bordered by countries like Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. If this particular region is left un-nurtured in this fashion, then I do not know as to where we are trying to lead this region to in the future days to come.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I raised this issue on 15th May, 2002, the then Minister of the same Ministry, who is now the distinguished Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Smt. Vasundhara Raje, said, and I quote :

"The university of North Bengal has prepared a socio-economic perspective plan for North Bengal for 2001-

2010 which is under the active consideration of the *Parishad*. The Government has proposed to allocate an amount of Rs. 112.53 crore in the Tenth Five Year Plan to this *Parishad*."

She further quoted, and I quote :

"In the applied and manpower research autonomous institution under the Planning Commission in September, 2001 a study was made to bring the inter-district disparities in different dimensions of the development under the following heads : physical resources, human resources and physical infrastructure. A study has been envisaged as a strength whereas opportunities and threat analysed by the district of North Bengal vis a vis future development initiative."

Furthermore, she said, which the hon. Minister for Planning avoided mentioning, and I quote :

"It is pertinent to mention the State Development Report of the State of West Bengal in this regard. A Core Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission."

Sir, a lot of rivers flow from the Himalayan and the Terai range, including the Manasarovar. These rivers flow over North Bengal and bring floods to the region. Now, according to the Planning Commission, floods mean floods that occur under the Ganga Flood Control Commission. But the river Ganges does not flow over North Bengal. The main rivers of North Bengal are Mahananda, Teesta, Torsa and Kaljini. I have been arguing and pleading for the constitution of the Mahananda Flood Commission with equal emphasis that has been given to the Ganga Flood Commission to save North Bengal.

When a river like Mahananda comes from Bihar, it destroys the whole of North Bengal. Till today, the Planning Commission did not give any cognizance to it inspite of several hundreds petitions and representations about floods.

Secondly, it is no use always to put the blame on the State Government. Plan allocations are made on priority basis which I do agree. Now the Minister says that the Government of West Bengal has formulated a Development Council. Do you know their budget? The Development Council had put their budget as Rs. 43 crore per year but slashed it to Rs. 22 crore suddenly as there

was no money. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, there was a proposal of Rs. 115 crore which the *Parishad* would get. I am told that the *Parishad* is not getting even Rs. 50 crore. The problem of floods is gigantic.

The hon. Minister is from West Bengal. He knows about the resources there. Best quality of timber, best quality of dolomite, best tea and jute are the available resources of North Bengal. The entire country's jute comes from North Bengal and the best quality comes from a part of Assam. The hon. Minister said something about tea growers. I thank him for that. But he did not say anything on jute. I am told that, after the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, this Government is going to close down the Jute Corporation of India and the jute growers of the entire North Bengal will cry in the streets. That was one of the potential physical resources.

Regarding the infrastructure, the hon. Minister may check up from the Planning Commission record and if I am wrong, he may correct me. From the Second Plan to the Fifth Plan, the only development fillip which came was one engineering college, one university and one medical college, and that is the end of it. During this period of Second Plan to the Fifth Plan, the New Jalpaiguri Railway Complex came up. Beyond the Fifth Plan, no tangible infrastructure development took place. I cried before Shri Arun Jaitley and Shri Jaswant Singh, to increase the revenue of the Government, to have an export corridor with Bangladesh through Radhikapur. It requires only Rs. 20 crores and by that Rs. 20 crores infrastructure, hundreds and thousands of youngsters will get jobs and there will be business and economic activities. When they have nothing, what will they do? They will wait and then join either a movement with arms or naxalites. They will go to the extremist direction of Kamtapuri or KLO or they will teach the Constitution of India by adopting a different method which was done in GNLF Movement. Try to understand this point.

When Nepal King thrashed out the naxalites, where did they go? They hid in North Bengal. When Bhutan King flushed out the extremists, where did they hide? It was in North Bengal. And the local population got agitated. They had been asking for special consideration. But you said that you appointed a Core Committee. What is the outcome of that Core Committee and S. P. Gupta's Report? Did the Core Committee say that priority will be given?

Sir, in this House, I moved a Private Members' Bill to amend the Constitution of India to include North Bengal

under article 371 of the Constitution. Why? After the merger of Maharashtra and Saurashtra was over, Panditji visualised that Kutch was the sufferer. Vidarbha was the sufferer. Vidharbha, Kutch and Bastar were all taken under article 371 and the Governor himself intervened for Plan allocation and justified their imbalance.

My dear good friend, Shri Tapan Sikdar hails from North Bengal. He knows how do we stay at the time of floods. When partition took place and India was divided, it was divided in such a way that kitchen was in Bangladesh and bed room was in India, the courtyard was in Bangladesh and the temple was in India. Division came in this way. There were floods of refugees in one part. In the other part where Bihar and Bengal merger took place, a part of Bihar got included in North Bengal and the Urdu speaking people, the Muslims, were concentrated in one place. Do you know the largest Muslim populated place called Talpukur and do you know that it does not have a college and a higher secondary level school for education of women? This severe plight is there. Therefore, I have been urging you to either bring it under article 371 or appoint a Special Task Force to remove the imbalance. How can you stop the imbalance? Can the Minister deny whatever I am saying?

The naxalite movement grew only on this ground. Now, it has got a name throughout the country. Who built the naxalite movement? It was built by the villagers and the youngsters. Then it came to the city. Now, the Kamtapuri people are telling me, "See, we have not taken to guns. We believe in democracy. But who will listen?" Will the Government form a small Committee, in consultation with the State Government-do not bypass the State Government-to listen to their views on language, culture and development and respond to them? In future, I tell you, the way in which things are moving in North Bengal, it will be a headache to the country.

Sir, there is a place called Malda. The hon. Minister knows that if the tributary of Ganga, Fulhwar, which runs from Bihar, attacks North Malda, nobody can save it. Till today the Government has not formulated any comprehensive plan for the flood management there. Within ten years Malada town will be affected. Such is the course of change of Ganges from Rajmari. Farakka Barrage is a big threat now. It is the costliest barrage. These are the issues which should be looked into. When I cry, when I write or when I raise these issues, I am not doing that for any individual. I raise it as an alarm for the future. You please try to listen.

I would like to conclude with few queries. Will the Minister persuade the Finance Minister—even though the Interim Budget is over—to include jute also in his package for the jute growers and to declare that JCI should not be closed? Will the Minister constitute a Committee, in consultation with the State Government, to listen to the grievance of the Rajbongshi ethnic group? When Santhali language got recognised on the other day, Rajbongshis cried as to why their language should not be recognised. When Maithili dialect, which is from Hindi, could be recognised as a language by the Constitution, why can Rajbongshi dialect not be considered by the Constitution?

Their leader in the freedom struggle—you cannot believe—is considered to be the head of their society. He is no more. He is not alive. But his message gave the confidence to them to fight the Britishers. Today, they are landless and homeless. They have nothing. They are only saying that at least their language and culture should be preserved. Nothing is being done. The answer is, take them into custody and beat them hollow.

Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, who is a member of this House from Coochbehar knows what is happening there. Shri Joachim Baxla, a Member of the RSP from Alipurduars, also knows what is happening there. Of course, Shri Tapan Sikdar, knows this as he hails from Malda.

Therefore, I plead to the Ministry of Planning that it should take these issues casually. When I raise this matter in West Bengal the State Government says that I should go to Delhi; when I raise this issue here, the Central Government says that I should contact the State Government. I am shuffling between Delhi and West Bengal and this situation is very disastrous to the future.

My next suggestion is that the Government should set up a Committee to understand their grievances and give a Report later. If any legislation is required, bring that legislation in the next Lok Sabha. I would like to know whether the Government can consider bringing it under article 371, like Vidarbha, Bastar and Kutchh to give special emphasis for the development initiatives by the Governor himself under his own discretion. My last point is this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is this your fourth point?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is my last point.

The Minister mentioned about BADP. Yes, funds have

been sanctioned under the BADP. Traditionally it goes to the border areas. In North Bengal, the BADP support is very marginal. I can give one instance. The Minister can check it up. If I am wrong, I say and I can file an affidavit before the Election Commission to the effect that I will not contest elections.

In a border area called Burra in Kadirganj in the Karandiganj P.S., lands of Indian cultivators have been encroached upon by the CPWD without encroaching the 'no man's land'. Bagladeshis are coming and taking all our harvest. Our cultivators are permitted to go for only three hours or four hours in a day with the permission of the BSF to cultivate part of their land and to come back like prisoners when the sun is set. I went to check it up. Tears rolled from my eyes. I am also an Indian. What punishment we are giving to our own people! It was done because of the foolishness of the CPWD and the BSF.

The cultivators of Kadirganj and Burrah, under the Karandighi P.S., are crying for one thing. They are saying "we are Indians and the Bangladeshis are taking our harvest." What can they do? These are the issues that are cropping up. Of course, the Darjœeling people's cry is that the Gorkha Hill Council Development Plan should be directly controlled by the Union Government and the Planning Commission. That is their ego. At least, they have not asked for separate State. Therefore, with all humility, I would like to address this issue to you to do the needful. Neither the S.P. Gupta Committee Report comprises anything nor the Research and Manpower Panel's Report has still got any financial support from the Planning Commission. If you do not do anything and when the flames will be there because of this, like the second Naxalite upsurge in North Bengal, even the CRPF or the Army or the public men cannot manage it. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to respond to the problem in a positive manner without shifting the responsibility to the State. The State also should not shift the responsibility to the Centre.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : Can I intervene for two minutes?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him reply.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : He may be given a chance...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the concern expressed by Shri Dasmunsi. Frankly speaking, I also share some of them.

We need not feel all that helplessness because steps have been taken. I will try to meet the points raised by him very shortly.

So far as flood control is concerned, the river Ganga enters Malda district of West Bengal from Rajmahal in Bihar and flows into Bangladesh near Jallangi Bazar in Murshidabad district. Heavy erosion along the left bank of the river Ganga in Malda district and along the right bank of Murshidabad district of West Bengal has been occurring due to the meandering nature of the river which has been active in different reaches at different periods of time depending upon the changing morphology. Erosion has also been reported at places in Nadia district and also along the banks of rivers Mahananda, Nagar and other tributaries in Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur districts.

As regards the problem of erosion, the Planning Commission, in 1996, had constituted an Expert Committee called the Keskar Committee which had suggested various short-term and long-term measures to be taken up by the State Government as well as by the Farakka Barrage Project Authority. The State Government have started execution of works recommended by the Expert Committee since 1997-98 and an expenditure of about Rs. 78.57 crore has been incurred in this regard.

The Government of India have recently set up another Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chairman, GFCC (Vashishta Committee)...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : May I just intervene for a minute? The hon. Minister belongs to Nadia district. Mr. Minister, will you admit that in spite of that, the erosion has not been managed?

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE : Yes, I can answer this. The position is this. Every time, we ask the Central Government to provide funds, funds are provided. But then they are not accounted for. I remember that when the hon. Prime Minister was there during the last elections, a point was raised. It was stated that the Central Government was not providing funds for dealing with the flood situation. It transpired that in the previous year about Rs. 60 crore had been provided but not accounted for. When the utilisation certificate comes, then only further funds can be released. Every year, crores of rupees are released but they are not accounted for. It is for the State Government to implement the schemes. It is for them to take measures to control the floods. The Central Government does provide funds. It is not that funds are

not being provided. Funds are being provided but they are not accounted for. That is the problem. Shri Dasmunsi knows much better than I do because he has been in politics much longer than I have been. He knows about it.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : That is not the fact. Funds are not provided adequately.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE : I am giving the facts and figures. If you want, I will provide you the figures.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Many a time, it was discussed.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE : As I was saying, so far as the flood management is concerned, a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme for taking up critical flood control and anti-erosion schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley—in the North Eastern States, including Sikkim and North Bengal—with an outlay of Rs. 166.68 crore has been taken up by the Central Government. The Teesta Canal Project was approved by the Planning Commission in the year 1975 with an outlay of Rs. 69.72 crore. The project was taken up for implementation in May, 1976...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What is the fate of it? The Project is yet to see the light of the day.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE : That has been started.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Of course, that has been started. It will be like the *Bhagirathi*. It will be like the Ganges to bring water...*(Interruptions)* Twenty years have passed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE : You cannot blame the Central Government for that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am not blaming the Central Government. I am only giving the facts.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE : That is what I am saying. If we persuade the State Government to take appropriate steps, that would help us. For instance, you have written two letters.

I have answered them and I have forwarded copies of those letters to the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal to kindly see that appropriate steps are taken for development of these areas.

In the Ninth Plan, the Ministry of Water Resources

started a Centrally-sponsored scheme called Critical Anti-Erosion Works in Ganga basin States with a funding pattern of 75 per cent and 25 per cent as Central and State shares for implementing flood control works. Then, in August, 1998, the Planning Commission released Rs. 30 crore as ACA to the Government of West Bengal to undertake some critical works in Malda and Mushidabad districts. The State Government has since utilised these funds. For the Annual Plan of 2003-04, the Planning Commission approved Rs. 30 crore as ACA. The State Government has allocated Rs. 20 crore out of this ACA for flood and erosion control work in the River Ganga.

Sir, I respectfully submit that so far as the Central Government is concerned, it is fully aware of its responsibilities. We are taking whatever steps are possible and the ultimate results lie in the hands of the State Government who have to implement the schemes and to appropriately utilise the funds which are being provided for flood control and other measures.

So far as the S.P. Gupta Committee is concerned, they have submitted a report, but it is under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What does that report state? Can you pass on the report to us?

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE : It can be made available. It is not a secret report. But so far as the report is concerned, the Government is yet to act upon it. It is being considered by the Government.

So far as the Rajbongshis are concerned, on the last day of the 13th Lok Sabha, I cannot possibly even give an assurance to the hon. Member on the other side because it is a serious matter. It has to be considered by the Government before any decision is taken, but I can say this much that the point is well taken and it should be considered. Beyond that, I cannot say anything more.

So far as invocation of article 371 is concerned, that is also not for me, at this stage on the last day of the Session, to make any commitment.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is the last day for us. You are in office. The Government is a continuous process.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE : Shri Dasmunsi you know very well that no policy decision can be

taken by the caretaker Government. So, you will appreciate that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : There is no term as 'Caretaker Government' in the Constitution of India, so far as the Union Government is concerned. He is very distinguish lawyer of the country. I salute him. But there is no term as 'Caretaker Government' with regard to Union Government. You have a right to even bring an Ordinance after tomorrow.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE : Sir, as I said, the points are well taken and I am sure that the measures that have been taken by the Central Government are adequate to meet the situation. We should persuade the State Government to take appropriate measures to look after these problems.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I fully share the feelings expressed by Shri Dasmunsi and also the Minister. This has been a very much neglected region, but not necessarily neglected because of any intention, but because of circumstances. I have served in that area for several years and I know that the biggest problem is the feeling of isolation suffered by the people. They feel that they do not belong to West Bengal and the people of Kolkata take no interest in them. Some time last year, the Government of India and the Government of China have agreed to the opening of the ancient trade route up to Tibet through Nathu La, Gangtok and Siliguri. We should cash in on it and then try to expedite the opening of it very soon. If that can happen, then naturally this route will become the main supply route to the Tibet region. Even in 1954, when the hydro-electricity plant in Lhasa was set up, the machinery came to the Calcutta Port and then went on the mule track. If this route can be opened, then there will be a lot of development in the North Bengal and I would strongly urge the Government to follow this.

Regarding Rajbongshis, I fully share the feeling expressed by Shri Dasmunsi that their language should be recognised and they should be given some cultural recognition also.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE : So far as the cultural aspect and their language are concerned, these have been taken into consideration in my statement. As I already said, the point is well taken. We also share the concerns of all the Members of Parliament from West Bengal that this area should be developed.

One other thing I would like to say is that in the Tenth

Plan, there is Volume-III. It is devoted entirely to the States because not only do we have imbalance among the different States but also within the States themselves. In different districts, there are different rates of growth. So, to take care of that, special attention has been given so that the grievances of the States are taken into consideration. A volume has been devoted to look after the interests of the various States.

[English]

Shri Mann wants to speak on a very important subject. Like that, one or two Members can make some submission so that if the Government wants to respond, they can do so. Now, is it the pleasure of the House that we can suspend it?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

14.41 hrs.

RE: SUSPENSION OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the house will take up the next item.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, I feel strongly that the discussion under Rule 193 may not get justice if you do not suspend "Private Members' Business".

Yesterday, we cooperated with the Government for suspending the Question Hour to facilitate a discussion on the Interim Budget. Today, the Speaker promised us in a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee to accommodate a discussion on an item belonging to the Opposition. It has been listed by the graciousness of the Speaker. Therefore, I feel that justice will be done to the debate if the Private Members' Business today is suspended.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I think, you are correct. If the House agrees, we may suspend the Private Members' Business.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Speaker had assured yesterday that today being the last day of the Lok Sabha Session, at least an hour's time would be kept during the Zero Hour for the members to raise the important points. As per the list of business this was calling attention after Question Hour. I feel that Zero Hour should be held as per the assurance made by Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We never decided for the Zero Hour.

14.42 hrs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION UNDER RULE 357

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Before that, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar wants to give personal explanation. It is item No. 30. Please be brief.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladutural) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the course of my intervention in the debate on the No-Confidence Motion on 19 August, 2003, the hon. Shri Kirti Jha Azad made a statement which I was unable to hear because of the din in the House. Subsequently, looking through the transcript of the day's proceedings, I was shocked to find that the hon. Shri Azad made the following assertion, which I quote. He said to me :

"Your brother who is an editor of The Economic Times has written that while studying in Cambridge University, you were collecting money for the Chinese when the 1962 Chinese aggression took place."

He went on to ask :

"Tell us whether what he wrote about you is correct or not?"

As I had not heard Shri Azad's question, I now seek the leave of the House to answer him.

First, I have never collected any money for the Chinese on any occasion.

Second, there is no question of my having collected money for the Chinese when the 1962 Chinese aggression took place.

Third, my brother, Swaminathan Ankeslesaria Aiyar, who is a consulting editor with The Economic Times, has never ever written anywhere that while studying at the

Cambridge University, I collected money for the Chinese when the 1962 Chinese aggression took place.

The house will agree with me that before baseless allegations impugning the integrity and patriotism of a fellow-Member are irresponsibly hurled on the sacred floor of this House, the least an honourable Member should do is to verify prima facie whether the source he is quoting has in fact anywhere made the statement cited.

I challenge hon. Shri Kirti Jha Azad to produce a single line written by my brother anywhere, which even tangentially suggests that I am a traitor to my beloved country. He categorically asserted that my brother had written this. I equally categorically reject the allegation. I have checked with my brother. Not only has my brother not written any such things, I have never betrayed my country, whether as a student at Cambridge or at any time before or at any time thereafter.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Member to withdraw the allegations made against me.

However, although Shri Kirti Jha Azad's name has been specifically mentioned in the Revised List of Business at Item No.30, he has not had the courtesy to turn up here to listen to what I have had to say. I do not know whether he is going to return to this House in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, before it closes in a few hours from now, to withdraw this allegation here. If he fails to put in an appearance here, I would appeal to the Chair to ensure that this baseless, defamatory, mischievous, utterly unacceptable statement made by him is expunged from the proceedings.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur) :
Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. I want to raise a very important issue regarding the Sikhs. We are about two-and-a-half crore-population spread out all over the world. We have adopted the sub-continental practice, tradition and custom of wearing the turban and it is a part of our dress code, and we are the only sub-continental people now of the Indian sub-continent that wear the turban as per the tenets of our religion.

There is a legislation being adopted by the French Legislature right now that a lot of people will lose wearing their religious symbols and the Sikh students will not be allowed to attend the public schools and Sikhs who are employed as Government servants will not be able to go

to the offices. This is highly discriminatory because the Sikhs have liberated France twice from the clutches of the Germans during the First World war and the Second World War while they wore the turbans. The British Imperial Government told the Sikhs that we will not be able to give you the pensions if you do not don the helmets'. The Sikh soldiers, who liberated France said, 'we will forego our pensions if we are hit in the head, but we will not wear the helmets and we will die, if providence wishes, with our turbans on.

The second important point that I want to raise, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, is that the Sikhs in the United States and the western world are being made objects of hate crime because they have the turbans and the westerners think that we are either Talibanis, Iraqis or Afghans, who have, to a certain extent, come on the hit list of the Americans and the western world. I myself in Austria was called 'Bin Laden'.

We all want the Government of India to make a representation strongly with the French Government that Sikhs should not be deprived of their right, which is culturally, traditionally and religiously correct for them. I also want the Government of India to publicise in the western media, in the print media and the electronic media, and say that the Sikhs are not Talibanis, Iraqis or Arabs.

They are distinct people of the sub-continent and are completely different kettle of fish so that we do not become targets of hate crime and we are saved from this wave that is going around the Western countries that the Sikhs are either Talibanis or Arabs or Iraqis and we are being deprived of our right to wear the turbans in France. I want a strong rejoinder, diplomatic rejoinder by the Government of India to be given to the French Government and a media campaign launched in the Western Press stating that the Sikhs are not Arabs, Talibanis or Afghans.

Thank you very much Mr. Deputy Speaker. I have the great honour to thank you on the last day for allowing me to express the pain of almost 2½ crore of Sikhs living across the world. Thank you very much.

14.51 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(I) Re: Alleged atrocities and discrimination against handicapped Dalits of IAS and IRS Services

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir, I, first of all, support Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann. The issue he has raised is of national interest. The Government should pay attention to it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw Government's attention towards another very important issue. The prevalent rule in the Union Public Service Commission has been that if a physically disabled passes examination, and also obtains a medical certificate, then desired post and desired rank is given. I am happy that at present so many such officers are in service in the country. A few names of such officers are Shri Ajay Prasad, who is working as Secretary, at present, in the M/o Defence; Shri R. Ramani, Secretary U.P. Government, Shri Aziz Ahmed, Joint Secretary the Assam Government; Shri Rangarao, SDM in U.P.; Shri Sanjay Lal Sahgal and Shri Sonal Misra etc. This is good. However, the matter of concern is that this policy has not been adopted in the case of the candidates of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 2003. In the UPSC examination conducted in 2003 Shri Rigzian Sempel who belonged to Scheduled tribe, got second rank in written examination and was eligible for IAS and was medically also found fit; the other candidate was Shri Lokesh Kumar D.S., a Scheduled Caste candidate, was also eligible for IAS and another Shri M. Satish, also from Scheduled Caste were selected but two out of these three were allotted Indian Information Service in place of IAS and third was not given any post. I feel this is injustice against the Dalits. I think injustice has been meted out to handicapped people. They have written to the Hon. Prime Minister. A reply has been received and the hon. Minister has also stated that Medical Board may be set up again in this regard but still justice has not been done to them in this matter. All these three deserve to be in that service because apart from physically disabled are not debarred from joining any other service. When so many other categories of persons are working, why these Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being meted out injustice. I think, this is not fair, the Government should pay attention this regard. I, therefore, urge upon the Government that justice may be done to these people.

14.53 hrs.

(II) Re: Reported demolition of Ravidas Temple in Hastinapur, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Thirdly, I would like to draw the attention towards the injustice to people belonging

to Scheduled Castes. In Meerut, there is a village called Hastinapur. Since 19 January people belonging to Scheduled Caste category are protesting in Hastinapur. There, the Forest Department has demolished a Ravidas temple. People are quite agitated. Time and again I have been persistently raising the issue of demolition of Ravidas Temples and Bodh Vihars in a planned manner. The Government should pay attention to this because it is the constitutional right of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and both the Central and the State Governments are answerable. Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to these two points. In near future the Parliament is going to be dissolved.

The hon'ble Minister would not be able to respond in the Parliament but the hon. Minister can give direction that necessary action must be taken. Is there no hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs? For our satisfaction sake, the hon'ble Minister may kindly make a statement in the House that the concerned hon. Minister would take necessary action. At least, you must respond.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Necessary Action will be definitely taken in this regard.

14.56 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Plight of Farmers, Youth and Working Class both in the Organised and Unorganised Sectors

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up item No. 32—Discussion under Rule 193.

Shri Tarit Baran Topdar.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORÉ) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir today is the last day of the 13th Lok Sabha. It was expected that when the Government have placed the Interim Budget, they should have come with the balance sheet of what has been done, what has not been done and what could be done. They have placed the Interim Budget beyond their limit. They have made an

economic statement beyond their limit without placing the Economic Survey before placing the Budget. They did not allow the Parliament and the country to know what to their understanding is the condition of the economy of the people at large, the working class, the peasantry and the youth.

14.57 hrs.

(SHRI P. H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, they have denied the country to know all about this. Therefore, on the last day of this Parliament, I rise here to point out before the House and the country at large that this Government has plundered the economy. As a result, crores of people, crores of youth have become unemployed, lakhs of workers have lost their jobs and lakhs workers are not getting their statutory dues.

Sir, only yesterday, our esteemed colleague, Shri Basu Deb Acharia was making points on this issue. The balance sheet of the WTO regime and the balance sheet of surrender before the United States reveal that we have brought down our subsidy in agriculture. America has given bonus points on agricultural subsidy. Japan is paying 72.5 per cent subsidy in agricultural sector. But we have reduced it, almost to zero, and both direct and indirect in all it will be three per cent. Under this grim situation, we are discussing about the plight of the workers, both in the organised and unorganised, the peasantry and the youth.

15.00 hrs.

This is a class-divided society. I and the like minded persons, such as my colleagues, do believe that in this class-divided society, the Government representing the traders, representing the big capitalists, representing and holding the brief of the multinationals will do little to the people in the course of serving their bosses. That is what has happened. In doing so, not crores of rupees but thousands of crores of rupees have been misappropriated by the bureaucrats, their political bosses and their henchmen. Therefore, the situation has become all the more grim.

[*Translation*]

As there is not much to say, I would like to discuss 2-3 things in this regard. They have surrendered before United States which represents only 10-15 per cent people. There are certain societies who employ 80 per cent people in the service of rest 20 per cent who have all the resources. It is his philosophy.

[*English*]

You are all out to do for 20 per cent and remaining 80 per cent will serve them. In this way you will generate employment. This is your philosophy.

[*Translation*]

20 per cent people will be served by 80 per cent. Is it ever possible? No, it can never be. Therefore, my submission is that they have not fulfilled a single promise whereas they daily carry out advertisement in the news paper... (*Interruptions*) It is public money and they are spending it for election canvassing. They are spending lakhs and crores of rupees on advertisements whereas they have not fulfilled even a single promise. See, 40 per cent of small scale industries have been closed then how they would generate employment? All these industries will be closed as influx of overseas capital has disturbed small scale industries and it the present Government who have done all this. Now there is no sector without foreign funding or foreign investment. Thus small-scale industries could not generate any employment. Not only this, even availability of existing employment will come to naught. Big industries also will meet same fate.

NJMC has six mills, why NJMC was created? NJMC was created just to protect employment. Six jute mills were nationalised to protect employment. Now machines have been rendered workless and employment has been reduced. The Government are contemplating to discharge left over employees through closure and mills are being run on contract basis.

[*English*]

Next step will be closure. Gradually, the Government has reduced employment instead of protecting employment. Ultimately, it is going to close it down.

[*Translation*]

They are being removed. Today, about 4 crore unemployed people have registered their names with the employment exchanges in the country. Infact, the number is around 20 crore. In rural areas, people do not get themselves registered in employment exchanges. If women are also included, this figures touches 20 crore. The number of registered unemployed persons is more than 4 crores. This is the condition in the country, whereas they had promised that they would create one crore employment opportunities each year. False promises were made.

[Shri Tarit Baran Topdar]

[English]

Incorrect and misleading statements are given that indirect employment has been generated. Where it has been generated? Large number of people were forced to go on compulsory retirement and not VRS. It is not voluntary retirement but it is compulsory retirement. Many people have been retired but have equal number of persons been employed?

[Translation]

Hon. President in his address stated that the Government would create corruption-free India. It is ridiculous. They want to create corruption free India. Involvement of the Government in several scams shows whether corruption is decreasing or increasing. I would like to say that

[English]

the curse of unemployment is one of the grave aspects of the whole problem. Today, more than 18 crore young men and women are said to be unemployed. I am at a loss to understand how they can contribute to the nation's regeneration when the President of India has asked for the youths to participate in the nation's regeneration.

[Translation]

Almost 18 crore people are unemployed. Over four crore people are registered with the employment exchanges. The stand taken by the Government in haste on quantitative restrictions is going to harm our farming community. Consequent upon hasty decision both the industry and agriculture are suffering. Cotton growers are in pitiable condition.

[English]

Jute growers are suffering. It has been referred to just now in the Calling Attention Motion.

[Translation]

Minimum support Price is also not fixed on scientific basis. Most serious thing is that

[English]

You see the curve of investment in agriculture sector—whether the investment in the agriculture sector is on the rise or on the decline. It is declining steeply in the last five years.

[Translation]

The rate of interest has been lowered for big industrialists. You can pay 6 per cent for buying a car but a farmer has to pay 12-14 per cent interest on agriculture loan. But if you want to purchase a car, you can get it at six per cent. Who is being given incentive? Interest rate for depositors has been lowered but it still remains high in agriculture sector and some other sectors where loan facilities are available for the poor.

[English]

It was 18 per cent and now it is 14 per cent. But for the purchase of a car it is six per cent...*(Interruptions)* In the case of housing it is 7 per cent.

[Translation]

The Government are protecting the interest of big industrialists. We had supported the Government openly on the issue of nationalisation of banks. There were several contradictions with Indira ji and the Congress, yet we supported nationalisation of banks but with one warning.

[English]

We support the Bank Nationalisation. A lot of friends on that side were against it.

[Translation]

One sort of alliance was formed.

[English]

Many people on that side were against it. But we did support the Nationalisation of Banks but with a caution that the Government should not deprive the poorer sections and impoverish sections. The agricultural sector should not deny them all the facilities and all the advantages of banking facilities. Now, they can avail of all the banking facilities. But there are so many hurdles. If somebody can cross these hurdles then they will have to pay more than what the rich people pay.

[Translation]

How much is total NDA in case of agriculture sector, industrial sector and big capitalists? And who is responsible for it. Who are those defaulters and what steps the Government are taken to arrest them? Has the Government taken a single step in this direction during last five years?

[English]

You just cite one example of your having taken a step except that the banks will be able to directly seize the property, without the help of the court. That will not take care of the problem of NPAs. That will never take care of this problem of NPAs. The problem of NPAs has to be addressed with a political will to do that. Who will do that? If the people responsible for NPAs are running this Government and are behind this Government, then how can the problem of NPAs be resolved in the interest of the country?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Maylladutural) : It is not NDA Government; it is NPL Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Yes, it is the NPL Government. It is a non-performing Government. Nobody could feel that there was a Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : It is NPL Government because they are non-performing liability and not an asset.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : The only asset is your leader.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Well said, Dr. Sahib Singh Verma. This is one word of truth from you in this whole Session.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Specially for you.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Can you give an account of what you have done for irrigation? Can you give an account of what you have done for manures and fertilizers except closing down the Indian fertiliser factories. What do you say? I do not find any reason why factories manufacturing ammonium, phosphatic and other fertilizers and urea have been closed down. I do not know what is the ingredient that is necessary for manufacturing urea. Is that ingredient not available in our country? Urea is composed of oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen and nothing else. It is composed of oxygen, nitrogen and carbon which can be obtained from various sources which are indigenously available almost in all the countries of the world, not to speak of our country only. That urea is being imported. Our fertiliser factories are being closed down and even after closing down these factories, they will boast of fulfilling their responsibility.

You just see the condition of people living in the slums. Sixty per cent of the urban population who live in

slums in our country do not get enough employment. You should go and see what the people living in the slums are doing. Their food to eat is not shining at all. You say that India is shining, but 60 per cent of the population living in slums do not get employment and do not get food.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Sir, in West Bengal, most of the organised sector has been disorganised by the Communist friends...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : I have cited an example of Jessop. Who has disorganised it? Who has done it?...*(Interruptions)* After nationalisation, Mundras have done it. Then, Mundras are behind this Government to plunder with the help of this Government...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contal) : It should not have been taken over by the Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Now, you are saying that it should not have been taken over by the Government. Now, you are establishing a new theory.

Then, NJMC has been disorganised and totally dismantled. Who has done this? Are you not responsible for that?...*(Interruptions)* Do not cite the example of West Bengal. There is not a single State...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to speak, you may also speak. After him, I will give time to you also to speak.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : There is not a single State that is shining without the help of the Central investments. The States that thriving are thriving because of central investments. West Bengal has been denied Central investment for a long time. I do not want to go into that point, and let us leave it aside.

This issue is regarding 80 per cent of the rural population. They are impoverished, undernourished, and most of them do not get employment throughout the year. Are they shining? Are they feeling good? According to you they are also feeling good, yes, 10 per cent of the people are feeling good, and above them, the political bosses and bureaucrats are feeling good. They are feeling very good because of the things that have happened to this economy. Similarly, 80 per cent people cannot get work and food to achieve the minimum nutrition that is required.

I will give one statistical figure. The FAO has given—to be very precise and before you came—that between 1950-51 and 1997-98—the annual foodgrains absorption per head of population rose from 150 kg. to 175 kg. Since

[Shri Tarit Baran Topdar]

the last 50 years till 1998, the consumption of foodgrains increased by 25 kg., namely from 150 kg. to 175 kg. By 2000-01, before the drought, it had fallen to 151 kg. and in the current year, namely in 2003-2004, it is likely to be at the same level.

The average Indian family is absorbing nearly 100 kg annually. It is less of foodgrains today than they were having years ago. This is a dangerous situation that has been described not by us, but by an authoritative organisation. There has been a phenomenal drop, an unprecedented drop, which has never before been seen in the entire last century.

[Translation]

A similar situation arose during second World War.

[English]

or in 1943, when there was a great famine. Similar symptoms are found now-a-days. Only within a span of five years such a drop in the consumption of foodgrains is seen. How could you do it? I just fail to understand it. How could you allow it to happen?

[Translation]

It should have been at least at 175

[English]

Had it been 175 kg. consumption, it would have been all right, But,

[Translation]

It has been lowered. FCI exported subsidised wheat as a cattle feed whereas people in India are dying of hunger.

[English]

Subsidised foodgrains are being sent to foreign countries.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions) whether there is not a single case of starvation death? Even cases of suicides are not there? How many cases of suicide have come to light in Andhra Pradesh? How many farmers have committed suicide in Hindustan?...(Interruptions)

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala) : There is no starvation death...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. M. V. V. S. MURTHI (Vishakhapatnam) : They did not occur because of hunger. The reasons were different. You can blame the debt trap for that. Do not say that it all happened because of lack of food.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : They say these deaths are not as a result of hunger but have been the victims of naxalities. You should understand that

[English]

how are they feeling good? Rome is burning while these Neros are singing.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : What is your stand?

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :- We are with them. We are with public. Today NDA Government has created horrible situation in the country. I do not blame NDA Government. BJP Government has created such situation. NDA Government is not responsible for it.

[English]

It is only the Prime Minister who is working. No Minister is working.

[Translation]

Nationalisation has been done through legislation. Adequate legislation has to be made for denationalising it. they do not believe in law.

[English]

I do not say that what the Supreme Court has said is inadequate. But more has to be said by the Supreme Court. At the time of making those legislations, disinvestment was not on the agenda. When this new phenomenon of disinvestment has come into being, let us discuss the issue so that adequate legislation can be made for either facilitation or stalling of disinvestment. Let the country decide it. Let the Parliament decide it. Parliament had decided and taken over those entities. Now, by referring to a certain speech of a certain Minister the whole thing is sought to be disinvested and the whole thing is going

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to be handed over to the private sector. In our parliamentary democracy, parliamentary sense dictates me to say that it is not proper. It is an impropriety that has been committed by this Government so long.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Topdar, you have already taken 35 minutes.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, I conclude by saying that rule of law, sense of democracy, adherence to parliamentary practices, parliamentary democracy, sense of parliamentary traditions—all these have been brushed aside, have been trampled upon.

15.29 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

At the dictates of the United States they have surrendered not only in the economic sector but also in the foreign policy sector also, which I am not going to deal with today. As a result of that the minimum growth required could not be achieved. Talking about the foreign currency reserves, it is an absolute hoax. What is the amount of interest you are giving for that purpose?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Kalyan ji is with Rajnath Singh but they could not do anything for the welfare of the country.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : It is right that they have benefited from being in the power but welfare of the country could not be done by it. How much cash has to be given for foreign currency reserve? Whose money is this? Whether it is the Government's money? Whether it is your money? I would like to say that it has nothing to do with workers, peasants, unemployed youths, capital market and fluctuation in the share market.

[*English*]

Therefore, the Government which is trying to hoodwink the Parliament and the country should go immediately; and that is destined to go in the coming elections!

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) : Thank you, Sir. After hearing Shri Topdar, I was just thinking, rather ruminating, to find out as to how West Bengal has been fairing in different aspects of workers, both organised and unorganised.

Going through the Indian Labour Statistics, I

immediately got the papers to find out as to what type of work is being done in West Bengal. To my dismay, I did not find any Statistics about the wages, compared to other States. You would be nearly astonished to find this out...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANIL BASU : You go through the UNDP Report...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANADI SAHU : I am coming to that.

In Kerala, a daily labour in agriculture is getting something like Rs. 200, whereas in West Bengal, it is something like Rs. 60 only...(*Interruptions*) Please do not disturb me. I did not disturb you. Please listen to me...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Only the farmers of Bengal have progressed and Central Government have worked against labourers...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANADI SAHU : That is the impression which the Leftist group is giving...(*Interruptions*) They are allowing us to speak on this issue...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Please bear with me. I will also come to some good points of yours.

The organised and the unorganised sectors have been receiving adequate attention from the Government of India and from other State Governments also, but is not adequate. I would like to invite your attention to the facts relating to the organised sector. In the organised sector, the most important one is industry...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, I have left aside that issue. If the regional disparities are to be stated here, then, I am prepared to contest it...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Nothing should go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

*Not Recorded.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Sir, I have the right to say that. Why is he creating problems for me.

In the Industrial sector, there is a necessity of having good standing orders to evolve certain principles as to how labourers should be given wages and how other things should be done etc.

I would give the statistics about West Bengal. In West Bengal, 322 standing order issues are pending for years together. In the organised sector how can he say that we are doing all those things? It is absolutely mandatory that there should be standing orders for different things.

I will come to the organised sector. So far as the organised sector is concerned, it is the concern of the Government as to how they should be regulated and how they should get better amenities, etc. I am not going into the organised sector itself, but I will give a point to say that the din and bustle that is created is absolutely hollow.

I will come to the unorganised sector. So far as the unorganised sector is concerned, the most important is the agriculture sector. I am supporting some of your views; so, please do not go out, Shri Topdar. Please do not go out.

[Translation]

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (Nominated) : It has become their habit, they speak and leave.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You both are speaking at a time, you please sit down. Your party's hon. Member Shri Sahu is speaking.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Sir, I had fished out certain information about the state of affairs in agriculture. The most-not-looked after or I would say the most neglected part in the unorganised sector is agriculture sector. I have found out that in the rural household, 55.1 million people are working in the agriculture sector in different places.

Many of them are working in the agricultural sector and a very few are working in the non-agricultural sector in the rural areas. Those who are working in the agricultural sector, I would say, get a mere pittance as daily wages.

As I go through the statistic, I find that sowing and ploughing are two different matters to be taken up in the agricultural sector. So far as ploughing is concerned,

in many of the States, wages given are good but so far as sowing is concerned wages are very limited. They work for the same eight to ten hours but different types of wages have been indicated. It is the duty of the State Governments to ensure that whosoever goes for the work, whether for ploughing or sowing, should get the same wages. It is also applicable to West Bengal, Orissa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh or to all the States in the country. Here, when we are thinking of the unorganised sector, we must think of the agricultural workers to ensure that the male and female workers get the same wages and they get all the benefits that are required.

You would kindly appreciate that recently the Government of India has taken up the matter of unorganised sector and as to how the unorganised sector should be adequately protected and how social welfare measures should be given to them in different ways. The most important one is, the Social Security Scheme for agricultural workers. In 2001, the *Krishi Shramik Suraksha Yojana* was introduced and it has been working in a very beautiful manner in this country. The only thing is, some of the friends who do not look at the brighter aspect of the things are trying to take a very dim view of the matter. That is deplorable. We must ensure that in our country the agricultural workers who are in the unorganised sector should be slowly brought to the organised sector.

The per-capita income has been increasing and if we want a better status for the agricultural people, they must get better wages and better facilities. The divide between the rural and urban people should go. The hon. President of India in his speech on the eve of the Republic Day had indicated about the vision 2020. Therein, a provision as to how differences between the urban and the rural people should be closed or brought down, has been made so that the people in the rural areas mostly working in the unorganised sector get better wages and better facilities.

It is good that we are discussing this matter under Rule 193 but there are many things to be done. All the State Governments have to do it. The Central Government alone cannot do it. It is the State Government who has to come forward with different legislation and projects and the Labour Welfare Department should work properly. Here, I would like to say that whenever we are thinking of giving compensation for an injury or any such thing, the funds, that are being sent from the Government of India are not reaching the people who have to get it. It is for the State Governments to ensure that whenever funds are sent to the State Governments from the Central Government, they are adequately distributed.

These are the things which I thought I should speak here. Since my friend has gone, there is no necessity to speak on West Bengal and I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, I do not want to give any figures in my speech. All these figures are available in Five-Year Plans, Economic Survey of India and the reports given by the Government. I do not want to quote anyone, I would like to express my own views only. On the last day of the thirteenth Lok Sabha, we have not assembled here to criticise each-other. We are being asked as to what had been our performance in the past and it is also said that the work which is done by this Government in the five years has not been done by earlier Governments in the last fifty years.

I would like to tell what we are saying is right or wrong. I would also like to highlight the mistakes committed during our time and the mistakes made by this Government. I would like to tell what steps my party purpose to take in future of swept back to power.

I wish that Government would reply to the points raised by us. I feel that various honourable Members would like to speak and there could be various issues so there could be shortage of time but Government should at least reply to important issues and should tell about its policy in regard to these issues.

Today we are discussing about the condition of farmers, labourer and youth in our country. First of all we will discuss about farmers. We say that ours is a agriculture country. 70 per cent people of our country are dependent on agriculture so we could easily understand the importance of agriculture and farmers in our country. Maximum people of our country live in rural areas. More that 70 per cent live in rural areas and they all depend upon agriculture. Our country could not progress unless development of agriculture sector is taken into consideration. Development of India means development of people living in rural areas. Development of India means development of agriculture and development of people engaged in agriculture. We can believe in this equation. What does it need? It needs motivation. It needs first hand information about the condition of the people whose livelihood is dependent upon agriculture. There is a need to understand their plight to look on their condition and extend liberal support. If some one says that they are surviving without complaining as has been the case

for thousands years, so it should continue, then this shows that intention of the person or that Government is not good.

Whether it is not true that under congress rule Agriculture was on top of the agenda in First Five Year Plan. Whether it is not true that reservoirs like Bhakra Nangal were set up and irrigation facilities were created. Whether it is not true that Smt. Indira Gandhi took steps to make our country self sufficient in food grains. We had to import foodgrains when our population was not even thirty crores and today we do not need to import. We have so much food stock that it is rotting but the same are not being utilised. Whether it is not true that all the Agricultural Universities were set up under congress rule. Whether it is not true that new seeds were distributed under congress rule?

Sir, whether it is not true that modern fertilisers and insecticides were given to farmers under congress regime? Whether it is not true that farmers got more loans after the nationalisation of banks? Earlier 200 crores were advanced to farmers as loan but after the bank nationalisation, farmers were disbursed Rs. 80,000 crores as loan. It is a big amount. This would not have not happened if banks had not been nationalised. This indicates the intention of the earlier Governments for the development of agro industries. The claim that what they did in five years, other could not do in 50 years, can not be justified. This should be verified.

Sir, it is unfortunate that whenever any Government comes to power, it says that there have been no agricultural policy in the country. If there were no policy on Agriculture, there would have been no land tenancy law and land ceiling law and laboureres and farmers would not have been made the owners of land. If had there been no Agricultural policy we would have had not provided irrigation facilities and more steps would have not been taken, which I have stated earlier.

Sir, just one or two days before, expiry of term of Ninth Lok Sabha, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, as a Prime Minister had announced a Agriculture Policy for this country in this very House in the same manner. But the Minister of Agriculture of Government that followed him said that as there had been no Agriculture Policy of the Government, so far he could not do anything. I felt very sorry to hear this that the Agriculture Minister was himself admitting that there was no such policy as Agriculture Policy. I am not exposing him. I do not want to defame

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

him but when a Minister of Agriculture himself thinks that our country has no Agriculture Policy, how such Minister can promote agriculture? Afterward he formulated an Agriculture Policy which was approximately same as envisaged by Shri Rajiv Gandhi. However, some minor changes were definitely made in the policy. Whatever Shri Rajiv Gandhi said about computer, there was little exaggeration in it and whatever was said about Genetic Engineering, was the same thing presented in other words with little bit alteration.

Sir, my second point to promote agriculture. It is an important thing that intentions are made clear alongwith the policy and it is wisely implemented. If old policy become redundant. I do not say that you should stick to it. If it requires changes you should make the same. If you do so, we will welcome that step, but to say that no Agriculture Policy had been formulated during the last 50 years and only you people made it, is not a correct judgment. This has not been told by the present Government which was completed its five years term but by the Government that preceded it. I am telling about that only.

Sir, my third point is that once Agriculture Policy has been formulated there is a need to implement it. I do agree that implementation of the Agriculture Policy rests with Union Government's responsibility but the onus lies on State Government's too. In order to implement the policy, Central Government should make a plan for arranging funds and implement it with the assistance from State Governments. I would like to know whether previous Government tried for coordination and cooperation in this regard or not. I know well that when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was in power. She called a meeting of officials and asked them to make country self sufficient with regard to foodgrains. Officials replied that they had no magic wand to make country self sufficient within three years.

Sir, once officials replied in such a manner that they did not have the magic wand to make country self sufficient within three years, then she did not stop. She told them that she would get the job done with the help of those, who know the magic. Immediately she called a meeting of all Chief Ministers of the country and discussed with them about the steps to be taken to implement such a policy. She made efforts in this regard. I know all that. Shri Basant Rao Naik was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra then. He went there from Delhi and announced that he would make Maharashtra self

sufficient with regard to foodgrains within three years. He said that if failed to do so, hang him on a near by light pole. Chief Minister was imbibed with that kind of feeling in those days. It is a separate issue that the whole country alongwith Maharashtra could not become self sufficient with regard to foodgrain in the three years and it took 4 to 5 years to achieve that. I know that opposition at that time used to ask us about the poll on which the Chief Minister was to be hanged. I am raising this point because it is necessary for this Government to act according to the policy formulated after deliberations with Chief Minister and take steps accordingly in the Five year Plan. It is unfortunate we have neither said in the newspapers nor heard about any such step taken by the Government. If you have done so, please let us know, we will concede to it. If it is not done, tell us the reasons for same. Perhaps you are going to say that whatever you have done was not enough to enhance rate of agriculture growth. I am talking about rate of agricultural growth and not about production. Our agriculture rate of growth has decreased. If there is good monsoon, agricultural rate of growth increased marginally, if it was bad monsoon in some year, agricultural rate of growth decreased. Likewise it continues little up for one year and little down another year. But if the rate of growth is decreased then you criticize us and if rate of growth is increased then you yourself take the credit; this is not fair. Agricultural rate of growth matters a lot and it is necessary to think over it.

Sir, I would like to say that we should seriously contemplate as to what steps we should take to enhance agricultural growth in the country in future. I would like to emphasize that power is important to agriculture as it is for industry. Agriculture in private sector and rural populace receives 15 to 20 per cent electricity and not more than that. It is necessary to take steps to provide them more electricity. It is necessary to enhance power generation. Congress has done so, but not this Government. I am saying it seriously that you fixed the target to generate 48000 MW electricity during 9th Five Year Plan which you could not achieve so you reduced it to 28 thousand Megawatt. Afterwards it was further reduced to 20 thousand Megawatt in the 9th Five Year Plan itself but you could generate hardly 18 thousand Megawatt. Let me know if you owe this responsibility or not? I am not presenting this data from my side but it is from your assessment of five year plan. My point is that it is necessary to provide electricity.

Sir, my next point is to facilitate the system of

irrigation. We will have to save water drop by drop and make use of it. The biggest thing is that reservoirs for irrigation have ceased to be constructed. We have become 12 crores from 2 crore but much requires to be done for the rate of construction for irrigation system. Central Government has to fix target above that.

I know that minor and medium irrigation reservoirs are constructed from State Government side but the major irrigation project can not be started without your permission. You have to provide money for that in the five year plan. I feel sorry to find out that fund allocation for irrigation is decreasing year by year in the five year plans. The fund allocation required for irrigation system is decreasing. If our population is increasing, use of water is increasing and expenditure on irrigation is decreasing then who will be affected? Our agriculture sector will be affected definitely.

It is also important to arrange new seeds. I do not want to talk more about it. I only want to tell that today you have genetic Engineering, you spend on it. The amount you spending on Genetic Engineering and Genetic technology is not enough. You ought to spend more to get new kind of seed through Genetic Engineering branches of Agriculture Universities and National Laboratories. This is not an easy job because once seed is made, it is not delivered to farmers immediately, it is checked for ill effects also, it is put under observation for some time, it is also necessary to observe it.

My third point is regarding loan. We are giving 80 thousand crores of rupees as loan to agriculture sector which constitute 70 per cent of our economy whereas remaining 20-25 per cent people are getting Rs. 7 to 8 lakh crore as loan. It is necessary to remove this imbalance. The government had decided to spend 40 per cent of the loan in villages and 18 per cent on agriculture. But, it is unfortunate that the allocated money was not spent. The Finance Minister has admitted it yesterday. I know it very well that the Finance Committee has also given its report on this matter. I have studied it deeply. The private banks were instructed to provide 40 per cent of their loans to the villages and 18 per cent to the agriculture. But they did not do it. It was the direction by the Government. When the government became aware of the fact, it asked the banks to clarify its reasons. The banks told that they were unable to provide loans as they did not have their branches in all rural areas. You may give directions but they will give their own plea for not following the instructions. What will you do in that case? You cannot close their banks. You cannot start

court proceedings against them and you can not punish them.

The earlier governments had decided to provide 40 per cent of the loan to NABARD and to provide the loan to agricultural sector through NABARD. But, that 40 per cent loan was not provided and 18 per cent of the loan was not allotted to agricultural sector even when the matter was assigned to NABARD. The private banks provided loans upto 7 per cent only and the Government sector banks provided loans upto 14-15 per cent. What are you doing now? You are going to privatize the public sector banks in the name of liberalization. But, I want to say it with emphasis that in that situation. The proportion of loan to agricultural sector will undergo a drastic change. The powers which you intend to delegate them will not be used. You too will lose your authority. At present you control the banks in public sector. But, there are speculations that you are going to reduce your share from 51 per cent to 35 per cent.

16.00 hrs.

It is true that you have not done. But, it should not be done in future. We will not do it if we are returned to power but it will be decided by the election. I want to say that it should not take place.

The issue of providing and getting loan is a serious one. It is generally understood that no money is needed for agriculture and the crop grows just by throwing away the seeds in farms. They do not think that the plants have their own life and they need nutrients to sustain their development. They are reluctant to provide loan because they do not think it as serious issue. While making arrangements for loan, you have said that for agriculture, loan below the rate of interest of 9 per cent will be maintained. But, who is going to pay attention to your instructions? What will you do when someone disobey you? You promised it at the time of elections. When the public sector and private sector banks have disobeyed your instructions about providing 18 per cent loan and 40 per cent loan respectively, then who is going to pay attention to the instructions for keeping the rate of interest at 9 per cent? They will not give loan to those persons who want small loans upto one or two lac. They will charge 9 per cent rate of interest from those persons who take loan ranging from 5 to 10 crore. These banks say that they will have to make much expenses for recovery of small loans so it is not possible to give loans at 9 per cent rate of interest. I warn that this policy

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

is not beneficial for you. If you want to implement this policy in real sense, you must have some powers to execute your announcements.

At present, the farmers face a lot of problems. You know that many of the Members here belong to the family of farmers. There is not a single family of farmer who has become rich due to his land holding. A land holder can be rich only if he has doctors, lawyers, engineers, industrialists or money-lenders in his family. Otherwise, a farmer cannot be rich because of his farmer's profession. I do not plead to make all of them rich but they must have modest means of living. For this, we must provide remunerative prices for their produce. Every year, the Government increases remunerative support price for various foodgrains by 5 to 10 per cent. But, on the other hand, a motor which used to cost 10 thousand rupees in the past, now costs 10 lac rupees. The prices of foodgrains should be increased in that proportion. But, you have to look after the interests of consumers of foodgrains also. So, there should be a mechanism in which the farmer gets remunerative prices for his crops and the buyers get the foodgrains at lower prices. The idea of providing food subsidy is conceived only for that purpose. But, in the age of liberalization, the records provided by you say that last year you have reduced food-subsidy by 2500 crore rupees. The population is increasing the demand for foodgrains is increasing and the prices are increasing, but you have drastically reduced the food subsidy. Now, you want to reduce the tax liability of other people by making reduction in foodgrains subsidy. That policy is wrong. Perhaps these issues are raised but not heard in Cabinet meetings and the most unfortunate thing is that these kinds of serious issues are not discussed in Parliament. These are not discussed even in newspapers and media. The always demand to reduce food subsidy.

The discussion takes place to reduce interest on pension but there is no one to talk about providing remunerative prices and wages to those poor people who have neither shop nor any other means of livelihood. It is very necessary to pay attention to their plight. I am going to tell about the works done by Congress and about those works which have not been done by you. In my opinion, you have sympathy for the rural agriculturists. You have no sympathy for those persons whose earning goes in crores and who can compel you to do anything. You do not have sympathy for those and it is because of this that you care for only 8-10 per cent people and pay no attention to the plight of 70

per cent people. You do not want to antagonize that small section but you must care for those 70 per cent people who are living in grave misery. I know that it is a very serious issue which cannot be solved easily in five years. You will be given time to solve the problems just like us but unless your intentions and policies are right, the plight of the poor farmers will continue to deteriorate.

In the near future, the effects of 'feel good factor' on farmers will be discussed. The farmers do not get remunerative prices for sugarcane; the textile industry as well as oil industry does not function; there is no agro-based industry; they do not get drinking water and adequate water for their crops. They get neither loan nor remunerative prices for their produce. What kind of 'feel good factor' is this? All this can be seen in advertisement but not in the hearts and minds of farmers living in villages. This is the thing, which I want to tell you. If you seem to have such assumption, we cannot change that. But I would like to tell you again and again that feel good factor does not exist in the mind of an average man living in villages.

Thereafter, let's talk about workers, labourers. I am pleased that the hon. Minister is present here. I got an opportunity to discuss it with him. However, I did not get an opportunity to discuss it with the Minister of Agriculture. I do not think that he would not have any affinity for the farmers. He knows it but he is helpless, his Government is helpless. At the same time, I would like to say that it is your fault, it is the fault of your Government. I would like to say this only about the Minister of Labour. I know that he has affinity towards farmers. A discussion was held here. I think that I was held on reducing the interest rate on provident fund or pension. At that time, we strongly protested the reduction of interest rate. Tell us how much revenue have enhanced by reducing one per cent interest rate on the hard-earned money of the people which they have deposited with you. Tell us how much revenue you have added by reducing one or one and half per cent interest rate on the pension of labour. Tell us how much revenue you have added by reducing one or one and half per cent interest rate on the pension of a labourer who is hungry and who works for day and night, who does not take even a square meal a day. Whose children are deprived of medicine and education. It is nothing. Perhaps, even you did not want that. But it is your helplessness. We have sympathy with you. Whatever the people are doing, we have sympathy for them also but I would like to say this also that there are some people who want to get it done. If that has not happened its right and if it has already

happened then it's wrong. Do not allow that to happen. We want to say this only to you. Here, about workers...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what is the total time allotted for this discussion?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is his Party's time. Two hours have been allotted. There is only one speaker from his party.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : If two hours have been allotted for discussion, does it mean that others will not get an opportunity to speak?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is speaking within his own time limit. The business of Private Members Bill has been suspended. On the basis of the strength of a party, time has been allotted to all parties proportionally.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Should we think that the time allotted to all other parties is over?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : I fail to understand, why the hon. Member is getting upset whereas I have started discussion after seeking permission from the Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But the Chair has not interrupted during your speech. Please take your time.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I would like to thank you. But at the same time I would like to tell hon'ble Members that had I made an argument, or debate or abused or shouted, it would have been a different thing. The way you are interrupting me, shows your intention. I have said earlier also that for promoting agriculture, you will have to make your intention clear. The way the interruptions are going on, that shows that your, not every body's intention, is not good.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask one thing.

(English)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I am not yielding...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

(Translation)

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Keeping in view whatever happened today, it would not be proper to make such comment.

(English)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, I am not allowing you. Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Shivraj Patil will speak.

(Translation)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I was telling that change of law for unorganised sector is being contemplated.

If new law is required, bring it but it should be brought in such a manner that it can help the workers and the relief that has been given should not be affected. It would be improper to sideline and change the law for helping others. Now, it would be asked as to what you did? According to the industrial Dispute Act permission was not required from the Government to lock out a factory consisting of 300 workers, that was changed to 100, now it is being considered to increase upto 1000.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Minister of Finance has talked about 1000 workers.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Today, the limit of 1000 workers is being contemplated. If you change the law in this way, it will affect the interests of the people working in unorganised sector. Contract labour is being talked about. It is supposed that the law with regard to contract labour is also needed to be changed. We would like to say that change the law the way you want to change. We do not mean to say that the time is stand-still and change should not be welcomed. We want to say you to do the work that may help the workers.

So far as unorganized sector is concerned, a point has been made to formulate a law for this sector. You have formulated some laws also. I do not think that there is anything wrong with it. Our leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi told that there is already a law to protect unorganized sector in Karnataka. We are going to formulate such law in other States also. You are also trying to make law in the same way. I went through the

**Not Recorded.*

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

text of Karnataka and as well as your draft. I would like to say that your draft is weak and the law of Karnataka is strong. I am neither praising them nor making any comment about you. I am only making a comparison. I suggest you to read the text of Karnataka law, you will come to know that their law is better and your draft is weak. You are doing this work now whereas you were having four and a half years time. Had it been done during that time, it would have been better. That Bill would have been referred to standing committee and the Members would have expressed their views on that. Therefore, we would have discussed that clause by clause here. We would not have opposed you. On the contrary, we would have helped you. We would have enacted a law with minimum lapses. It could have been materialised but could not. Now, you please do not bring ordinance on it and not try to capitalize in elections. If you do this, you can tell the people that it is you who have brought this through an ordinance. But that law will not prove to be appropriate. You have brought the draft, we agree and can you take its credit as well. But do not make it an ordinance because the draft has many lapses.

Secondly, the point of encouraging the workers should be raised by the Ministry of Labour. Though Minister of Labour thinks like that but whether the Ministry of Labour thinks in this direction or not. The Minister of Labour should make it clear to us. We have got this impression that the Ministry of Labour is not going to take any welfare measure but going to flatter the others. May our impression be wrong! If you think that we are wrong, you should correct it and tell us that our impression is wrong. But do not defend without any reason. I am not criticising, on the contrary, helping you and this is not the attitude of the hon'ble Minister alone but also the attitude of all the people sitting here including Ministers of States as well. You are not the only person in that.

Thirdly, the concept of hire and fire is being tried to be brought in this country which is in existence in some other country. Japan does not have the concept of hire and fire. There the person who joins a service, remains there for the whole life, no one fires him. We can also think of such a concept here. But we have neither the full fledged concept of hire and fire nor the law and the policy as in Japan. Here we have the system of semi-employed. They are engaged for some days and then retrenched. The State Government have formulated the employment Guarantee Scheme and you have also formulated the Prime Minister's Employment scheme for

the people who do not get work for some days. It should be strengthened. Please do not weaken it. After that, arrangements should be made for the education as well as health of the Children of workers. These arrangements should be made in public, Government and private sectors.

I would like to reiterate that the Directive Principles in our Constitution provide for Right to work but our Fundamental Rights do not provide for Right to work. If you can make a provision for Right to Education, why can't you make a provision for Right to work. I would like to submit to you that provision for Right to work be made on the lines of Japan. Japan is not a communist or socialist country. I would like to apprise you of the contents of an Article included in the Constitution of Japan—

[English]

"The Citizen shall have right and duty to work." Give him the right to work and impose the duty on him also to work. If you give him right to work and duty to work, it becomes easier for you to give right to work to each and every unemployed person, in the country because, at the same time, you are imposing duty on him to work. This becomes implementable because of this clause.

[Translation]

It means that law provided that if I am a Ph.D., there is no need to give me the post of a Principal, instead the post of a clerk is sufficient so that I can be able to get Rs. 500 a month to survive and do not go for a suicide. We can create such a situation in this country also. Such is our economic condition today. We can do this and only a little bit effort is needed for that. You take initiative from your side and we will try to convince our party people on our part. I do not know as to how many people are ready in our party, but I am ready for that. I am saying this thing on my part and not on behalf of my party. But right and duty to work should be a part of the Fundamental rights in our constitution.

Ours is a young generation. India is known as a country of youth. What does that mean? This country belongs to those whose future is bright. In such a country, who look-back or whose past is long enough, if they are running Government by keeping all the powers of this Government in their hands. What calculation they might be having about future. I don't know. I say that all the leaders of the Congress Party have been young.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was young. Smt. Indira Gandhi became Prime Minister in young age. Shri Rajiv Gandhi too became Prime Minister in young age. Today, our leader is also in that state. The people with a vision should come forward and only they can do welfare to the youth of this country. I would like to say in brief that there should be a good arrangement for their livelihood. Mid-day-meal scheme should be strengthened. You have surplus stock of foodgrain, which is getting rotten. Give as much foodgrain as you can.

The second thing is about sports. The former Minister of Sports is sitting here. We know that Rajivji had done a lot for sports. When Asian Games were held, I was the Minister. It was being said to me that the country was lacking food and you were organising games.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The foodgrain should be distributed before it is rotten.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I agree with you. You will let it rot but will not distribute among children. At the time of Asiad, I had to reply in this as well as that House that we wanted to encourage sports. We should develop such an environment that there is no need to add more clinics. The people sitting on the other side and the present Minister were not available at that time, those were the others who would ask us as to what that craziness was? You were launching satellites, organising Asiad, we were lacking food, you were talking about computers. I can understand those who talk such things and how old is their thinking. Arrangement for sports is very necessary. At the same time arrangement for education is also very necessary. You have talked about Fundamental right to education. We have not opposed that. We are among those people who have helped you. You have not enacted the law which was needed for that. You have not granted the required amount of rupees 10 thousand crore for it. You have not rendered the required help to the State Government. This is the condition of the Primary education. What to talk of secondary education. The condition of tertiary education has become even worse. If one demands around 50 lakh rupees for admission in a medical college, is it possible for our children to get admission in those colleges? Even my children can't get admission. What to talk of others' children. Where they can arrange 50 lakh rupees from? Either they will have to steal or embezzle or make some other arrangement for 50 lakh rupees. Only the children of rich people will get admission in such colleges. Is there not such a situation prevailing in the country? Is or isn't there a need to improve it? It is very necessary

to think about it. There is a need of new vision. This can be done with the help of new vision.

I think there is no need to speak more about it. I have made a mention about basic points here. You might be short of time. Give reply as you can. If you don't reply and if that thing has been registered, as long as you are in power make use of that. Thereafter, if the person coming in the next term is able to do, will do that.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am unable to understand as to why the opposition parties needed to raise such a discussion on the issues of agriculture, youth and social security? I would like to tell that the Prime Minister of India is already concerned about these problems. He has appointed Shri Rajnath Singh, who belongs to a farmer family, the Minister of Agriculture. From the day he took over his charge, he made schemes for the welfare of the farmers of India which were worth not just rupees one or two crore but 50 thousand crore.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the other hand they want a discussion on the social sector, Dr. Sahib Singh Verma is sitting just beside me under whose dynamic leadership many steps have been taken whether it was the issue of raising the daily wages of workers by Rs. 50, or raising the ceiling of disability under work compensation from rupees 2 lakh 30 thousand, to rupees 2 lakh 75 thousand or giving rebate to the senior citizens on income upto rupees 1 lakh 53 thousand or giving them 8% interest on deposits on all these issues our ministers have served the people of India with open heart. Today, India is running the largest, network of PDS in the world under which 26 crore people are getting 10-35 kg. foodgrain. Under this scheme, wheat and rice are being sold at the rate of Rs. 2 and Rs. 3 per kg. respectively.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to remind congress that in the times of Congress party's rule their leader late Smt. Indira Gandhi used to visit poor and dalit areas before polls and always said that vote me this time and I would change you lives but once she regained power she remembered big industrial houses only and asked poor people to take a petty sum of Rs. 2000 for poultry, pig farming, house constructions. Today, I would like to congratulate the son of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for raising the limit to Rs. 22,000 for the houses for Dalits. Is he not working under the social sector?

16.28 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is for the first time, the banks

[Shri Rattan Lal Kataria]

of this country have provided loan to the tune of Rs. 85,000 to our farmers, Rs. 40,000 crore is being given for the priority sector and Rs. 20,000 crore for upliftment of women. I am a member of the standing Committee on Finance for the last five years and due to that I got opportunity to visit all the states. We listened to the farmers who told us that the Kisan Card has changed their life style and their socio-economic status have improved. This Government has issued 3.5 crore Kisan Credit Cards and the target fixed will be achieved till March this year itself.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the paddy was getting rotten the Chief Minister of Punjab Captain Amarinder Singh ji came to Delhi to meet Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and told him that his farmers are in dire straits and there is nobody to save them. The Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Om Prakash Chutalal came and reiterated that there is nobody to save the farmers of Haryana but the son of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji provided the minimum support price for wheat and rice to the farmers. According to the report submitted by the Agriculture price commission the prices of wheat should be lowered as there is surplus stock of foodgrains in the country. But the Agriculture Minister and Sahib Singh ji stood their ground and along with hon'ble Vajpayee ji not only they got the recommendations defeated but raised the wheat price by Rs. 30 per quintal to mitigate the plight of farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are facing problems about sugarcane. Sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh have problems. Some private sugar mills in Haryana are facing the problem of sugarcane. Shri Rajnath Singh ji extended a package of Rs. 884 crore to the farmers for the first time and told that negotiations with the State Government can be held only outstanding dues of the sugarcane growers are paid fully.

Today, they are talking of water. For the first time, we have prepared a plan for connecting the rivers. What a grave injustice was done to Haryana under their rule. Twenty four years back Shrimati Indira Gandhi visited the Barrier Kapoor village in Punjab and Haryana and there holding a spade in her hands, she promised to give SYL water to Haryana only after 2 months. Even after repeated orders of the Supreme Court, the Punjab Government is not releasing the SYL water for Haryana. And they think themselves to be the well-wishers of the farmers. Twelve years back Shri Narsimha Rao ji had visited Yamuna Nagar. There he laid the foundation stone of

a thermal plant of 1000 megawatt capacity through a remote control but this thermal plant had not produced anything at that time. And today they are asking how much power we have generated? This is for the first time that the present Government is going to increase its hydro power generation capacity. Whether it is nuclear or thermal power plant. For the first time Rs. 5800 crore have been spent on irrigation purposes under which 8-5 lakh hectares of dry land will be irrigated. Not only this, there are 3453 minor irrigation schemes. Costing 1,04,000 hectares of land is likely to be covered so that the water problem in the country can be solved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Congress Party ruled Madhya Pradesh for ten years. Shri Digvijay Singh was the Chief Minister...*(Interruptions)* because they are big people. The country has been free for...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kataria ji, you should address the Chair.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Congress party ruled Madhya Pradesh for 10 years. Earlier also they had ruled for 40 years. But, it is a matter of great shame that only 27% area of Madhya Pradesh has got irrigated so far. In such a long period of their rule if the Congress party had tried to increase the irrigated area even by 1% each year then the irrigated area there could have increased by 50%. But they did not do anything in this direction.

Now they are talking of unemployment. We provided employment to 73,03,000 people in 2001...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Did you give employment to 3000 people only?

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : We provided employment to not 300 people but 73,03,000 people.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I thought only 3000 people were provided employment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kataria ji, do not reply to him. You should address the Chair.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : We provided employment to 73,03,000 people in the year 2000 and to 78,06,000 people in 2002 and to 82,07,000 people in 2003. This Government have also doubled the annual

rate of employment in the last five years and this is the first ever Government which have provided employment to 84,00,000 people every year.

We wish the youths on India, who are back bone of this country, should not deviate from their goal and play an important role in the development of this country. That is why whereas only one lakh engineers turned out every year in the country earlier but this figures is 3,25,000 now. Today Information Technology is reigning all over the world. Today the whole world is looking towards India and they are talking of problems. The son of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji has made India the fourth economic power in the world while during the regime of Congress Party in 1967 they used to import the rotten PL480 wheat from Australia and America. I am a son of Dalit. In our home my father also used to go to ration's shops to bring wheat. That wheat used to be rotten and redish. Its quality was so poor that it was very difficult for my mother to make its loaf. Today in India godown are full with foodgrains. Our export of wheat has doubled. Export of rice have increased five fold and Patilji is saying that farmer have problems. It is strange that today Congress Party is saying that farmers have problems in India. I am saying that 'yes' problems are continuous process, but now other than the present Government paid so much attention towards farmers, poor and youth.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, they want to ridicule our feel good factor. This feel good factor is going to be a great factor. I also got an opportunity to visit the villages of my Constituency Ambala with 'Atal Sandesh Yatra'. When I asked the people. People were saying to me in the form of a Rubai :

"Kamal ke phool par Mohar Lagakar ham bhi Dekhenge.

Atalji ke jara najdik akar ham bhi dekhenge."

Today people are saying that :

"Jab se Atalji ka jamana aya hai,

Lage hai gaon-gaon mein telephone, to sarkon ka jal bichhaya hai.

Gaon mein telephone lagwakar ham bhi dekhenge,

Atalji ke jara najdik akar ham bhi dekhenge."

Similarly, whether it is a matter of security public of this country is saying about Iron man hon'ble Advaniji that after becoming Home Minister 250 bases of ISI have been destroyed. Whether it was an attack in Akshardham, Raghunath Mandir or Parliament, all the terrorist have been killed.

Rashtravirodhi takaton par POTA lagakar ham bhi dekhenge.

Atalji ke jara najdik akar ham bhi dekhenge."
...(Interruptions)

[English]

I am not speaking irrelevant...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, come to the subject.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak on Health Policy formulated for the poor. Sister Sushmaji and I both were the student of SD college. She is also a Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I would like to say that

"Jab se Bahan Sushmaji Swasthya Mantri Bankar aayi hain,

Bharat ke aspatalon mein tab se milne lagi dawai hain,

Polio drop apne bachchon ko pilakar ham bhi dekhenge."

Sushmaji have brought a new policy for us. Government is going to establish six hospitals of national level and equivalent to AIIMS. Despite all these it has been saying that we did nothing for this country during the last five year. You and your close friends did not do it. NDA have changed the picture of the country. I want to tell that how much change is there when our leaders visit foreign country. Earlier our President and Prime Minister used to go...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir,

[Shri Rattan Lal Kataria]

during the congress regime on the visit of any leader of our country the chairman of the Municipal Committee used to receive him, but today if a Minister, what to speak of Prime Minister even Defence advisor of Prime Minister Shri Brijesh Mishra goes on his visit, George Bush gives three to four hours for meetings with him this change has come about India. this is the self respect of India, which has been aroused by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Sir, in 1998 when the Pokhran test was conducted I get an opportunity to visit Scotland under the programmes organised by the Ware Housing Corporation. On 16th representatives of the may countries were present were present there. When they asked me about the name of my country and I told them that I have come from India they surprisingly said India have conducted atomic test. Now it has become a powerful nation. This all has happened due to Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji's efforts. Today India is seen with respect all over the world. Sir, in coming days we will be coming back in Lok Sabha under the leadership of hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji and the dream of Saheb and Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and their colleagues of making India not only a developed country but also a super power of the world by the year 2020 would be materialised. From tomorrow we would be preparing for the election. Political war has been declared. There will be Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his army at one side and Smt. Sonia Gandhi and her army on the other side. We may see the tired and gloomy faces of Smt. Sonia Gandhi and her colleagues. I want to say clearly that we will come back in this august House with majority so there is no need of this proposal. You gave an opportunity to speak, thank you very much for it.

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the discussion under rule 193 is being held regarding pitiable condition of the farmers, youth and workers in organised and unorganised sector in the country. Hon'ble Members of the ruling party presented the figures and gave detail, I congratulate them for it. But if we take all the citizen of the country altogether and consider the resources statistically, it become one billion by taking one rupee per head. In our country total population of farmers and labourers is 80 percent, if we see from that point of view, they have not benefited as much as they should have by this money.

It is true that there are two classes of farmers in the country. One of them is rich farmers. If we see the data, anomaly may be seen everywhere and the pitiable condition of our farmers will be reflected clearly. Out of the two classes of farmers—one is that of rich farmers who have been benefited from the green revolution. They are the holders of 100-100 or 200-200 acres of land, but I want to draw the attention of the House towards the majority of farmers. The farmers who possess small holdings and have lands in some bhande, biswe, and kadis, are in large number and they have not received any benefit. They are very poor. They spent more than what they produce and nothing is left for them. Our hon'ble Members were boasting that rice is being exported from our country and godowns of foodgrains are full, but the condition of majority of farmers is not satisfactory. We should also pay attention towards them.

We should prepare strategy for them. Today farmers are producing potatoes and sugarcane. Sugar Mills are being closed. Under the conspiracy hatched by capitalist and the multinational companies these factories are being closed and farmers are compelled to put fire on their sugarcane crops. Potato grower are not getting even the cost of transporting potatoes and farmer left their potatoes in the market. Last year tomato growers of Assam and the cotton growers of the Maharashtra had committed suicide. Why all this is happening? The cotton produced by farmers was not sold due to chemical yarn and the multinational companies are producing potato-chips and selling it at the rate of 20 rupees a packet which is filled with air but our farmers are unable to sell it even at low cost and he is compelled to throw it on roads.

Sir, the population of marginal farmers is increasing and gradually they are becoming landless and unemployed. The big farmers are buying big machines for plantation and harvesting. The farm labourers and ladies working as farm-labourers get only 2 or 2.1/2 kilogram foodgrains as their daily wages. They have been deprived of their livelihood and they are on the verge of starvation. At present, small farmers are taking loan for tractor, tubewell, fertilizer and seed. But, it can be shown by the records of banks that they are unable to repay their loans. Their lands are auctioned. It is essential for us to pay attention to their plight. We have to find out a way so that their cultivable lands are not auctioned at any cost. There is a lot of discussion taking place in this House. "Dard badhta hee gaya jyon-jyon dava kee." India is prospering but the youth are getting frustrated. The employment

opportunities are squeezing. What kind of India is emerging? How are they going to feel, the so called 'feel good factor'? The unemployment among the youths is increasing because of automation by multinational companies, retrenchment and disinvestment. How will they feel good? The work-load on the workers is increasing. The resources and time are limited. You cannot provide employment to all of them unless you distribute that time and the resources among the entire man power of the country. The Government should incorporate the Right to Work enshrined in the Directive Principle of the State as a Fundamental Right. If they cannot do it, then they should pay unemployment allowance to the youth.

Sir, the employment scenario is grim. We can see in newspapers that the young people are committing suicide. In the recent past, I came across a news-item in a newspaper about a son who had murdered his father to get job on compassionate ground. A young man murdered his friend so that he could get food during his jail-term. The day before yesterday, a news-item appeared in a newspaper about the brutal murder of a two year old boy by his father for the simple reason that the child was weeping and repeatedly asking for new clothes on the eve of Bakrid. You should collect all the data and you cannot mislead the country on the basis of average. You cannot ignore all of them. There are many reason for this grim situation. What is the reason for this state of anarchy and increase in naxalite activities? You can not check hunger by use of gun. I want to tell the cultural nationalists that morality can not withstand the onslaught of hunger and scarcity. Frequently, we hear about cases in which women and girls are helpless and have no option but to indulge themselves in flesh trade in states like Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab etc. They say that they are doing so to get money for buying medicines for their brother, for educating their children or for feeding their mother. So, hunger will have weightage over morality.

The Government should find a way for generation of employment opportunities. But, you are doing just the opposite. We are moving forward on the path of development but employment-opportunities are reducing. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had provided constitutional guarantee of jobs to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes by making provision of reservation. Because job opportunities are reducing, they are gradually becoming more poor and deprived. The Private Sector is an alternative to it. The Prime Minister has admitted that we should make provision for reservation in the private sector for the

people belonging to the SC and ST communities. I support that proposal. So, the Government should take an immediate decision on this issue and provide the right to reservation to the youth belonging to SC and ST Communities. As a second option, the unemployed youth should be given some unemployment allowance so that they can be saved from hunger, suicide and anti-social activities. Unemployment allowance is provided in every country of the world and our country has sufficient means to provide that...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN : Here there are big imbalance in development. There is too much affluence. I have said during last days also that a line for richness should be drawn, and by checking the flow of that money a system of equitable distribution among the young men of our country should be implemented.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Balia, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today's issue of discussion is the pitiable condition of farmers, youths and labourers in organised and unorganised sector. If you think impartially, it is reality. There are many reasons for that. Only one reason can not be singled out. Situation is pitiable. There is discontentment in both sectors. There are many reasons for that. I agree that after independence and specially after planning period started, Nine five year plans have elapsed, crores and crores of rupees were spent, capital was created and country is progressing well economically. In the agriculture sector, production has increased, productivity has also increased. In foodgrains country is not only self-sufficient but we are exporting also. Some items are being exported. This is a reality. There is another reality also that when 32 crore people of this country go to bed, they are half fed or empty stomach or whatever they eat, is devoid of nutrients. The result is poor health and weaker bodies. They fell sick and die before time.

Why did it happen, it happened because capital generated in the economic sector could not be equitably distributed? Today we say that the number of those living below poverty line has decreased, it is true that number has dropped down to 25-26 per cent but this is also true that the difference between rich and poor has widened. Imbalance between one state to another state has also increased. Regional disparities have increased, imbalance has also increased and all those things have

[Shri Ramjivan Singh]

made an impact on this. Has it ever been thought that in 1951, when planning period started, India had a share of 2.6 per cent in the entire world trade and after Nine plans and increased production and self sufficiency we have slipped down to 0.6 per cent in whole world trade. Why did it happen? It happened because when the plans were being formulated, we should have understood the reality, our problems, our resources and our system? We followed Russia in formulating five year plans but there was no democracy in Russia, there was dictatorship of the proletariat. The situation in a democratic system is definitely different from the conditions prevailing there. As the force is applied there to get the work done, it is not just possible in any democratic country. We thought about setting up factories in the field of engineering. In the second five year plan factories were set up in Raurkela, Durgapur, Bhilai and Bokaro. I bow my head in respect towards Late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru.

I certainly believe that his honesty, character, patriotism and intelligence is deeply commendable. He had said that these factories would become temples of modern India. Factories have flourished but the nation has not progressed. India is primarily an agriculture based country as per the natural conditions existing here. Nature has bestowed fertile land and ample water resources to our country. Along with these two resources, the country has a large population also. We have both water and land resources and our culture has been teaching—Uttam Kheti Madhyam Ban—but we failed to accrue the benefits out of these three resources collectively. Our condition would have been better had we exploited all the three properly. But we could not do that. The consideration for giving to the agricultural sector and farm sector slowly lost its importance. After the First Five Year Plan, we accorded priority to the industrial sector.

During a discussion in this House on disinvestment, I had asked that under what circumstances the Government had adopted the policy of mixed economy. The same party was compelled to follow the policy of liberalisation in 1991. Same mistakes might have been committed due to which the situation had to be reversed. This affected the around development of the country. Today the salary of people working in organised sector has increased substantially but expenditure has also increased in the same ratio as a result of consumer culture, prices of commodities have increased and thus the entire amount of salary increased is spent. In the Present consumeristic culture, standard of living, ways and manners as also needs have all increased and these have affected

employees of organised sector and that is why discontentment is prevailing there.

17.00 hrs.

There is a limit in increasing the salary. It cannot be decreased. The condition of people working in unorganised sector like farmers, labourers is etc. very bad. This issue has been raised in this House time and again and I being a farmer, also say that farmers are not getting remunerative prices of their produce. Every Government increase the support price but I would like to say that the benefit of support prices does not reach the person in the same ratio in which it is increased. That is why I suggested that it is not necessary to increase support price but it is very essential that the Government should made arrangement for procurement of the products of farmers. But the Government has failed to do so. It is very rightly said that :

“Sarkar ne kimat badha di thi dhan ki,

Phir bhi bebyahi beti reh gai kisan ki”

The farmers do not get remunerative prices. Mechanised farming has been introduced in the agriculture sector. It should be expanded. But it is not being expanded as it should have been. What happens in our country is that if a farmer has 100 acres of land and if he has four sons, each inherits 25 acres. If again these four sons have four sons each, then each of them will in turn inherit 6 acres. The grand father had 100 acres. But his grand sons are left with 6 acres each. That is why they leave Bihar in search of work to Punjab and Haryana.

Some such schemes should also be introduced in the agriculture sector. Hon. Minister of Agriculture is sitting here. I had said earlier also that when we discuss such issues, hon. Minister of Finance should also be present here. Decisions on such matters should not be taken in isolation. If on the demand of farmers the price of cane is increased, it will lead to an increase in the price of sugar and with increase in price of sugar, the consumers start protesting. And then after five years, a Pay Commission is constituted. The Pay Commission decides the salary on the basis of the price index of the essential commodities. The Government of India had to face an additional burden of Rs. 18000 crores to implement the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission. Therefore, it is necessary to take a holistic approach. Decisions should not be taken on a piece meal basis.

The demands of farmers and the consumers should not be seen in isolation. Decisions should be taken in the context of the nation's economy. There would be an imbalance if an integrated approach is not adopted. No matter how good a plan is on paper the desired benefit cannot be achieved.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude in a minute or two. I suggest that the issues as a whole should be considered in a national perspective as this is not an issue of particular Government. We should see the reality. I would like to ask what is the scenario today? All the recognised parties are in the Government as also in opposition also. The Government in centre consist of 20-22 parties, which are in the Central Government and the parties which are not in the Centre, are in the State Governments. But the situation is that, where we are in Government, we speak their language and where we are in opposition, we speak the language of the opposition. But we do not speak of the things which are in the interest of the nation. The need of today for all political parties is to think positively leaving behind 50 years of negative political approach and should think to solve the fundamental problems of poverty, unemployment, price rise etc. Once we start thinking over these problems, the solution will automatically come out.

It is for sure that things would not last for long if the Government do not think positively. Bertrand Russell once asked a hungry man, what would he prefer to have first—bread or democracy. The man replied certainly, the bread first and then democracy. Infact when the man has had his fill, it is then that he thinks about other issues. There is a saying—"Bhook Na Boojhe Jotha Bhat". It means that when hungry, a man can lap up even for left over food. It has also been said that "Bhukhe Bhajan Na Hoya Gopala, Lijye Apani Kanthimala". It means that when one is hungry even Kanthimala will not work. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the economic condition of the nation. No system can be run on the basis of caste and religion. Any system runs on. Some basic principles. Neither poverty nor unemployment can be eradicated on the basis of religion and caste system. These problems can be solved. By making appropriate policies in various sectors, viz. economic, labour, agriculture or planning. Therefore, to reduce poverty and unemployment an integrated policy is required. I am making this request not only to a particular party, or the Government but to all that a serious thought is required,

otherwise country will face serious crises like the one that occurred one year back in Nagaland. Offices and flags of all political parties were burnt there and this continued for a month. At that time I had said that it was a back lash against the political system and a back lash of no confidence against political institutions. That back lash should be stopped. We should learn a lesson from that public anger. The same back lash also occurred in Manipur. If something is not done control their anger no law will help solve this problem. I do agree to the fact that when politics of vote fails, to resolve problems, people take resort to arms. Therefore, all political parties should think in this regard.

With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to place my views on behalf of my Party and my leader, who has given me this position of Leader of the All India Anna DMK Parliamentary Party. I take this opportunity to thank hon. Madam, hon. leaders and my senior colleagues. I learnt many things from them and need to learn more things from them.

Sir, I rise here to record my disappointment that on the last day of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, this House should have discussed a very important subject of Private Members' Bill. It was slated for discussion at 3.30 pm. During that time I was in the Parliament library preparing for my speech. To my surprise I was informed that the Private Members' Business has been suspended. I am really not able to digest because it was a subject of national importance. It was about drinking water. It is not an easy subject. It is a subject of common people; and it is a subject which affects one's life right from birth to death. Water plays an important role in the healthy life of an individual.

Such an important topic should have been discussed in this House. Through the deliberations of this House, we should have sensitised the community, the individuals, the policy-makers, the Press and also the entire world. The entire world should have learnt a lesson from this House, through our deliberations and observations. Having said that, I am happy that the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare has made an assurance to the Members of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Saroja, we are discussing another issue.

DR. V. SAROJA : Thank you, Sir, I would only go on record that the Government accepted my suggestion contained in my Bill. I would substantiate this.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj assured the Members that the Government has already initiated steps to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules to upgrade the mechanism as per the 'Capillary Method' which is the international standard for checking impurities in water...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the relevance of it to this subject. Please come to the subject.

DR. V. SAROJA : I am recording this that based on my Private Members' Bill, the Government has taken note of this. It has already taken steps to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

Having said this, I am going to discuss about three important areas. The first one is about the farmers' plight, the second one is about the youth and the third one is about the plight of the labourers in the organised and the unorganised sectors. We have discussed these subjects individually many times in the same House. We have deliberated upon them. The hon. Minister had also given the reply.

The hon. Finance Minister has presented the Interim Budget for the year 2004-05. I feel it is appropriate for me to draw the attention of the Government to some important issues. The future plans are there. How are we going to find solution for all those problems? Now, we are discussing those problems.

So far as the plight of the farmers is concerned, we should do something. Before that, I would like to say that the hon. Finance Minister has presented the Interim Budget. In this, the Government has focused attention on six areas which are : enhanced employment, eradication of poverty, green revolution in agriculture, infrastructure development, fiscal consolidation and greater manufacturing sector's efficiency. These are the six areas of their priority. When the Budget allocation was made, of course, he has made the allocation based on the problems and also the set goals before the Government. The Small Scale Industries will create more job opportunities. It is not only for the labourers in the organised and the unorganised sector but also for the educated technocrats veterinary doctors, agricultural scientist. They can also be involved in this. For the agro and the rural industries, the hon. Minister has made an allocation of Rs. 164

crore for the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana to assist the educated unemployed youth. Again, I have my own doubts. What are the projects that are there? Mr. Minister, have you got any specific scheme whereby you will spend Rs. 164 crore to provide jobs to the unemployed youth? How will you create job opportunity? I would like to have a categorical reply in this regard. Have you got any scheme specifically so that I will take it up with my people in my constituency? If there is any scheme, people will be benefited.

A sum of Rs. 248 crore has been provided for the Rural Employment Generation Programme to generate additional employment in the rural industries/sectors through the development of Khadi and Village Industries. Also, you have allocated Rs. 176 crore to provide Credit Guarantee Fund to the SSI units, to provide collateral free loan to the SSIs. Apart from this, there is the Budget allotment for Agriculture as well as Cooperation. You have allocated Rs. 350 crore to provide crop insurance and Rs. 719 crore to provide macro management in agriculture. So also, you have allocated Rs. 300 crore to cover an additional area of 12 lakh hectares under the Drought Prone Area Programme. By allotting Rs. 300 crore and bringing 12 lakh hectares of land, how many people in the organised sector as also the unorganised will benefit? How are you going to create job opportunities? On what basis would it be done? Is it a sustainable scheme that you are having?

Has the Government got any definite programme for which they have made this allocation?

Then, the Government has provided Rs. 448 crore for wasteland development in the Interim Budget. I would like to submit, through you, to the hon. Prime Minister that even after making so much allocation of money, things are moving in parallel way and there is no proper coordination between various departments of the Government. That is why, we are not able to find any definite solution to the problems faced by not only the individual States, but the country, as a whole. I would like to say that problems vary from State to State, problems vary from tribal areas to non-tribal areas and they vary also from North India to South India. We cannot apply the same yardstick throughout the country and think of making India a developed nation.

Sir, this morning we received this book explaining about the achievements of the NDA Government. I

would like to quote a few lines from this book. It says :

"India is marching towards a bright future. We have our share of the problems. But this cannot hide the brightness that has arisen. It will be a future free of poverty and other vestiges like unemployment..."

Sir, this book quotes our Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as having said as follows :

"Unemployment problem must be addressed. The day is not far off when every region, every community, every citizen of our country shall enjoy the fruits of India's prosperity and progress. If we act unitedly to get what we want, this energising goal can be achieved within the span of a generation. Is it a dream? Yes. Is it an impossible dream? No, it is not."

We have the goal before us and we have the money also, but we do not have proper coordination among the various Ministries. The officials of all the allied Ministries should sit together, discuss, find out the problems and make need based allocations. I would like to say without any hesitation that all the Ministries do not work towards a common goal. Every Ministry is working in a different direction. The Agriculture Ministry is working in particular direction and the Labour Ministry is working in another direction. So, the need of the hour is proper coordination among various Ministries.

Sir, we have created Self Help Groups for the empowerment of women. So, the services of these Self Help Groups should be utilised properly. I would like to cite an example in this regard. Our dynamic leader, hon. Madam instructed me to coordinate with the Self Help Groups in my parliamentary constituency, Rasipuram in Tamil Nadu. I have collected 6,000 small and marginal farmers and formed 600 Self Help Groups. We have invited the officials of the district administration, NGOs, Self Help Groups of women, all the elected representatives of the local bodies, MLAs and MPs to a meeting at the District Collectorate. We all sat together and we collected all the statistics from all the concerned departments. We had three meetings and finally we had drawn up a project to the tune of Rs. 15 crore for starting a small-scale industry with tapioca, which is the main agricultural product of that area, as the raw material and 300 agricultural families will get benefited out of this unit.

Similarly, we have formed another Self Help Groups for the development of horticulture and animal husbandry. Our leader, hon. Madam has directed the Self Help Groups of men to coordinate with the Self Help Groups of women in this effort. Then, we are giving loans to individual entrepreneurs belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. We have also involved the agricultural, horticultural and animal husbandry graduates from the locality in this effort.

I would like to go on record that having done all these studies, we had meeting with the industrialists from Japan on 26th January. Based on the information available with regard to sugarcane, tapioca and maize, hon. Madam is going to inaugurate one industry with foreign investment to the tune of Rs. 300 crore. As a result of that, the people from my constituency, including labourers and also other persons from the agricultural farming community, women's self-help groups, that is, everybody would be benefited. Thus, we are bale to find a solution.

Like that, every parliamentary constituency would benefit from the availability of agricultural products and small scale industries. The Department of Agriculture is asking for statistics in so far as the technocrats and educated unemployed youth are concerned. They must be taken into confidence. Thus, we would be able to find a solution not only for the unorganised sector but also for the agricultural labourers and the youth. With these few lines, I would conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am surprised to see that on the last day of the session of Lok Sabha hon'ble Member of opposition are criticising the Government in the name of farmers, labourers and youths. Had this matter been discussed earlier then probably the constructive view point of the Government would have been presented before the nation and the country would have progressed in a new direction. He commented.

[English]

"All is well that ends well."

[Translation]

One can well imagine the condition of the people. This a matter of discussion under Rule 193. But the persons who have raised this issue are not present here. This shows how serious are they.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, India is an agrarian country. If the condition of farmers improve, the condition in villages will improve and the country make progress. The majority population live in villages. If the villages prosper, the country will make progress. Only prosperity of farmers can ensure development in the country. On the same line, the prosperity of the labourers is also linked with the progress of the country. It is being said regarding our youth :

"Nikale haen kahan jane ke liya, pohanchenge kahan maloom nahi,

In Rahon mein Bhatkene valon ko,

manzil ki disha maloom Nahin."

Although the leaders have inspired the youth but there is no need to tell how they are being treated? Our former hon'ble Speaker was expressing his deep concern on the plight of farmers here. I would like to know what action had been taken by the previous Government and the action taken by the present Government? Everything is being done but positive results are not achieved. So I would like to submit—

"Na Surat buri hae, na sirat buri hae,

bura wahi hai jiski niyat buri hae."

After the first green revolution, next green revolution had been brought by NDA Government. I would like to state what our Hon'ble Prime Minister had stated after taking into account the situation :

"India is now moving towards a golden future. We do have some problems but no problem can hide the progress. In future there would be no problem of poverty, under development. That time is not far when every sector, community, citizen would be prosper. So we want that all should work unitedly in this direction? A new objective can be achieved with this generation. It is not a dream or impossible. It is possible to achieve this target."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given a vision. His excellency President has also given us a vision-2020, that what will be the condition of farmers, labourers and the youth of that time and the place of India in the world?

Our country would become prosperous. Our country

would make progress in the sector of science and other sectors and it will become self-reliant. Positive and negative attitude towards life grows together. The situation of opposition becomes awkward. There is a feel good factor in the country but keeping this in view opposition cannot take a decision as to what to do and what not to do and they raise matters only for criticism.

I do not want to go in for datas. India is now the second top exporter country of rice. It is a fifth place in exporting wheat. Our country has got sufficient quantity of foodgrains. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is present here. The hon'ble Minister has announced Kisan Vikas Kosh, resources for irrigation and the loans to farmers at lower interest rates in the recent past. Credit cards have also been given to farmers. The credit cards had been a monopoly for rich people. During Congress rule, only the rich people who could afford to travel abroad were having credit cards. Only NDA Government under the leadership of Shri Vajpayee, has taken a decision that credit cards would be distributed to all farmers of the country by 31 March, 2004 so that they can get loans from banks when required. The rate of interest on the loans to farmers has also been lowered. Food Processing Industries are now being established in rural areas. Infrastructure for farmers is being created so that farmers become prosperous. Now farmers are happy. There were ration shops for distribution of foodgrains in villages. Now these shops are closed. I belong to village, a son of a farmer. There is sea change in the condition of farmers.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Samparak Sarak Yojana would take care of other aspects, the production of farmers would reach markets well in time, farmers would be able to get remunerative prices for this produce, this would not get rotten and they would be able to earn good cash. Now metalled roads are being constructed. Each village having a population of 1500 families is now connected by roads. Now people living in east, west, north or south all are being united. Such good work is going on. This is the first time that metalled roads are being constructed in the villages otherwise beofe this, there was a pomp and show in the city like Delhi and there was no electricity in villages. But now farmers also understand that which Government is making the roads.

Under the Savjaldhara .Payjal Yojana the farmers have to contribute 10% and the Government will contribute 90%. This shows how seriously the problem of drinking water is being solved. Hon. Sahib Singh is sitting here and earlier Ansa/Bansal/Kansal and unknown persons

were used to build buildings and give funds to these people. But the labourers who were living in the slums were used to work there and nobody bother to look after their future. Only the NDA's Government has provided security for them making law and has also provided social security to the labourers of unorganized sector and no other Government could do this work. This Government by making law had made 12% P.F. for institutions and factories in all the States. But now many State Governments has reduced it to 8.33%. This Government has worked in the interest of labourers and farmers and made National Youth Policy in regard to sports. India has participated in several International Sports Competitions as well as in cricket and won. It seems that the India in coming time will also make record in Olympics.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, I have just started.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate, a number of honourable Members have to speak.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, now a farmer can directly talk to their son who is deployed at border. The NDA's Government has provided telephones in each and every village. Now WLL telephones are also available. Now such communication system has been set up that a farmer can directly talk with Chief Minister of the State and also with big leaders and Union Ministers. The telephone network has been spread all over the country. The gas cylinders of five kilo have been given to poor people in the villages so that poor people can also take benefit of cooking gas. This is only an indication but

[English]

coming events cast their shadows before.

[Translation]

Atalji's Government will have the brightest future. The NDA Government will come into power and the country will speedily move ahead on the path of prosperity. In the words of Netaji Subhash Chander Bose Ji :

"Kadam-Kadam Badaye ja, Khushi ke Geet Gaye Ja,

Yeh Jindigi Hai Kaum Ki, Tu Kaum Per Lutaye Ja."

With these words I would like to say that now the

need of the hour is to work with devotion for the country. This is our wish that each and every section of our society reach to new heights.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

I will request to honourable Mani Shankar Aiyar ji as there is a shortage time and the time of your party has also finished so you finish your speech in eighteen minutes as I know that you will have the problem.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : There is no difficulty.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am deeply grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to deliver my last speech from the opposition benches because I am certain that my next speech in this Parliament will be from the other side.

Sir, in the debate on the Motion of Thanks at the beginning of last year, almost exactly a year ago, the Prime Minister made the following statement on the floor of this House, and I would like you to listen to it very carefully. He said in English—reading from a text that had been passed to him from the official gallery—that the net employment increase in the year 2002-03 was 84 lakh. When I asked the hon. Minister of Labour and Employment towards this, a few months later he was unable to give me the answer as to how this 84 lakh figure had been arrived at. But when subsequently in the Winter Session there was yet another discussion on this issue, he read out to us the categories which would add up to 84 lakh jobs.

Now, in the English language, we make a very useful distinction between the net increase in employment and the gross increase in employment. The hon. Prime Minister was very clear that he meant the net employment increase. The hon. Minister did not use the word 'net' then, he just added up those figures. But now, the hon. Minister of Disinformation, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, has circulated this issue of untruths and mistruths called 'stability, prosperity, etc.' which has come to all our hands, and I find that in two different places, there is this game with words going on because right at the beginning they say, "additional employment opportunities were 84 lakhs"; then later on it says on page 59, "that the net employment creation is computed under the following heads..." In other words, for the same figure of 84 lakh, one, we have now got a computation given by the Minister of Labour;

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

second, we have got an expression called 'additional employment opportunities'; and third, we have got the expression of the Prime Minister, which is, 'that there is a net employment addition. Now, what are we talking about is really what we are concerned with here.

Because, if what we are talking about is 84 lakhs net addition to employment, then we have to know where are the jobs that have got lost, because it is by misusing the jobs lost from the jobs created that you get the net employment addition. At page 59 of the document circulated by the Government, the total job loss is calculated at 80,000. That is all. Where has this job loss occurred? They say it occurred in the Central PSUs due to closure and retrenchment in the organised sector. The organised sector accounts for approximately seven per cent of India's total labour force. Sir, 93 per cent of our labour is employed in the unorganised sector. They have not given us the figure here of what has been the net job loss in the unorganised sector which agriculture is the single most important component.

Now, Sir, the Finance Minister has only, day before yesterday, taken the credit for the rate of growth this year having increased to eight per cent because the rate of growth last year has been reduced to four per cent. He has taken this credit. In the Economic Survey, we were told that in 2002-2003, the rate of growth of GDP was 4.3 per cent. It has now been further reduced by the Central Statistical Organisation to a mere four per cent. Now, tell me how has this miracle occurred that in the year of the lowest growth of GDP since 1991-92, we have the highest job rate creation? How can the job rate creation be 42 lakhs, according to page 49, in the year 2002-03 which is the lowest performing year in the history of the Indian economy over the last decade and more? I want to know how he could possibly have arrived at this figure. In the previous year, that is, in 2001-02, you had a recovery of the economy. You were growing at six per cent. But according to you, the number of new jobs created at six per cent was 36 lakhs but the number of new jobs created when your growth rate goes down to four per cent, is 41 lakhs. Whom is cheating whom?

I think the answer simply lies in the fact that in the second category at page 59, they have said that the number of jobs in their employment generation programmes is 41 lakhs. Now, why would anybody go to an employment generation programme if he is working on

his farm or if he is working on his handloom? He goes to these special Government programmes because the normal work has come to a standstill.

There was a drought in this country right across from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, but especially acute in Western and Central India. Naturally, the employment available in agriculture fell sharply owing to this drought. They had not taken that into account in calculating their sum. Their own figures show that both in the silk handloom sector and in the cotton handloom sector, there is a complete collapse. My friend, Dr. Saroja will bear me out because she and I both represent constituencies where handloom matters enormously. The second largest employer in India is the handloom sector. The largest employer in India is the agriculture sector. In the year 2002-03, there was a collapse in agriculture and there was a collapse in handloom. But, they say, there was an increase in employment jobs. How do they calculate the increase in net employment? It is by only netting the 80,000 jobs lost in the Central public sector undertakings? They have not netted the job loss involved in poor agricultural performance and poor handloom performance. All the literatures show that in what is technically called 'NFRE', Non-Farm Rural Employment, the employment has totally collapsed. What is the figure they are talking of?

There is in technical literature you have the labour force, you have workforce. There is no such expression as employment opportunities.

It is an invention that they have got over here.

After Dr. Sahib Verma spoke here, the NSSO's Fifty-seventh Round results were published. He is familiar with them. The Fifty-seventh Round establishes that the downward trend in employment which has been in evidence for the last five or six years has been sustained. In other words, unemployment has been increasing but we are told here that we should feel good because we are going to hide the truth.

It is not by reading this tissue of mistruths that the voter is going to decide what he is going to do. Every young man in India knows that he does not have employment opportunity. Every farmer, more importantly every *khat mazdoor* knows that he is not getting a job. Every weaver knows that his opportunities are being denied to him. Every Government servant knows that he is being downsized or right-sized. Every single public sector industry knows that it is under threat of

privatisation, which after two years would always mean job loss. There is a complete investment starvation in agriculture. There is a complete investment starvation in irrigation. There is a boom in investment in synthetic yarns. There is a boom in investment in petrol refining. There is a boom in investment in refining in the petrochemical industry. These are not creating jobs.

If there was a riot in Gujarat in 2002, it was because, notwithstanding the fact that Gujarat is the State which has received the largest amount of foreign exchange since the reforms process began and notwithstanding the fact that Gujarat is the State which has had the only rate of growth at the State level comparable to South-East Asia and comparable even to China, there has been such a shrinkage of employment opportunities particularly in the textile industry in Ahmedabad and such other places that there was lumpen proletariat available for exploitation by the fascist masses.

We need to have an employment policy that says we would measure the welfare of this country not by the growth of the GDP but by the growth of employment. It is only this Government's *Economic Survey, 2002-2003* based on the Fifty-fifth NSSO Round which has repeatedly pointed out that the army of the unemployed is increasing whereas the number of those with some kind of employment or self-employment opportunities is hardly increasing at all. In fact, the net employment in this country has come down. It has not increased as stated here. If you take into account the total net employment, the net employment increase was about 30 lakh to 30 lakh until this Government came to power. It has now declined even further. Approximately, we would have a crore people come on the labour market every year. The net job creation, that is people being thrown out of their jobs, is 30 lakh. So, only one out of five new entrants gets a job or is facilitated in employing himself. This is the grievous employment situation in this country.

Since the Government of the NDA is a determined to hide the truth about the employment situation from its middle-class supporters and the editors who are blind to anyone other than their readers, we do not need this tissue of untruths to determine who this country is going to vote in a few months from now. Every single young man, every single young woman, every single previously employed labourer who has been thrown out of a job for no fault of his own and every single working person in this country who had an assured job in the public

sector and is now being threatened by the right wing economics of this Government knows that they do not have work and therefore they are going to vote against them. Finally, the picture in this country is not going to be of this man smiling.

The picture of this country is that last year when the Railways advertised for 20,000 posts of *Khalasis*, there were 55 lakh applicants which includes doctors, engineers, MBAs and graduates. The poor of this country know that they are being befooled with these kinds of remarks made by the Government in its propaganda. India for them is not shining and their prospectus is dimming. The only shine we have is on the bold face of the hon. Minister of Agriculture and forehead of the hon. Minister of Labour. There is no shine anywhere else. This country is being led into an abyss of darkness from which rescue is possible only when we switch sides. In a few months from now, you will find us on that side and find them on your left.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad) : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, today is the last day of the thirteenth Lok Sabha and we are having a discussion on important subject under Rule 193. The three points being discussed by us are certainly the basic problems before our nation. The issues of farmers, workers, youth and the economy of the country are directly related to the villages. If we take a comprehensive view, we will find that even after the 56 years of independence the condition of our villages is certainly not good. Levelling allegations and counter-allegations and quoting statistics from these sources or that, will not augur well for us. For a long span of time in the past we have witnessed very short lived Governments at the centre. But for the first time NDA Government under the leadership of hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee resolve to change the faces of villages. But they understand that the negligence of earlier Governments can't be rectified at one go. The stand taken by India in the Cancun conference and obviating the threat posed by developed nations in WTO proved that India is not going to succumb. It is because of the fact that the NDA Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee firmly believe that the destiny of our Nation can not be changed unless the face of our villages are changed. The uneven development in the past only prospered our cities be it related to education, irrigation, or roads. But this Government have resolved to make

[Shri Arun Kumar]

all round development be it pertaining to telephones, roads, telecommunications or education. That is why the Government has resolved to strengthen the infrastructure from Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana to Sarva Siksha Abhiyan.

Employment opportunities have certainly decreased in organised and unorganised sector. This Government took a revolutionary decision in the interest of a large number of workers engaged in unorganised sectors. Employment opportunities were created for them in every scheme started by the Government whether it was Swajaldhara, Sarvasiksha Abhiyan expansion of telecommunications and Railways, Golden Quadrilateral or Dairy Development. All these developments took place either in self employment or unorganised sectors and this was a radical step. Therefore, we do not want to go into the details as to what happened or not happened? Manishankar ji was just saying that the incident of Gujarat was due to synchronisation of employment.

But what were the reasons for Bhagalpur incident? I do not want to justify Gujarat incident but what were the reasons for Bhagalpur incident? The solution to the problems will remain elusive if we continue to think that way. Therefore, I request the Government to devise a way so that the funds made available to the state Government under various heads should be used properly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are two things before us in which there is no saturation point-dairy and food processing. There should be management of vegetables and fruits which we produce in the villages. This Government is here to strengthen the marketing system in changing scenario of global village.

A very wise Agriculture Minister is sitting here. I would like to give him suggestion that if more and more funds are spent on dairy and food processing industries then certainly a big infrastructure of employment can be generated by which a new direction can be determined for young generation. Simultaneously, we will also have to control the population. We may make 20 years plan but if population keep on increasing in such manner then we will back to square one. We will have to take this decision strictly. The economic infrastructure prevailed in our villages since ages is our cultural heritage and when we remember our childhood, we see that even the expenditure of a rich farmer in the village was very less.

17.55 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

May be we do not have the arrangement of food and health but the change, which has come in our cultural inheritance, living standard and mental setup have made expensive things including uncle chips available in our villages. Which otherwise are not required there. We should devise the way so that economic infrastructure of our villages should be strengthened and used accordingly. The Government should also see that agriculture based industries are created in the villages so that farmers and labourers do not migrate elsewhere. By doing so employment opportunities can be created so that they would not shoulder the burden not meant for them. The bold decision taken by the Government is in the interest of villages. As there is a talk about dairy or food processing industries in the villages but my suggestion is that a mechanism should be developed over there so that the goods which have been produced locally should be competitive. The energy is also an essential source to achieve the above objectives. We have big sources of energy. So the Government should also make proper exploitation of energy for the prosperity of villages. We should have planned exploitation of energy on the line of communication revolution and roads. If we make proper marketing of agricultural goods and proper care of education and healthcare then we can definitely augment the purchasing power of villages which will ultimately prosper our country by increasing the GDP.

The unorganised, organised sectors as well as youth of this country will get new impetus by the steps taken by the Government to bring revolution in the villages and economic prosperity in the villages and we will march towards a stronger India.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today is the last day of Thirteenth Lok Sabha. I would like to congratulate you and all the hon. Members on this last day. I hope we would meet again in the House. After Thirteenth Lok Sabha which party is going to be routed, is not known...*(Interruptions)* There is no question of ours being routed in the next election and if there is any party which could face the defeat, it is that side.

We are having a discussion on an important topic here. The plight of farmers, youth and the working class of the country is being discussed. It is being propagated

that nothing was done in the last fifty years and the things have improved during the last five years. Wherever we go, people say that there has been all round development during these five years. As regards feel good factor, it is to be seen as to who feels good and who feel bad.

18.00 hrs.

"Hum to Khali sawal uthnae wale hain,

Hum to un sawalon ko mitane wale hain.

Hum to kisano, yuvaon aur shramikon ko

upar uthane wale hain,

Aur Apki Sarkar ko Dilli ke takht se hum hatane wale hain,

Jab se Atal ji ka raj aaya hai,

Sab log bol raha hain, hamne suchh nahin paya hai,

Aaj hum sab vipakshi dalon ne baithkar,

Aapko hatane ka geet gaya hai,

Isliya NDA ke mahol mein andhere ka sala hai"

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the only question is as to what have we attained during these 56 years and how far we have been successful in eradication poverty from our country? No matter which party is in power, 26 per cent of the population of our country still live below poverty line. If we happen to go to villages we find that even proper roads are not there. Farmers youth and labourers are living in pitiable conditions. So, there is a need to think about changing the whole system. The other side say that it is the last day of the session of thirteenth Lok Sabha and this question should not be raised on the last day, but it is the concern of the ninety per cent population of the country. I would say that if we are to improve the lot of farmers and labourers, justice must be done to them. Landless villagers should be allotted land the people whose names are registered with employment exchanges for the last three years should be given employment because it is Government's responsibility. If Government cannot provide employment, then the unemployed should be given Rs. 3,000/- per month as unemployment allowance. It is provided for in the State law. Sahib Singh Vermaji knows about this law. He knows that unorganised labourers, agricultural labourers and other 37 crore people who depend on agriculture,

need to be given the benefit of insurance schemes. There is also a need to bring a legislation for providing above facility.

When we discuss minimum wages, we think of price rise also. The value of rupee is 16p or 16.50p. On the basis of this, every labourer should get Rs. 200 as wages. If unemployment is to be uprooted, 8 hours duty in three shifts should be converted into four shifts with 6 hours duty. People will get more opportunities of employment, if six hours duty system is implemented in place of 8 hours duty.

In the same way, policemen also have 12 hours duty. Police duty should also be curtailed to 8 hours so that hundreds of thousand of people could be recruited in police forces. The Government should consider this issue also.

Contract system needs to be discontinued. Municipality labourers and the labourer who work on contract, do not get all the required facilities and contract company pays Rs. 5,000/- to the contractor for every labourer while the contractors pays him Rs. 2000/- or Rs. 2,200/- only. So it is necessary to discontinue such contract system by bringing a legislation so as to provide complete facilities to the labourer. This is one of our demands. Our another demand is that every labourer should be made permanent after two years of employment. We see that a person who is appointed as Khalasi in Railways, is never permanent and he retires as temporary employee. This fact also requires consideration. The Hon. Prime Minister has said about giving reservation in private sector. I also support the view that reservation should be made in private sector. Goods will come to India through World Trade Organisation, our factories will close down, as is happening now. The Government have said that 84 lakhs people have been given employment, but companies and factories are closing down due to import of foreign goods. According to WTO all foreign goods would be imported to India in January, 2005 and till then a new Government would also come to power. I promise that we will do a lot of for the welfare of farmers and labourers if our Government comes to power.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have cooperated a lot with us. If you want to be Speaker again, then you will have to join us. You have conducted the House very well. So, on the last day of last session of this Lok Sabha, I ask you to join us, but your leader would not let you come this side.

MR. SPEAKER : Ramdasji, I am with all of you.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Being the Speaker of the House, you should be with all. I will not take much time of the House. During the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, several times, I made the Members laugh but simultaneously, I had also revealed the shortcomings of the Government.

"Atalji shramjiviyon, kisano, yuvaon ke khilaf agar apka chalta rahega khel,

To Aane wale chunav mein yahi log aapko kar denge fail,

To Aane wale chunav mein yahi log aapko kar denge fail,

Isliye hum sab dalton, adivasiyon, kisano, majdooron ke adhikaron ko aap kar denge sale,

To aapko ek din hogi jall".

Prime Minister is coming to the House. Though I was to speak around this should have been given opportunity now, but I was called earlier. Today is the last day of this Lok Sabha. But it is not my last session. I will be re-elected and will be on the treasury side. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will also get re-elected. However, it is to be seen as to which side will come to power...(Interruptions) I will get re-elected but it is to be seen whether you will get a ticket or not. The food served to us today was very tasty. In the coming election, if we field candidates for one to one contest then it will not be well for you. If we remain disunited, then it will be beneficial for you and everybody knows it. Despite that it will be our endeavour that justice is done to youths, advasis, Dalits, labourers, farmers. If such a responsibility falls on us then we will try to shine our country in the coming ten yrs and we will work for the welfare of every class of the country. You have made some effort, so you will get some success. We will make more effort so we will get more success. It is not such that they have not done anything, you have done some work. You will get the votes of those whom you have given employment, whom you have not employed would not vote for you. Whatever you have done in 4-1/2 yrs, and the struggle you have started now, we will continue it.

I would like to say this much before I conclude

that the Prime Minister, Atal ji has done a great job of keeping 24 parties united. None of 24 parties have left except DMK, which left in the end. So Madam moved to the that side. You have kept 24 parties well united. It is difficult for us. We are still trying. We don't know when our Government would come to power and how long it would survive. This is the scenario, still we are trying.

As you have kept 24 parties united, in the same way, we would also stay united. Hon. Sonia ji and Sharad ji, and Laloo Prasad Yadav ji and Paswan ji and the RPI also have come closer. I hope on the occasion of 13th Lok Sabha that the poor, the farmers the dalits and the advasies should get justice and they should be treated equally, economically as well as socially. With that, the name of the country should be taken with respect in the word. We should devote ourselves to development of the nation. I salute Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar ji and hope that the constitution he has given, the country should follow it. We should strengthen the nation so that our country stands on the top. We should discuss the issues which are lying unresolved before us, we should discuss how to solve these issues. Let us not discuss what we had done during the last 50 years. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you again for giving opportunities to speak. Hon'ble Atal ji has heard my poetry a number of times in the House, but I have not heard to him in the House. I wish to hear his poetry in the House. Wherever we remain, we'll strengthen the nation.

18.11 hrs.

RULING BY THE SPEAKER

Re: Presentation of PAC Report Relating to Short Levy of Customs Duty

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, as you are aware, the Report of the Public Accounts Committee headed by Sardar Buta Singh relating to "Short levy of customs duty due to incorrect classification of goods—beddings, mattresses etc.", was not listed in today's business of the House. Therefore, it could not be presented to the House.

I have since gone into the relevant records. I find

that the Minutes of the sitting of the Committee held on 30th January, 2004 are yet to be circulated to the Members. Thus, the Minutes remain "Confidential". I would, therefore not like to go into the proceedings of the Committee at this stage.

As you are all aware, there is divergence of views among the Members of the Committee with regard to the adoption of the Report. The time available at my disposal being very short, it will be neither fair nor feasible to resolve the issue right now. Since the subject matter is very important, I would suggest that the matter may be taken up for consideration again by the PAC of the next Lok Sabha and the valuable work done by the present PAC may be utilised by the succeeding Committee. Under the Rules, there is no bar on the subject matter of the Report in question being taken up by the PAC of the next Lok Sabha.

If you all agree, the matter should be allowed to rest here.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, if you permit, I want to make one submission.

Sir, we bow to your ruling and we ought to. But the only submission that I want to make is that it is not mandatory that till the time the Minutes of the Committee are not circulated, you do not present the Report. It is not like that. The Report to the House can be presented once the Members of the Committee present at the sitting authorise the Chairman to present the Report, lay it on the Table of the House. It can be laid on the Table of the House irrespective of the fact whether the Minutes have been circulated or not.

MR. SPEAKER : I would consider this point also when I go when I go into the details.

Now, the hon. Minister to reply on the discussion under rule 193.

(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since in the morning I had already taken your permission, I had mentioned that I have laid it on the Table of the House. Now, it is available to the Press, and I am not responsible for it.

18.15 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Plight of Farmers, Youth and Working Class both in the Organised and Unorganised Sectors—Contd.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today a very important issue was discussed in the House. Hon. Topdar and Hon. Basu Deb Acharia, who had moved this motion, are not present in the House. I was to give my reply starting from the issues raised by them, but they are not present in the House at the moment. Now, I begin my reply from the issues raised by Hon. Shivraj Patil, who expressed his views and raised some important issues after them. I fully agree with Hon. Shivraj ji that if we want our country to develop, we have to improve the condition of agriculture sector first.

We, as well as our Government know that the biggest producer, the biggest consumer and the biggest customer, if any, is the farmer of India. You said that the basic thing should be this, whichever Government is in power, this intention towards farmers, the poor and labourers should be clear. As far as our intention is concerned, I myself do not say anything, but I would say this much only that you had said that the allocation for rural development and agriculture sector was the highest after First Five Year Plan. I admit it. You definitely made efforts to continue this practice. After first Five Year Plan, the required allocation, plan outlay for rural sector constantly went on decreasing during the Second, Third, Fourth Five Plans. I can provide figures how it went on decreasing—whether at that time the Prime Minister was Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru or Late Mrs. Indira Gandhi or Rajiv Gandhi or somebody else, I am not putting question mark on anybody's intention. But I would definitely like to put a question mark on policy.

You said that major irrigation projects like Bhakhra Dam was set up to provide irrigation facilities to the farmers during the First Five Year Plan. But I understand that you also can see that irrigation projects alone cannot do complete irrigation of fields of farmers. At that time this was necessary. At that time Russia was the most powerful country in the world. Russia became a powerful country by following this path. We started to work on the same plan economy as had been adopted by Russia.

[Shri Rajnath Singh]

We did not understand the specific nature of the country. We did not make any research to find how we can make the country develop. I think that as we started copying the previous trend, so the country began to suffer.

This is a fact that only 46% of the total land is irrigated. Sixty percent land is totally dependent on rainwater. After taking over as Prime Minister Hon'ble Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee also reiterated that attention should be paid to micro-irrigation projects for irrigation of fields, we have also set up a special task force under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. The task force has submitted their report. The points discussed in the report is how to put every drop of water to use. We are already aware that the level of ground water is constantly going down. All intellectuals are concerned for this water crisis. We have also started other irrigation projects. So far as question of allocation for irrigation projects is concerned, allocation has been made under irrigation schemes. At this time, no data is available with me but I can say that sufficient funds have been allocated for this purpose.

You have submitted that new types of seeds and fertilizers were produced. The credit goes to the agricultural scientist of the country for this. It is not so that all this were produced during the Congress regime alone. It is also not that concerns were expressed during the Congress party regime only as to how to raise foodgrain production. Foodgrain production also increased during this period, use of Chemical pesticides also increased. Today the farmers and the country are bearing its onslaughts. Although production increased but no one can deny that at the same time the productivity of the land decreased. Due to the use of chemical fertilizers and chemical pesticides the level of ground water is constantly going down. At that time perhaps, the Congress Party did not think of bio-fertilizer. Our Government took steps for the use of bio-fertilizer and organic farming during the five years of its term. We have set up 182 such bio-fertilizer units each with a production capacity of 18,000 metric tonnes. We want to promote the use of bio-fertilizer in the tenth Five Year Plan. We are giving various incentives for organic farming. Just now the mention was made about the genetically modified seeds. The Government has allocated adequate funds to ICAR in this regard and there is no shortage of funds. The work to develop genetically modified seeds is going on. Earlier some complaints were received in regard to the genetically modified seeds. In that the seeds hadn't been

found as much eco-friendly and health-friendly as they ought to be. But the genetically modified seeds we are developing are eco-friendly and health-friendly. This thing is being taken care of.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was said that if the banks had not been nationalised, then the farmers would not have got as much loan as they are receiving now. We are not opposing nationalisation of banks. It was right to nationalise the banks but I would humbly like to say about the loans given to farmers later. Hon. Members should try to look at it. Since the NDA Government and under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as Prime Minister came into power the loans to the tune of Rs. 80 thousand crores has been given to farmers. The hon. Members have also admitted it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : It has not been done till date. This amount was Rs. 200 crores after the nationalization of banks and this amount was Rs. 70 thousand crores before Shri Vajpayee became Prime Minister which has now increased Rs. 80 thousands crore. In this way only Rs. 10 thousand crores have been increased.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : No, not at all.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : It did not take place in five years only.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Members can see the figures. I do not want to discuss. But they will admit this thing that menu before in the history of independent India, so much loan has been disbursed to the farmers as has been disbursed during the last five years. Can you deny this truth? After nationalisation of our banks farmers used to get loans at 14% to 18% rate of interest. In other sectors rate of interest was lower. This was the responsiveness of our honourable Prime Minister towards farmers and poor people of the country. So he decided that now of the country need not pay 14% to 18% rate of interest on loans. Rather rate of interest should be 9% at the maximum. But the State Bank and other central banks are giving loans at less than 9% interest. This rate of interest should be reduce further.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given Rs. 50 thousands crores to NABARD so that infrastructural development could take place and also to enhance the productivity of barren land. Here it was said that the percentage of agriculture loans vis-a-vis the total loans given by the Government is only 18 per cent. However our Government

have accorded top priority to agriculture loans and it has been accepted by the Members during their speeches. We want that percentage of loan to farmers and poor people should be increased. Today is the last day of this Lok Sabha and in this last day such an important issue has come up here for discussion. I would like to ensure the hon. Member that our Government would certainly increase the ratio of agriculture loans vis a vis loans under other heads once coming back in power of which I am very hopeful.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as APC marketing is concerned, it was said that the Conference of Agriculture Ministers should be convened. I had convened a conference of State Agriculture Ministers a month ago in which I had said that marketing system could be strengthened. We had prepared this proposal on which discussion has taken place. All Agricultural Ministers have given their consent to it. We want to make marketing competitive for farmers, we also want that the farmer should not be compelled to sell his produces in the Mandi, rather he can be given an market option in the cooperative sector and in the NGOs established markets so that our farmers could get reasonable prices for their crops. That is why we have prepared a model Act for APC.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Minister ji, the number of jute purchasing centres has been reduced to half for the jute growers. Today there is consensus is evolving to close the jute corporation. This, will put the jute growers in great loss. Have you ever thought about it?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : I am not able to get your point.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The number of centres of jute growers has been reduced to half, it means they are reduced to fifty percentage. If you can keep presenting distorted facts and defying facts on this last day of the House. But the truth is that the number has been reduced to half and there is a consensus to close the jute corporation. Please say something about it. A large number of farmers are associated with the biggest jute industry in eastern India.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : The jute production and jute industry should also not be influenced and there should not be any adverse effect on it. But you suddenly have raised this question before the House and so, for the present I cannot give you its direct reply. But I will

certainly give information in this regard through letter. Honourable Patil ji has said in regard to power generation that power generation should be increased and he has admitted that the new power project of 18 thousands MW which was set up by this Government has started generation. He himself as admitted this and apart from this several power projects have been set up...
(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Minister, I said that there was a target of 48000 MW power generation in the Ninth Five Year Plan but the Government have generated only 18 thousands MW power in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : Whatever may it be has admitted that the power projects which we set up have started power generation and many more power projects are also being set up. In future they will also start generation. I would actually, like to commend his suggestion that there should be an arrangement to maintain small ponds. Irrigation can also be done through these ponds. He also talked about micro-irrigation. All his suggestions are welcome. I would also like to give him this information and I feel that he must have the information that the farmers primarily need two things to increase their production—first is money and second is information and knowledge and I feel that the investment capacity of farmers should be enhanced individually. So for the very first time in the history of Independent India we have taken steps to lower the rate of interest.

[Translation]

If a farmer has taken a loan of Rs. 50,000 he will save Rs. 2500-3000 merely due to low interest rate. I am not saying that due to low interest rate farmers' investment capacity would rise appreciably. But it would certainly rise to a certain extent.

Farmers want to use modern tools of cultivation. They want information about new techniques. They do not have easy access to information regarding the weather and the type of seeds to be used. ON 31st January the Honourable Prime Minister inaugurated a Kisan Call Centre to provide agriculture related information to the farmers. Farmers from any part of India be it Meghalaya, Imphal or Manipur can dial the toll free number, 1551 to access any information regarding agriculture. This has happened for the first time in India...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Narasaraopet) : You had just now mentioned that previous Government went for big projects like Bhakhra dam and other things which did not help the country. Therefore, the micro level planning was planned.

The Ganges should be linked up with the Cauvery and that is going to be the biggest ever project in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : You have raised a good question regarding linking of rivers. It is true that the Government has undertaken a project for linking of rivers. A major problem facing our nation was that a good rainfall would cause floods. To overcome this problem also, we took up the project of linking rivers. The flood waters would be used for irrigation purposes. For this reason we undertook the river linking project.

Patil Saheb has raised an important question. I fully agree with him that a farmer cannot prosper relying only on agriculture. I agree that unless a farmer has alternative source of earning other than agriculture, he would really find it difficult to fulfil his basic needs. The farmer should be provided remunerative prices for his yield. Our Government is making efforts in this direction. I have listed the various effective steps taken by the Government to strengthen the marketing system. Even today our market intervention scheme is on. We have effected a hefty increase in the minimum support price of most of the items. Keeping in view the need for diversification of agriculture the hon. Prime Minister had earlier announced that he wanted to live appreciably the minimum support price of oil seeds and pulses. For the first time in the country the minimum support price of on item has been hiked to Rs. 275 from Rs. 200. There are several such items but I do not want to mention them. A package has been announced for strengthening the sugar industry. As the hon. Minister of Finance has announced that the Government is also working on another package. We want to encourage agro-based industries. Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the discussion, and Hon. Member...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : For other

problems, the hon. Minister need not reply and waste the time of the House. The Kisan can dial the said number and get the required information.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : He can only get information by doing so. In the motion moved by Shri Topdar it was mentioned that per capita consumption of foodgrains has come down. I have figures. In 1950-51 the per capita consumption of foodgrains per year was 154.1 Kg., that rose to 179.3 Kg. per capita per annum. Hence, it is not right to say that per capita consumption of foodgrains has gone down.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, how much more time will you take?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : Ten minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude quickly.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was mentioned that India capitulated before the WTO after becoming its Member. But I want to remind that ever since the NDA Government came to power it vociferously projected the country's stand be it the WTO conferences at Seattle, at Doha in 2001 or a Cacun in 2003. We did not compromise with the farmers' interests. I want to assure that we have not curtailed the subsidy on even a single commodity under the pressure of the WTO.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been the constant endeavour of the Government that the domestic support in the form of export subsidy provided by the developed nations should be reduced substantially.

Sir, regarding the extent of export subsidy given by them, subsidy should be given only on those items on which subsidy is given by the developing countries. If subsidy is given on other items it should be completely withdrawn. India has been consistently lobbying in this regard. It was mentioned that we increased our imports under the pressure of WTO rules. But it is not so. I would like to quote some figures to show that our share of imports is declining continuously. It was 7.45 per cent in 1999-2000. It declined to 5.77 per cent in 2002-2003. Hence we did not bow before the WTO rules. On the other hand our exports increased. Our export was Rs. 1,205 crores in 1990-91 which has now risen to Rs. 17,100 crores. It would not be right to say that we succumbed to WTO rules.

Sir, hon'ble Shri Shivraj V. Patil also mentioned that we should work as one. We have shown how we can do this by running a 21 party coalition Government. I believe that as far as the question of the development of this country is concerned our Government and our Prime Minister has tried to do this in cooperation with others. We will try to follow your important suggestions since it is certain that the next Government would also be formed by us.

Sir, all the questions raised by hon'ble Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar relate to employment. But he raised an important point regarding 'investment starvation in agriculture'. It is true that the investment is not to the extent it should have been. But it is not possible for any Government to raise the investment in agriculture several fold suddenly. But I want to say with confidence that during our tenure the public investment in agriculture has increased. Individual investment by farmers has also increased during our tenure. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar said that it was his last speech...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I said that it was the last speech from our side. And the next speech would be from that side.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH : I pray to God that we as well as you also should remain firm. Mr. Speaker, Sir, with this I conclude.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is paucity of time. Hon. Rajkath Singh has replied to many of the queries. I would like to give a little bit information regarding the condition of workers in the organised sectors. To make reforms in the law and to improve the condition of workers in the unorganised sector has been my utmost concern and also that of the hon'ble Prime Minister during our tenure of the last five years. We did whatever was required in different sectors. Closure and retrenchment in the industrial sector has declined. Two and half lakh industrial units had already been closed down before our Government came to power. We made endeavours to stop the imminent closure of some industries. We offered VRS instead of retrenching labourers but there were difficulties in this. Our effort resulted in such reforms that when we ask them to continue, they demand VRS. A lot of reforms has been carried out. Workers' interest were taken care of with the initiation of investment. Apart from investment we took due care of our workers. We took decisions on the basis of trilateral discussion. Earlier the

Indian Labour Conference was being held for on day, now we have made it a two day affair so that every aspect could be discussed in broad detail. When labourers demand that conference should be held for three days, we acceded to their demand.

ESI hospitals were not in good condition. During the last five years we set up 16 model hospitals, new facilities were added and more than 300 crore were spent for that. The State Governments were short of funds. For improving the hospitals, they used to ask for funds. The Central Government was giving Rs. 600 per insured person, which was raised to Rs. 750. We spent separately on model hospitals. We ensured payment of labourers' claims without delay. On Provident Fund, we are giving interest at rate of 9.5% to employees in a low interest regime. This is not a small matter. Earlier labourers did not receive their claims for 6 to 7 months. We ensured the settlement of claims in thirty days by business process re-engineering. Claims could be settled in 24 hours once our plan is fully implemented. It could also be enquired even on telephone. As regards 3 crore 94 lakh employment opportunities. I would like to share an information with hon. Members that in 2001-2002 there were 2 crore 74 lakh subscribers of the employees Provident Fund. In 2002-03 this membership has increased by 1 crore 20 lakh and the number of subscribers has reached 3 crore 94 lakhs. It can only increase when there is employment generation. The survey in this regard is conducted once in four years. The latest survey report would reveal the number of employment opportunities generated. Eight per cent growth rate is not imaginary. Growth rate is linked with employment generation. Now we conduct more training camps for our labourers. We have given more funds for the education of their children. We have increased the amount for mandatory maternity which was earlier Rs. 500. We have built 20,000 dwelling units in one year of Bidl workers. 10,000 dwelling units have been built at one place. We have made all out efforts to provide facilities to workers—whether in the organised or in the unorganised sector. I want to say an important thing about the unorganised sector...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Now, there is a strong feeling and there is a confusion amongst the working class that their right to collective bargaining is being curtailed. That is number one. Secondly,

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

their right to strike work is also being curtailed by the recent judgement of Supreme Court. You have not made your position clear till date. Are you going to face the workers in elections in this background?

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is replying. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It is a barbarous decision...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Sir, there is no good feeling.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Please explain your position...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Members that workers have a right to strike. Employees under the Industrial dispute Act have a right to strike even today. They are not affected by the judgement of Supreme Court. They have a right to strike. I would like to say for your information...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

There is no confusion. They still have the right to go on strike...*(Interruptions)* The Supreme Court has not said anything about the Industrial Disputes Act. Those who are covered under the Industrial Dispute Act have the right to go on strike. They can go on strike. There is nothing against them in the Supreme Court decision.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say that we put a lot of efforts to increase investment. We gave concessions to each state which asked for it under SEZ so that crores of under-employed or unemployed youth could get good employment. We have trained them and given concession. New industries are being set up. Foreigners used to criticize India for child labourers. Earlier the number of child labourers was very high. Now it is decreasing every year. The hon. Prime Minister has raised the budget allocation from 249 crores to 602 crores in the tenth five year plan for this purpose. 250 districts have been covered instead of 100 district.

It is our resolution and the Hon. Prime Minister

has also directed that child labour should be abolished by 2007. We have made several plans and I assured the House that there will be no child labour in the country after 2007. We are imparting education to all, running thousands of schools and have associated NGOs in this task. Dr. Saroja rightly said that if we have to create a just society, we have to help the labourers and provide jobs to unemployed youth through self help groups, all the NGOs and ourselves can organise people in this manner and provide them jobs.

The Government have taken an important decision regarding 37 crores labourers in the unorganised sector. They have been provided social security.

Earlier there was not social security for them. It has passed 56.5 years since the country got independence, and it amazes one to think that why not any effort was made by the Government during this period to formulate such a scheme. For the first time the Government have decided to provide social security to the workers in the unorganised sector as per the order of the hon. Prime Minister. The Government have started implementing the scheme in the 50 districts of the country during this year itself and have successfully made some workers as its members. For the first time a plan has been envisaged that propose to provide a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 500, the medical reimbursement upto 30 thousand rupees per annum, an insurance cover of one and a quarter lakh rupees and family pension to the workers of the unorganised sectors. The Government have not only provided the social security to the unorganised sector workers but have also paid attention towards their basic needs i.e. food, clothing and house to live. As far their earning to feed themselves is concerned, most of these workers are those who are vendors and hawkers.

This Government under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister has decided to cover the poor vendors and hawkers under the other workers of the unorganised sector under this scheme so that they could lead a life of dignity and respect. Hence by passing a resolution in the House the Government have directed the state Governments to take steps to implement the scheme for the workers in the unorganised sector and under the scheme there is a provision for not only covering them under the social security net but also to take care for the housing. Most of the people working in the unorganised sector live in the unauthorised colonies. The democles sword was hanging over the heads of the 35 lakh such people living in Delhi. The Cabinet have take

this decision to regularise the existing unauthorised colonies as to provide facilities to them but not to allow to further growth to unauthorised colonies and this scheme propose to cover the workers of the unorganised sector under the social security net besides providing house building facilities to them...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.): He is misleading. This has been done in Delhi. He is distorting the facts...(Interruptions)

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : The national floor level of the minimum wages was Rs. 35 when the Government came to the power and now it has been increased to Rs. 66 during these five years i.e. the Government have almost doubled the minimum wages since coming into power.

Thus, the Government have thought and acted a lot for the welfare of the poor people and those belonging to the weaker section of society. The Government had asked all the states to enact the laws for the agriculture labour. However only one state enacted law and that is Kerala but now all those agricultural workers have been included in the unorganised sector alongwith the poor people like the cobblers, washermen and others. There are 122 such categories that had continuously been neglected in the past, have been included in this network of social security.

They talk about providing the right to work. I maintain that the right to work as well as the right to duty be given. Shri Shivrajji had aptly pointed out the Japanese model of right to work and right to duty can be adopted in our country also. This Government would work towards this and would consider introducing right to work and right to duty when we come back to power. It is imperative that right to duty should go hand in hand with right to work.

The Government have also thought a lot about the NRI'S. They used to face a lot of difficulties in the past. The Government have started a new insurance scheme for them w.e.f. 25 December. If a NRI face any problem, if he doesn't get employment, fall ill and intend to come back to India then he can do so and the expenditure would be given by the insurance company. We have given several facilities to them. This Government have, for the first time, made an effort to provide social security to the workers of the organised sector in terms of continuing their employment and also those of the unorganised sector who had not get any social security till date. I

think that the speed with which the Government is working...(Interruptions) We have taken the welfare measure for the labourers in the unorganised sectors in 50 districts across the country...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry. This is not correct. In the state of West Bengal alone 50,000 people have lost their jobs. Many public sector units have been closed in West Bengal...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Now this is our resolve...(Interruptions) We would experience this scheme for the two years...(Interruptions) Next year when the Government comes back to power, we would provide social security to the 37 crore people who are working in the unorganised sector and thus helping the poor...(Interruptions) Hon. Deendayal Upadhyaji had this dream of Anatyodaya...(Interruptions) and this NDA Government has worked for realising this dream of hon. Deendayal Upadhaya of uplifting the person belonging to the most backward section of the society. The workers of the entire country are very happy due to it and the Government and the entire country also is very happy with the achievement of the Government. The people propose to realised those remaining dreams by electing NDA Government under the leadership of hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

18.51 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2004, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th February, 2004 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make

to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation Bill, 2004, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th February, 2004 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Finance Bill, 2004, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th February, 2004 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have an anxiety and since the hon. Prime Minister is present here, I would like to seek clarification from him. I understand that the elections to the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly would not be completed before the 31st March, 2004. There is no Assembly there now. This is the last day of this Lok Sabha. Since the Constitution does not provide the power to the Governor to bring an Ordinance in the name of the Budget, I would like to know how the Vote on Account in respect of that State will be dealt with. We will be too grateful if the Prime Minister takes the House into confidence and explain the position, legal and otherwise on behalf of his Government.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Narasaraopet) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with him. This an important issue.

18.52 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, we have now come to the close of the second part of the 14th Session which

commenced on the 29th January, 2004. As the hon. Members are aware, it was convened specially to transact essential financial business before the dissolution of the 13th Lok Sabha. On this last working day of the 13th Lok Sabha, I would like to take this opportunity not only to make a mention of the business transacted during the second part of the 14th Session, but also to recapitulate some of the important events that took place during the 13th Lok Sabha.

In this short second part of the 14th Session, spread over five sittings, inter-alia the Interim Railway and General Budgets for the year 2004-2005, Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) and (General) for the year 2003-2004, the Demand for Excess Grant (Railways) for the year 2001-2002 as well as connected Appropriation Bills and the Finance Bill were passed by the House.

As in the past, the Lok Sabha Secretariat will be bringing out, in due course, a Souvenir containing a detailed account of the business transacted by the House and the work done by the Parliament Committees during the life of the 13th Lok Sabha. However, I am now touch upon some of the salient features and significant events of the 13th Lok Sabha.

The present Lok Sabha was constituted on the 10th October, 1999 and the House met for the first time on the 20th October, 1999. In all, the House had 356 sittings spread over 1,944 hours.

We celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India as well as the 50th Anniversary of the Indian Republic on 26th November, 1999 and the 27th January, 2000, respectively. The Golden Jubilee of the Parliament of India was also celebrated during the tenure of the 13th Lok Sabha. As you know, the two Houses had met for the first time, after the First General Elections, on the 13th May, 1952. To mark the occasion, an International Parliamentary Conference was hosted by us from the 22nd to the 26th January, 2003.

For the first time, on the 16th May, 2000, my worthy predecessor, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, constituted a 15-Member Ethics Committee of the House. This was clearly a reflection of our collective concern for probity in public life.

Some of the important ad hoc Committees constituted during the Lok Sabha were the Joint Parliamentary Committees on 'Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto', 'Security in Parliament House Complex', and

'Pesticide residues in and safety standards for soft drinks, fruit juice and other beverages'. All the Parliamentary Standing Committees and the ad hoc Committees functioned very well during the Thirteenth Lok Sabha and presented 839 Reports containing important recommendations.

During the course of the 14 sessions that we have had, the House passed 305 Bills. Of these, 14 were Constitution (Amendment) Bills, which include : the Constitution Amendment Bill making the right to education as a Fundamental Right and laying down that 'the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age group of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine'; the Constitution Amendment Bill restricting the size of the Council of Ministers and amending the Anti-Defection law by omitting the provisions relating to splits; and the Constitution Amendment Bill including four more languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

Among other important Bills passed during the tenure of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha were the three Bills of the year 2000, which paved the way for creation of the new States of Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand.

The Joint Sitting of Parliament summoned by the President of India under the provisions of article 108(1) of the Constitution on 26th March, 2002, for the purpose of deliberating and voting on the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2002 was an event of parliamentary importance. It was the third such occasion when a joint sitting of the House was summoned, the earlier two being in connection with the Dowry Prohibition Bill, 1959 and the Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Bill, 1977.

While there have been events and occasions concerning the House in the last four years and nearly four months which are worthy of being proudly taken note of by the posterity, we have also had our share of moment of concern, sadness and grief.

It is with a heavy heart that I recall the tragic and untimely demise of my illustrious predecessor, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi. As Speaker, he endeavoured to uphold the dignity and prestige of the Parliament. On behalf of the entire House, I once again pay respectful homage to this leader of eminence.

The dastardly attack on our Parliament by terrorists on 13th December, 2001 was a reminder of the threats to our democratic institutions and way of life. This violent

and senseless attempt was thwarted by the prompt and courageous response of the security personnel. The sacrifices made by the brave souls in protecting our supreme legislative institution will remain etched in our memories forever.

The new Parliament Library Building was inaugurated by the then hon. President, Shri K.R. Narayanan on 7th May, 2002. The fully computerised Library, with its modern facilities, will help the Members not only in discharging their parliamentary duties more effectively but also in their intellectual pursuits.

Hon. Members, as you are aware, the plans to augment and improve the infrastructure of the Constitution Club for the benefit of the Members have also finally fructified. The foundation stone for undertaking the work of renovating and remodelling the Club facilities was laid by the hon. Vice-President of India, Shri Bharion Singh Shekhawat yesterday, the 4th February, 2004.

The very good performance of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, in discharging its multifarious role in the fields of Legislation and Finance as well as in transaction of other business of national importance, has been made possible because of the valuable contributions made by the Leader of the House, the Deputy Prime Minister and other Members of the Council of Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders, Deputy Leaders and Whips of the political Parties, Chairman of Parliamentary Committees and indeed each and every Member of this House.

19.00 hrs.

I gratefully acknowledge the unstinted cooperation and support extended me by all sections of the House, the Treasury as well as the Opposition Benches, in discharging my duties as the Presiding Officer of this House.

I am thankful to the hon. Deputy Speaker and Member on the Panel of Chairman who have very ably shared the responsibility of presiding over the House.

I, on behalf of the entire House, express my thanks to the Secretary-General and officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat who have worked hard behind the scene to help us perform the duties bestowed on us as representatives of the people of India.

I also appreciate the services of the Watch & Ward

Staff, CRPF, Delhi Police and other security agencies who are vigilantly protecting the Parliament House Complex. I also thank the CPWD and other allied agencies which have rendered their valuable support.

The media persons have taken the work done by us to the people and have helped us in enhancing our parliamentary performance.

We extend our sincere thanks to them and hope that we will continue to have such cooperation in future too.

Very soon, we would be going back to the people to seek their renewed mandate. Let us hope to meet again in the new House as well.

With the conclusion of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, we take a step towards crossing another significant milestone in the history of our parliamentary democracy. We were confident that the future augers well for all of us and that we shall be able to realise our much cherished goal of making India a fully developed country very soon.

My best wishes to all of you.

Hon. Members, we may now stand up as '*Vande Matram*' would be played.

[Translation]

Once again, I would like to give my good wishes to all the MP's for the forthcoming elections on my behalf.

19.02 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

(The National Song was played.)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

19.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in
Lok Sabha (Tenth Edition) and Printed at Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006
