

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 18, 2003/Agrahayana 27, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been submitting notices for the last three days. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government has not taken any stand on Saddam Hussein. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

What is the stand of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a boy has been sacrificed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We have often discussed that Question Hour should begin at right time. I am ready to give you time to speak during Zero Hour after the question hour ends.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I requested you yesterday ...*(Interruptions)* you told that you will give me two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government does not have any stand regarding Saddam Hussein. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ram Vilas ji please speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been trying to draw the attention of the Government for the last three days. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak today. Shri Vijay Paswan is a Government employee in CCL in Golconda of Hazaribagh in Jharkhand. His six year old son Munna Paswan was missing from 6 December, 2003. I had been in Ranchi then. Then I had gone to Dhanbad on 8th. The body of that boy was found on 9 December, 2003. It came out with the arrest of the accused that a Sadhu, I don't want to take his name as it has been splashed in all the papers, I do not want to give him anymore publicity, he did the job of sacrificing that boy in a temple. The father of the boy works in CCL. When the youth staged a dharna in protest of this incident on 11th, then DSP of Police, Ramgarh opened fire on them. It is learnt that a student died in this incident. I want to say that the situation is serious there. The entire family of that boy belongs to my party. A large number of people are sitting on dharna there. People from each political party are sitting on dharna there. This kind of superstition. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please raise this issue in Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I will raise it in Zero Hour too. I want you to take up a Calling Attention on this issue so that we get an opportunity to discuss it. Sacrificing a boy in this way. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government which allows such sacrifices should be sacrificed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this kind of incidents should not recur. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your subject?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today when the country looks at the Judiciary with respect. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your subject did come for discussion in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the Government in this regard. It will serve no purpose?

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: In the circumstances, the Chief Minister of Bihar Shrimati Rabri Devi has threatened the Deputy Judge of Bihar High Court in the case of Chief Secretary since he has been arrested. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you time to speak when your notice comes up. I cannot allow you to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I go to the Question Hour now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You gave notice on the subject and I gave you time to speak. The Government has said that it will take action. You cannot give notice again and again on the same subject.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I now go to the Question Hour. Shri P.D. Elangovan.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You may raise the issue in Zero Hour after Question Hour. I will allow you.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to begin the Question Hour. Please sit down. Your subject came up for discussion yesterday. I cannot permit you to raise the same issue again and again.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed the notice of suspension of Question Hour. The issue of MPLAD is important. Pappu Yadavji, I will allow you to raise the issue in Zero Hour. There is no need now. You raised the issue yesterday also. I cannot allow you to raise the same issue everyday. I will allow you to raise the issue in zero hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER; I have said it once and will not repeat it again and again. Please sit down. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already gone to the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have said you can give notice. If the notice is admitted, your subject will come up for discussion.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what about the case of the judge. ...*(Interruptions)* The Chief Minister of Bihar has threatened the Chief Justice. It is a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked you to raise the issue in Zero Hour.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: When the Chief Justice in Bihar is not safe then how can a common man be safe? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Other members have also got some rights. I will allow only those members who have given notice. I cannot permit everyone.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: I said that I will obey your orders. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a rule. You are speaking. please raise the issue in Zero Hour.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Ramdas ji, you can not speak now. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Ramdasji, you are the last Member to ask a question.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, even I have a question. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Ramdasji, which is your question.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Question no. 250.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call your name when your turn comes.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Ramdasji, that question is related to power. It is not related to the issue in hand in any way.

...(*Interruptions*)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Sanctioning of Programmes for Doordarshan

*241. ⁺SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

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

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati has called applications for allotment of time slots in DD Bharati alongwith other channels of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, whether the applicants are not at all called for any interview for the allotment of time slots or sponsored programmes;

(c) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the number of applications received and sanction given for each time slots or programmes in various channels of Doordarshan;

(d) the details of the funds allocated for producing programmes of Doordarshan alongwith the list of producers to whom the funds have been allotted during the last two years, channel-wise;

(e) whether there is undue support for certain producers for producing programmes for Doordarshan Channels; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and action taken by the Government thereon?

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 in respect of DD Bharati. As regards other channels of DD, information is under collection and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that as per the channel requirement, applications from private producers for commissioning of programmes for DD Bharati Channel were called for through advertisement given in various newspapers as well as Doordarshan channels. In response, 560 proposals were received. All the proposals have been processed and the Evaluation Committee has approved 185 proposals. Sanctions have been issued to 33 producers and an amount of Rs. 1.46 crores, as 30% advance payment, has been allocated during the year 2002-03. A list of producers (27 Nos.) to whom advance payment has been made during 2002-03 is enclosed at Annexure.

Only such producers whose proposals were approved before 31st March 2003 were called for oral presentation. There are no sponsored programmes on DD Bharati.

(e) Prasar Bharati has informed that there is no case of undue support for any producer.

(f) Does not arise.

Annexure**Proposals sanctioned in March 2003**

Sl.No.	Name of Producer	Name of Firm	Title	Advance amount paid during the year 2002-2003 (In Rupees)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Mr. Anil Kr. Jain	M/s Jai Maa Telefilms	Jinny aur Joota	6,33,000/-
2.	Mr. Vimal Shankar	M/s Bioscopewala	Karat Abhyas Ke	4,29,000/-
3.	Mr. Pritpal Singh Kohli	M/s Ranjit Studio	Khilkhilati Zindagi	4,74,000/-
4.	Mr. Praveen Arora	M/s Kabir Communications	Parsa	8,58,000/-
5.	Mr. S.P. Aseem	M/s Color Features of India	Yeh Kisi Se Kam Nahin	3,88,500/-
6.	Mr. Naveen Samhotra	M/s News Network	Cross Roads	4,76,400/-
7.	Mr. Amarjeet	M/s Cine India International	Chandni Chowk	5,91,000/-
8.	Mr. Sanjesh Ahuja	M/a Ambika Communications	Masoom Mansiktayen	5,90,700/-
9.	Mr. P.L. Ahuja	M/s Ambika Chitra	Cinema Ek Safar	5,19,000/-
10.	Mr. Manoj Raghuvanshi	M/s Film & Media School (IILM)	Death Warrant/Chetawani	3,21,000/-
11.	Mr. Rajan Kr. Ahuja	M/s Visual Passage	Dekh Tamasha Dekh	5,07,000/-
12.	Mr. Lov Chawla	M/s Krishna Vision	Jadui Chirag	7,17,000/-
13.	Mrs. Rakhi Verma	M/s K.K. Combines	Light House for Children	3,79,500/-
14.	Ms. Kaushalya Rai	M/s Kunal Films	Great Sanskrit Works of Kalidas & Shudraka	10,26,000/-
15.	Mr. Kishore Dang	M/s Chhaya Dhvani	Living Tradition	5,82,000/-
16.	Mr. Rajiv Khanpuri	M/s Nirmal Arts Creations	Aayee Bal Basant Bahar	5,18,700/-
17.	Ms. Seema Murlidhara	M/s Beacon Television	Saanjhi Sehat	4,47,000/-
18.	Ms. Gayatri Joshi	M/s Gayatri Communications	Kahani Rang Manch Ki	4,44,000/-

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Ms. Kala Iyyar	M/s Genesis Media Pvt. Ltd.	Scalling New Heights	3,24,000/-
20.	Mr. Vivek Verma	M/s Maestro Productions	Akaar	5,97,000/-
21.	Mr. Ajay Jai Singhani	M/s the Drummers TV Network	Cactus Flower	7,20,000/-
22.	Mr. Venu Gopal K. Thakker	M/s Pro Video	Matti Ke Rang	7,14,000/-
23.	Mr. Sridhar & Nagendra	M/s Sai Productions	Rang Manch	3,51,000/-
24.	Mr. Deepak Bhat	M/s Pursuit Communiqué	Dev Bhumi Khumaon	4,33,800/-
25.	Dr. Raju R. Kanakia	M/s Mediavision Infomedia Pvt. Ltd.	Madhur Muskan—The Healthy Baby Show	3,17,700/-
26.	Mrs. Deevya R. Jain	M/s D.R. Production	Kya Tum Mujhæ Dosti Karoge	8,04,000/-
27.	Mr. Saroj Mehta	M/s Exotic News & Films Pvt. Ltd.	Baby's Bytes	4,78,800/-
Total				1,46,42,100/-

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the reply given to these questions is like ducking-in as seen in the game of cricket. When 560 proposals were received and when 185 were approved, why were only 33 producers called for oral presentation, that too after approving their proposals? I would like to put this question. Why is it that other potential producers are not give an opportunity to give oral presentation?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: There is always a date in any proposal. In the instant case, a date was fixed and the date was 31st of March, 2003. ...*(Interruptions)* There was an all-India advertisement. Thereafter, the proposals were received. 185 proposals have been approved. The amount has also been given in advance. I have already stated that. We are quite hopeful that many of these producers are in the process of completing their programmes. From next year onwards, their programmes will come on DD-I.

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: If you go through the Annexure to the reply cursorily, from the list of producers, it is evident that the all-India representation is missing. Why is it that the other channel information like Metro and National is not there?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I have already stated in my reply that the question asked by the hon. Member is very comprehensive. It concerns not only DD Bharati but also all other channels. If the hon. Member would care to see the first part of my reply, it has already been stated that as regards information from other channels, we are collecting it. The present information is with regard to DD Bharati. If you see the chart, a fairly comprehensive list is there. It is all-India representation. Once we get the details of other channels, you will see all-India creative people are given due exposure on Doordarshan. That will be clear.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, I would request you to give me some indulgence because, for the last five years, I am raising the question of corrupt practice and

racketeering going on in Mandi House and Doordarshan. ...*(Interruptions)* It is becoming a black market in selling slots. Three ministers have changed. I have repeatedly raised it everywhere. No remedy is there. The hon. Minister told that information relating to other DD channels are being collected. How long will it take? For the last five years, we have been raising this issue. Can they not collect that information in five years? This is a clear attempt to protect and to give shelter to those people who are cheating the Indian exchequer and the Doordarshan.

I want to give him specific information. In Kolkata, it is the tip of the iceberg. The DD Kendra, Kolkata is there. After six years, the dues of one producer are to the extent of Rs. 10,13,00,000. But extension has been given. There is one Government Channel DD-7. A private news producer has been given permission to telecast the news. ...*(Interruptions)* Of course, they can run different channels like NDTV. How can the Government channel be used by a private broadcaster to telecast news giving all false information? They have dues to the tune of rupees three-and-a-half crore. The CEO and all the officials are giving them indulgence.

Then, there is another thing. One company is there with four or five names. A sum of Rs. 21 crore is due from them. But they are getting maximum slots in DD Kendra, Kolkata. Why has this been done? Repeatedly, we have been telling about it. The black marketeers are hand in glove with the officials in the Ministry, the CEO in the Prasar Bharati. They have nexus. They are looting the country. Can one person dupe the country to the extent of Rs. 21 crore? All over the country, hundreds of crores of rupees are being looted by such people in different DDKs who are the unscrupulous producers. They are media mafia. The media mafia must be curbed. The Government is silent. I do not know why it is so. What is the reason for that? The Minister is also going back on it. I want a categorical answer to my question. I want to know whether the sum of Rs. 21 crore due is there. How are they going to realise this money? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The coal mafia has become the media mafia ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can reply to the question of Shri Hannan Mollah only.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Let me reply to the query of the hon. Member. He has raised two types of issues. One is a specific question about Kolkata for which I have just replied. But I do not think that the general, sweeping allegations against the Doordarshan and all the officials will be fair.

I need to inform this august House, through you, Sir, that the same Doordarshan people have done brilliantly on DD News. It has become one of the best channels hardly after a week of its coming into being. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me reply. Let me assure the hon. Member that the DD News in terms of revenue is doing very well. As far as the specific query is concerned, the hon. Member Shri Hannan Mollah has raised certain issues. I have great regard for him. He is in my Consultative Committee also. He has brought it to my notice. I would like to say that three senior members of the Prasar Bharati have personally gone to Kolkata to enquire about the whole matter. They have submitted their report to the Prasar Bharati. The Prasar Bharati is considering their report.

As far as the specific question about the programme is concerned, the producer concerned has moved the Calcutta High Court in certain matters. A stay was granted by the Calcutta High Court. I have also requested the officials to ensure that the Supreme Court is moved for vacating that stay. I want to assure the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: They did not move the court for the last two years. ...*(Interruptions)* Only one company is being allotted most of the slots. Why did the officers not move the court to get the stay vacated? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can reply to the question put by Shri Hannan Mollah.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD; I want to assure this august House that all the proposals and the reports shall be processed in right earnest. I have also directed the officials accordingly. If specific stay orders have been given by the court, we are bound by that. Therefore, legal steps are also being taken. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Why did you not move the court to get the stay vacated? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I demand that the report of the Committee should be laid on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD; We are taking all the steps necessary. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to inform the House one thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. I can understand that the Members are agitated. But the hon. Minister is also trying his best to give the reply.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I can understand their specific concern about the specific producer of Kolkata. This has been brought to my notice. All proper steps have been taken.

I want to inform the hon. Member that appropriate follow-up action shall be taken in the light of the inquiry report which is currently under consideration by the Prasar Bharati Board itself.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, how long will they take to collect the information about dues in all DD Kendras?
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vetrivelvan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Excepting Shri Vetrivelvan's question, nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There should be discipline in the House. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hannan Mollah, your own colleagues are not allowing him to complete the reply.

SHRI V. VETRIVELVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask a very important question to the hon. Minister. There are separate channels for different subjects like entertainment, news, sports, discoveries, geography, adventures, animals and so on which are running for 24 hours. But there is no separate 24 hours channel for education. The educational programmes which are presently being telecast on various subject on some channels have been allotted only half-an-hour time slot. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to start a separate 24 hours channel for education. If not, I would like to know the reasons for that. I would also like to know whether the Government would provide any financial assistance to private parties who are willing to start a separate 24 hours channel for telecast in educational programmes.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, we have close to 100 channels in the country now. Most of them are in private hands. Doordarshan is a public broadcaster which is being governed by an Act. as far as the quantum of educational programmes are concerned, they are being shown on Doordarshan like *Gyan Darshan* and there are also programmes run by Indira Gandhi National Open University. But I would like to inform the hon. Member that running an exclusive channel for education, by itself also, involves a lot of money. Therefore, the Government has to take a holistic view of it. Having said that, I would like to take this opportunity also to state that, at least, other channels which are in private hands should also understand as to the need for showing quality education programmes through their channels. This is a consultative process which we need to engage into. I would like to inform the House that the *Sarvashiksha Abhiyan* comparing being undertaken on Doordarshan itself has become very successful. Therefore, this process will go on.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to my question fully. I want an assurance from the Minister. What are the dues of other producers and how long will the Government take to collect the money from them?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I have instructed my officers to collect it expeditiously.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the answer, the Minister has stated that the Prasar Bharati informed that there is no case of undue support to any producer. But a lot of complaints are coming up in this regard saying that undue support has been extended to certain producers. I do not want to name the producers here. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government will inquire into the complaints and take remedial measures so that all the producers will be considered equally on merit, because that is not happening today.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I would like to reply to the query of the hon. Member Shri Ramesh Chennithala in two ways. We have got a proper Evaluation Committee in which there are three senior officers and three persons from outside, journalists, and creative people, who are functioning as members. I agree that a large number of applications have come to us. But depending upon their presentation, quality and content, decisions are taken by them, in which we have no role to play. If any specific complaint is brought to our notice, I would like to say that appropriate action shall be taken.

*Not recorded.

But having said that, we are also very keen that if Doordarshan has to become professionally competitive, we also have to go beyond this whole norm. For instance, we have requested Shri Gulzar to make a serial on the great creative stories of Munshi Prem Chand. He is doing it. But people of the standard of Shri Gulzar will certainly not come and stand in a queue. Therefore, some assistance has to be given if we have to become professionally competitive and that will be a good development.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 242, Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are walking out in protest. ...(Interruptions)

12.20 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday I gave notice for Privilege Motion, and you said that you would consider it. Can there be a privilege of the House more serious than this one? Please take decision on it expeditiously as it is a question of privilege of the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This matter was considered in the after noon yesterday. The Deputy Speaker had given the ruling that the Privilege Motion was found not in order.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Whatever he has said. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That all has been expunged.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I again want to give notice for Privilege Motion. Is it not a matter of privilege? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Whenever hon. Minister comes Members from opposition make hue and cry, which is not right. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir it is a matter of privilege. You decide it. It is a very serious breach of

privilege of this House. ...(Interruptions) It is highly deplorable. How long it would do like this? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already requested the Opposition parties to listen to the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, you are the custodian of this House.

[Translation]

You do something in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Action should be taken against hon. Members from Congress Party in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: After all, they have to behave in the House. They are Members of this House. They cannot go on doing like this. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jadhavji, you may ask your question.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Air Force. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, the hon. Deputy-Speaker said that technical procedure has to be followed. A privilege notice has been given by the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: The privilege notice is not before me for discussion at this stage.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: What we requested was that let that process be completed. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, before coming to the matter please think how the House can run in this way.

[English]

Let the Chair give some ruling on this point. How long can they murder democracy like this?

MR. SPEAKER: Then, I will have to repeat the whole story again. I wanted to avoid it as far possible. The only thing is that they wanted to have a discussion on some issue. The people belonging to the ruling party, particularly the BJP, also said that they had no objection for a discussion. The draft was given by the Opposition which is before the BJP. If the draft is approved or amended by the ruling party, the draft can be put up to the House.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They cannot keep the whole House at ransom.

[Translation]

If their's suggestion is not accepted then they wanted keep resorting to walk-and-like this.

MR. SPEAKER: I do agree with you. I have repeatedly told that if opposition listens to hon. Member, I will be very happy. Today, draft is with your party. You give it to there then discussion will be held.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, what is the question of draft. *...(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, Samajwadi party is neither opposing it nor supporting it. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: We would like to ask a question.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you can ask a question. You can ask a supplementary. There is no problem.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Sir idols are stolen and sent abroad. Give me permission to raise this issue also. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

Procurement Procedure

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*242. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that slow procurement process to replace ageing fighter aircraft is compromising the operational preparedness of IAF;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government has evolved any new procurement procedure for procurement of weapons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and how the new system compares with the old one in essential details?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) The Indian Air Force has formulated a modernization plan to enhance its combat aircraft strength in terms of quality as well as quantity. Plans are in hand to augment the squadron force level by upgradation of the existing fleet and replacement of ageing fighter aircraft. Government is committed to maintain full defence preparedness at all times.

Government have recently promulgated the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) to ensure expeditious procurement for approved requirements for the Armed Forces in terms of capability sought and timeframe prescribed by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources. The methodology of procurement aims at highest degree of probity, public accountability, transparency in operations, free competition and impartiality.

Government have also approved a Fast Track Procedure for procurement of defence equipment, which, in the opinion of the Chief of the concerned Service, is required to meet urgent operational needs.

In comparison to the old procedure, the new procedure caters for joint planning by the Services leading to inter/intra Services prioritization of equipment and expenditure. It will ensure commonality of equipment leading to centralized procurement through a dedicated,

newly created Acquisition Wing in the Ministry of Defence. Apart from the detailed procedural steps, a comprehensive standardized Request For Proposal (RFP) has been prepared under the new procedure for procurement of equipment both through 'Buy' or 'Buy and Make' options.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sukhoi fighter planes procured for Indian Air Force are facing operational problems. Against the backdrop of this reasons it's procurement was stopped which has created quite a serious situation. In view of this, a Russian Committee had visited India. Gradually we will have to phase out fleet of ageing fighter planes. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask hon. Minister of Defence, whether in view of urgent need for its phasing out, the Government of India have evolved any strategy to tackle present scenario? How much funds have been released to Russia for its procurement and how many planes have been received so far and what steps the Government propose to take to recover the excess funds already released?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as procurement of Sukhoi is concerned, these planes were received in two lots. Of course, planes received in first lot, no doubt faced some engine problem but that has been rectified. In the case of planes of second lot also, some, fault was detected. Technicians of concerned Russian firm came to India to rectify the fault. Now, we are going to manufacture these planes in our country. 140 planes will be manufactured in the country itself. We are of the view that these planes are meant for replacing MIG planes, which were treated as main-stay with the Air Force.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was how much money have been paid the Russian firm for procurement of these planes and how many planes have been supplied by the firm so far alongwith the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for recovery of outstanding amount?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since this question is not linked to the main question, therefore, a separate notice is required for this purpose.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask hon. Minister whether present process of procurement of aeroplanes has proved unsuccessful? Whether hon. Defence Minister propose to take any

concrete steps for improving present procurement process?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier procurement process was evolved in 1992. And it was necessary to review it. Last year it was reviewed. Now, entire procurement is being made on the basis of new procurement policy.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one hon. Member from Congress Party wants to ask a question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If he wants to ask, he may do so.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): He is saying something.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, day before yesterday, you had permitted Dasmunsi ji to ask a question. The question asked by him was—Before going to Pakistan, hon. Prime Minister or Defence Minister should state what is the present position of security of the country? He raised this question and you allowed him to speak. After the question, he made a lengthy speech which was published by the newspapers. But, unfortunately, when hon. Defence Minister was about to give reply to this question they walked out. Thus he had wasted precious time of the country and the House as well. Still, I want Hon. Defence Minister to apprise the House about the condition our security, especially about the procurement of combat aircraft. Is our country capable to meet any threat from Pakistan?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can confidently say that strategically we are stronger today. During last 3-4 years we have purchased state-of-the-art arms and ammunition. Today our Armed Forces have everything that was difficult to get earlier. Quite confidently, I want to tell the House that our Armed Forces are ready and capable of meeting any challenge from Pakistan or any other country.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir. I am from the Opposition. But, I do not know why the Treasury Benches are so worried when the Congress walks out. They waste more of the time yelling at the Chair and speaking about the Congress walk out than the Congress does any damage to the House.

Now, my question is that Israel and China got their independence at the same time as India. Defence industry of Germany and Japan was completely devastated by the Second World War. But all these four countries are producing their own armaments, their aircraft, their tanks, their artillery pieces, their submarines, their aircraft carriers and we are still buying junk pieces of an aircraft carrier from Russia. I want to know why India has lagged behind. Is this not a national shame that we should still be importing our armaments from foreign countries? I want to ask the hon. Defence Minister, will the Government constitute a Commission of Inquiry to find out why India has lagged behind in the armament industry since 1947. Who are responsible for it? What will be done in future to see that we do not have to import out naval artillery tanks and the T-72 Tank, which does not have night vision equipment? That is the main armament tank.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: And I think though the Defence Minister has said that India is self-sufficient and can meet any threat from Pakistan, but the main tank of the Indian Army does not have vision glasses and we do not have enough tanks. Will he please tell us about this national shame that has been brought about on India by not producing our tanks, our submarines, our aircraft carriers and our own aircraft? Please do not tell me that you produced *Arjuna* because it is not in operation and we are not producing any fighter planes of any worth. So, please give us a direct answer whether you will appoint a National Commission of Inquiry.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question that has been raised by the hon'ble Member is quite substantive. We agree that we are currently hesitant to manufacture those items which we should have manufactured indigenously. The reason is that it is very difficult for any one country to try to manufacture for its defence items related with defence. As capital is required for manufacturing and promoting every item afresh, a question mark naturally arises. In the other countries, the names of those countries you have just mentioned, have been manufacturing, since very long time, items required for their defence and at the same time they have been selling those items to the other countries of the world to strengthen themselves. In our country, since the very beginning we confined the manufacture of defence items to the Government factories, only and outside those factories no such activity should take place and with regard to export it was our policy not to export our

indigenous defence equipments. In that condition, defence items of our requirement were being manufactured as per our requirement and so it was not possible for us to manufacture anything big. Today we have come out of that situation. Now we have moved ahead in the direction of export as well. The hon'ble Member said that nothing is being manufactured in our country. I would like to inform him that the supersonic cruise missile that has been recently made jointly by Indian and Russian scientists is available nowhere in the world. This has been acknowledged by the whole world and every country, being aware of it wants to look at it and today we are being approached by the customers for purchase as well.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, similar is the case of Light Combat Aircraft. Barring an engine, everything constituting it, is indigenously manufactured. The manufacturing of its 'Kaven' engine is being delayed a bit and there are some reasons involved. Those wishing to manufacture it as well as its manufacturers are not responsible for it. When we had conducted our nuclear test, we were in need of some spare parts to further this project. At first, we had the requirement of an engine to fit it into this aircraft. But after we conducted our nuclear test, the USA imposed sanctions on us due to which we could not procure the technology and that caused the delay. But we soon marched forward in resolving this problem as well and those are numerous areas where we have achieved tremendous success and as soon as the process of exports get started, we would give a further boost in that area. So, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member and this august House that arrangements are being made to manufacture indigenously the defence requirements of the country so as to make it available at cheap rates and through export and by way of exchange we can get those items at competitive prices, this we are trying.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Sharad Pawar.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mann Sahab, your question has not gone on record. Please be seated.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I would like to know how many Sukhoi aircraft will be manufactured in India in the next five years. Has any manufacturing programme been

given to Nasik unit? I would also like to know whether the Government is seriously considering to associate the private sector in this production programme.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 140 aircrafts are to be manufactured in our country. A time-frame of 14 years has been fixed for it. So, we would manufacture it as per our need. For its engines etc. separate arrangements have been made and that work will be carried out here only and it will be properly completed in time. So far as combining the private sector with this project is concerned, first of all we took up this issue with the CII. The reason was that we wanted to use the capabilities of private sector in addition to that of the Government in the matter of arranging capital and technology in the manufacture of defence equipments.

At the moment this has been decisively cleared and has been made public as well that we are ready on behalf of the Government to provide, to the private entrepreneurs willing to go for defence related industries, all the facilities required for it.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Member had asked the question about Nasik.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: The DRDO is involved in our research work. If the private sector wants to utilize it's services and intends to get from it something manufactured that is also permitted.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Member had asked the question about Nasik.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We think that we would achieve tremendous success by joining the Government and private sectors in this area. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I have a point of order. I would like to protect the Member from the action which is going to be taken by the Congress Party, because Shri Putta Swamy Gowda has put this Question. He has officially submitted the Question. He was every much present in the House.

[Translation]

I want to request you to kindly protect the hon'ble Member. In the last session, Congress had taken action

against one of it's Members for participating in the debate in respect of defence. You should provide protection to Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda if he asks questions in the House. The Congress Party should not take action against him. The Congress Party and it's whip have prohibited him from participating in the debate in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* At the same time, I would like to ask a question that if he was not willing to ask a question then why did he submit it? He should be protected so that the Congress Party could not take action against him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You want to ask supplementary question on this question itself?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: He is not supposed to question the integrity of the Member. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not decided by you, it is decided by the Speaker. Do not question the integrity of the Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This question is continuing, not the second question. You can ask questions, if you like, on this issue.

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: I could not follow. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me explain to the Member. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You see, Question No. 242 is going on in the House. Would you like to ask a question on Question No. 242 ?

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: No, I am on Question No. 243. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you can put Question No. 243.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: This is absolutely improper. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We are here to protect the Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: That member has not come to the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Putta Swamy Gowda is not present in the House. When a Member gives his name, he is expected to be present in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is expected to remain present in the House. Apart from that, unless the Member makes a complaint to the Speaker, it is the prerogative of the Party to take whatever action the Party wants to take. If the Member gives me a complaint, I will look into it, but no complaint has been given. Therefore, there is no substance in the point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri G.S. Basavaraj, ask your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He has to explain his conduct. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Pawar wants to say something.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, my question was not answered by the hon. Defence Minister. I asked a specific

question. What type of work order has been given to the Nasik unit? It is because there is no capacity utilisation there. The workers are sitting idle. Hon. Speaker, Sir, you yourself have raised this question twice, but the hon. Defence Minister has not replied. We want a reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

11.45 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members left the House.)

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this saying has come true about the hon'ble Members of the Congress Party—"Bade be-abaru hokar tere kuche se ham nikale". ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in your presence the hon'ble Members of the Congress Party have made a mockery of the Parliament. This will go down in history. Sir, this would be a dangerous precedence if it is established. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this would be extremely improper if it becomes a precedence. This is not a good precedence. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Madan Lal Khurana may be sent to the Delhi Legislative Assembly. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked you twice to tell me the position regarding Nasik.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, the facilities at Nasik would be used for manufacture of the Sukhoi aircraft. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is giving his reply.

Mr. Minister, do you want to reply or do you not want to reply to the question on Nasik?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I have given the reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please stop raising this issue. This issue was discussed when they staged the walk out.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is a misbehaviour. It is not a walk out. ...*(Interruptions)*

Discovery of Microbes for Oil Extraction

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*243. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether scientists at the Energy and Resources Institute and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation have discovered and developed microbes that help in the extraction of oil from sick oil wells;

(b) if so, whether any concrete measures in this regard have been worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) to what extent the new technique for revival of sick oil wells has been helpful;

(e) the total number of sick oil wells at present; and

(f) the number out of them helped by this new technique?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (f) The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have jointly developed Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery (EMOR) Technique, which is at field trial stage. The Technology has been applied to 15 low productivity ONGC wells of Cambay onland basin in the State of Gujarat, that is, 9 wells in Kalol, 1 each in Limbodra and North Kadi and 4 wells in Sobhashan fields.

The MEOR Technique is applicable to certain specific reservoir conditions and oil type conditions to enhance oil production from low producing wells and is not applicable for revival of sick wells in general.

As on 1.10.2003, the total number of sick oil wells in ONGC is about 475 in onland areas and 35 in offshore areas.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basavaraj ji, ask your question.

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Sir, it has been said that the TERI and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation of India have jointly discovered and developed microbial enhanced oil recovery technique which would help in oil exploration in the sick oil wells. It would be helpful to our country and also would be of assistance to the oil industry. Keeping in view the urgency, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government has taken to introduce this system immediately so that the losses could be recovered by the ONGC. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, question is of strategic importance for the country. I wanted to ask an important supplementary on this issue. How hon. Member Shri Basavaraj ji has come in between. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is replying now. Please sit down. I cannot give a long time for asking the same question again and again.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to ask a question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are so many questions, Several hon. Members are asking questions. Subject to availability of time, time is allotted to ask questions. That question cannot be asked now. I have allowed to ask the next question. Please take your seat.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are saying nothing to them. You are only scolding us. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are talking to the Chair. Please remember that.

[Translation]

I have given my opinion over this issue. I will not allow any other question on record. I have also suggested as to what you should do.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery Technique is a good technique. Our earlier laboratory experiments have been proved successful. Now, we are using this technique in field trials. Fifteen wells have been taken up and in those fifteen wells the proposed expenditure is Rs. 1.46 crore. As soon as these field trials are successful, we would go in for commercial application of these trials. I do hope, from the way our scientists at TERI as well as ONGC are going ahead, there would be success. If success is there, this would be applied for all commercial production.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: If it is true that the microbiological system that costs only Rs. two lakh per well which will give a return of oil worth more than Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 15 lakh income, then keeping in view this advantage, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has instructed the ONGC to introduce this technology immediately to all those sick wells to help in extracting oil.

May I know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government proposes to take to assist the scientists in this regard and what is the approximate cost to be incurred for revival of all sick wells?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I said it and let me repeat again that the field trials are going on and as soon as the field trials are completed, then the question of application in the entire field comes in. There is no question of any lack of funds for TERI as well as ONGC. Whatever funds are required for this particular experiment and field trials, these have been sanctioned. There will not be any shortage of funds. I also hope that these field trials should be successful and as soon as they are declared successful, we will go for commercial production.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Sir, my question is whether it is remunerative or non-remunerative. Please answer it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basavaraj, please take your seat.

Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi to ask his supplementary now.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that the MEOR technology is applicable to certain specific reservoirs to enhance the oil production. I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you whether any survey has been conducted in India by the experts about the possibility of exploration of oil on Indian sea using this new technique and if so what are the details of the survey conducted in this regard and whether any trials of extraction of oil from these areas have been undertaken and if so in how many cases Indian exploration experts succeeded.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, it is a little technical subject. The House should also understand what is the technical thing and from that point of view I shall read out what is technical here so that everybody would understand the significance of these new technique which is being used. World over, only three countries—China, ourselves and Malaysia—are using this. These are the three countries which are doing it. What is this technique, I shall read out.

The Microbial Enhanced Oil Recovery (MEOR) is an enhanced oil recovery technique that uses micro organism (bacteria) that live on an injected food source like molasses or oil. The molasses will also be used here. A mixed culture of bacteria and molasses is injected into the subsurface reservoir. The bacteria digest the molasses and generate gases such as hydrogen, carbon dioxide and other chemicals which in turn increase the mobility of oil in the reservoir and as a result flow of oil increases.

[Translation]

Oil stocks gets and this in a new technique to extract the stuck oil. This new technique is proving successful in the field trials. As I have said when it will be used in fifteen wells and prove effective only then it could be treated as successful. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is difficult for all to understand this technique.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Everybody needs oil and we can get oil only if we adopt this technique.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 244, Shri P.R. Kyndiah—Not present. Question No. 245, Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi—Not present.

[Translation]

Railway Claim Cases

*246. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of claims made by rail passengers in Railway Claims Tribunals, Consumer Courts and in other agencies of the Railways during each of the last three years till October 2003 and the amount involved therein;

(b) the total number of claims settled out of them and the total amount paid by Railways in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has given necessary instructions to all the Divisional Headquarters to check the rising number of cases against Railways in consumer courts; and

(d) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government to check or reduce the number of claims by rail passengers in consumer courts and tribunals?

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

Statement

(a) The total number of cases filed by rail passengers in Railway Claims Tribunal and Consumer Courts during each of the last three years, is as under:

RAILWAY CLAIMS TRIBUNAL

Year	No. of Claims filed
2001-2002	2646
2002-2003	3952
2003-2004 (upto Oct)	2589

CONSUMER COURTS

Year	No. of Claims filed
01.01.2001 to 31.12.2001	833
01.01.2002 to 31.12.2002	685
01.01.2003 to 1.10.2003	729

The details of amount involved in claim cases filed are not maintained.

OTHER AGENCIES:

Year	No. of applications of Refund of fare made to Railway Administration
2001-2002	259849
2002-2003	301572
2003-2004	217946

(b) During the above mentioned period total number of 7305 cases (including the cases carried forward from the previous years) were settled in Railway Claims Tribunal and Consumer Courts and an amount of Rs. 64.77 crores was paid. During the last three years from April 2001 to Oct. 2003, 757748 refund applications (including the requests carried forward from the previous years) were disposed by Railways and an amount of Rs. 22.74 crores was paid as refund of fare to the rail passengers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Claim cases filed in Railway Claims Tribunal relating to passengers are of refund of fare and accident compensation claim cases. In Consumer Courts, cases filed pertain to deficiency in service provided by Railways. Zonal Railways have been instructed to analyse the main causes leading to filing of claims in various fora and bring about system improvement. Various steps include:

Induction of appropriate modern Technologies & Upgradation of Human resources and more effective and efficient supervision, wiping out of arrears of replacement of over-aged assets within a period of six years., liberalization and simplification of Refund rules., Installation of Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) at important stations giving train running position as well as reservation status, Training programmes and Counseling of front-line customer interfacing employees, Upgraded and professionalised Catering services and lurching of operation cleanliness covering stations and trains etc.

MR. SPEAKER: Pandey ji, not much time is left, therefore, ask your question promptly.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, sir, there is a complicated point in the reply to my question given by the hon. Minister. I enquired about the total number of claims filed by rail passengers in Consumer Courts and in other agencies of Railways and

the total amount paid by Railways in this regard. Details have not been given regarding the amount involved in these cases. The reply of the question is in front of you, it is my first question.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister will reply to your question.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in part (b) of the reply it is mentioned that during the aforesaid period i.e. from 1 January, 2001 to 1 October, 2003 through Railway Claims Tribunal and Consumer Courts an amount of Rs. 64.77 crores was paid. This question pertains to claims and its reply has been given.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the details of the case-wise amount and the harassment suffered by the people in getting the payment is not given.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: This point is not raised in this question. The question was about the number of days in which the payment was made. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked now, therefore, inform him now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when somebody files a claim in the Railway Claims Tribunal or in the Consumer Court then it is disposed off by the Court. Railway Claims Tribunal is also a quasi-judicial body and Consumer Court is a separate entity. In separate cases or in a special case sometimes both these bodies give their decision jointly. Mainly, the Consumer Court hears the cases involving some deficiency in the service and gives its decision. Therefore the time taken is the time which is taken in the processing of the case. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got a copy of the claim awarded. Year 2004 is about to commence but we have not got its reply till now. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can show this copy to the hon. Minister later on.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: In regard to disposal of the claims—keeping in view the serious railway accidents, especially the accident of Rajdhani Express at Rafiganj, and later on, very ghastly affair in Godhra—I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has appointed any specific Cell or Task Force to ensure at least early disposal of claims of the victims of accident Rajdhani Express at Rafiganj of Rajdhani Express and people who died in Godhra carnage.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now that much time is not taken in the disposal of accident claims as it was taken previously. Some changes have been made. Now, you can file a claim in the Railway Claim Tribunal of that area where the accident has taken place or the area in which the passenger resides or the place from where the train has originated. You can file the claim in any one of the above mentioned places. As far as the Rajdhani accidents are concerned, most of the cases have been disposed off. Railway administration has shown its promptitude in disposing off the claims. Efforts have been made to dispose off the cases by contacting those who had filed the claims. Payment of all the claims except two-three cases disposed off by Railway claims Tribunal have been made. Payment in two-three cases could not be made because the persons concerned are demanding that in dollars. This case has been sent back to Railway Claims Tribunal.

Untoward incident of Godhra is covered under section 124A of the Railway Act. Prompt action has been taken to consider all these claims.

MR. SPEAKER: Acharya ji, if you will ask only one question then you will be able to get its reply otherwise not because there is not much time left.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, our experience is that it takes a lot of time for disposal of claims by Railway Claims Tribunal. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Railways have taken certain steps for expeditious disposal of the claims. I had mentioned about the cases of Rajdhani Accident at Rafiganj, where initially the relatives of the victims were asked to file claims at Patna. After our intervention, that was shifted

to Kolkata. I want to know whether any general order has been issued that whenever any accidents takes place, the relatives of the victims can file claim at any place where there is office of Railway Claims Tribunal.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, necessary instructions have been issued in this regard.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Reduction of Drug abuse and Alcoholism

*244 SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tenth Plan document contained detailed proposal on prevention of crime through effective strategies, evolving various programmes of socio-economic relevance to safeguard the interests of women, girls, children and street children;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government on the said document to safeguard the interests of the aforesaid categories; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for a nationwide reduction of alcoholism and drug abuse and prevent the flow of drugs in the country and make punishment more stringent for people involved in trafficking of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The Tenth Plan document do not specifically strategies "prevention of crime" to safeguard the interests of women, girls, children and street children, but it has been stated therein that "awareness generation and preventive education programmes will be conducted among the potential risk groups/centres such as schools, colleges, sex workers, street children, occupational groups etc. to educate them regarding the most dangerous effect of addiction." Further it states that "realising the increasing correlation between crime and drug abuse, the treatment and rehabilitation facilities in correctional institutions and prisons will also be strengthened." The Tenth Plan, therefore, envisages "utilisation of expertise of the existing

institutional mechanism viz. Counselling Centres to identify vulnerable and high-risk groups such as street children, transport workers, sex-workers etc., and ensure that they do not fall prey to drug addiction."

Accordingly following steps have been taken:

- A Pilot programme in 100 Drug Treatment-cum-Rehabilitation Centres for prevention of HIV/AIDS amongst the addicts and their family members;
- Sensitising sex-workers on risk and protection factors relating to drug abuse and safe sex;
- Family Counselling Centres for sensitising the family members of an addict on various risk factors and preventive measures;
- Establishing Self-Help Groups of dependent female members of the family of an addict and providing them with support for economic rehabilitation;
- Workplace Prevention Programmes for preventing addiction in work places with an objective of ensuring economic security of the family;
- Drop-in Centres to support information dissemination and rehabilitation of addicts;
- Developing awareness on networking and convergence with the programmes for socio-economic rehabilitation of women and children dependents of addicts through the programmes of other Ministries and Departments of the Government of India; An inventory of programmes has been developed containing details of such Schemes and programmes;

Recognising alcoholism and drug abuse as a psycho-socio-medical problem requiring community based interventions, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing a nationwide programme through the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse wherein Non-Government Organisations are being provided with financial support, for institutional as well as community based programmes, for awareness, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of the addicts. presently around 350 NGOs are being provided with financial support under the Scheme for nearly 450 programmes all over the country. An allocation of Rs. 140.30 crores has been made for the programme during the Tenth Plan.

The Tenth Plan envisages an integrated approach to supply and demand reduction for curbing the growing problems of alcoholism and drug abuse in the country. Government of India has taken a number of steps to combat drug trafficking in the country and make punishment more stringent. These include:

- Strict surveillance and enforcement at import and export points, land borders, airports, foreign post offices etc.
- Intensive preventive and interdiction efforts along known drug routes.
- Improved coordination between the various drug law enforcement agencies in order to impart greater cohesion to interdiction;
- Identification of illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and the wild growth of cannabis and eradication of these sources of supply;
- Strengthening of international liaison to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of operational intelligence;
- increased international cooperation for exchanges of information and investigative assistance in administering controls over the movement of precursor chemicals;
- Building of an electronic data base of offenders and suspects;
- Targeting illicit manufacturing units of brown sugar and methaqualone;
- Passenger profiling for identification of members of trafficking groups;
- Using satellite imaging techniques for mapping of opium cultivation so as to strengthen controls over areas where licit opium cultivation is permitted;
- Conducting training programmes for law enforcement officials for upgrading their skills to combat drug trafficking;
- Implementing a scheme of monetary rewards for information leading to seizures of Narcotics drugs to informants and officers;
- Bilateral agreement with a number of countries including Pakistan and Myanmar; and
- Setting up of special courts for speedy disposal under NDPS Act.

The Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, amended in 1999 and 2001 brought about significant changes in the penal structure under Act. These have made financial investigation and forfeiture of illegally acquired property more purposeful. In addition, provision for new investigation techniques and removing certain practical difficulties faced by the investigation officers have been introduced.

Use of Solar Energy to Save Forests

*245. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main aim to encourage use of non-conventional sources of energy was to save the forest cover of the country in the rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the solar system of energy has been able to save forestation;

(c) if so, the total allocation made by the Government under solar photovoltaic (SPV) and Solar Thermal Energy (STE) programme to Himachal Pradesh and North-Eastern States during the last three years;

(d) the total energy generated under the programmes in these States;

(e) whether the Government propose to allocate more funds to encourage the people to adopt solar energy in the State, where the forest cover is fairly large; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Government is encouraging use of non-conventional energy sources such as solar, biomass, small hydro and wind with a view to meeting the energy needs of the people. These non-conventional energy sources provide several attendant benefits, including more efficient use of agro and forestry wastes/residues which in turn would help in conserving the forest cover in the country.

(c) and (d) The details of total funds provided and total energy generated under the solar energy programmes in Himachal Pradesh and the North Eastern States, including Sikkim during the last three years, i.e, 2000-01 to 2002-03 are given in Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

(e) and (f) Central financial assistance is provided upto 90% of the cost of installation of non-conventional, including solar energy systems/devices in all special category States, viz., North-Eastern States, including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu & Kashmir.

Statement I

Funds released to Himachal Pradesh and North Eastern States during last three years, i.e. 2000-01 to 2002-03 under the Solar Energy Programmes

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	States/UT	Total Funds released during 2000-01 to 2002-03
1.	Himachal Pradesh	3.87
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.73
3.	Assam	1.45
4.	Manipur	7.85
5.	Meghalaya	4.08
6.	Mizoram	2.42
7.	Nagaland	0.09
8.	Sikkim	0.60
9.	Tripura	7.15
Total		29.24

Statement II

Total energy generated in Himachal Pradesh and North Eastern States during last three years i.e., 2000-01 to 2002-03 under solar energy programmes

Sl.No.	States/UT	Total Energy Generated (million kWh)
1	2	3
1.	Himachal Pradesh	1.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.22
3.	Assam	0.25
4.	Manipur	0.17
5.	Meghalaya	0.23

1	2	3
6.	Mizoram	0.26
7.	Nagaland	0.06
8.	Sikkim	0.05
9.	Tripura	0.57
Total		3.31

KWh + Kilowatt hour.

[Translation]

Setting up of Tribunal

*247. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petitions filed by the serving and retired defence personnel in the High Courts regarding service matters during the last three years and the number of petitions still pending;

(b) whether the Union Government is considering setting up a tribunal to deal with the service matters and appeals arising out of verdicts of the court martial concerning the three services;

(c) if so, whether the modalities and other details have been worked out;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(e) the time by which the said tribunal is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The number of petitions filed by defence personnel in the High Court during the last three years is 6394 and the number of petitions pending disposal at the end of the year 2002 is 1969. Most of these cases pertain to service matters.

(b) to (e) A proposal to establish an Armed Forces Tribunal to deal with service matters and appeals arising out of the verdicts of the court martial concerning the three services is under active consideration of the Government. The modalities and other details of the Tribunal are being worked out.

*[English]***Domestic Production of Oil and Gas**

*248. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets of Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan to achieve domestic production of oil through on-shore and off-shore drilling and the targets achieved;

(b) the target of Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) the final indication as of today of the availability of gas and oil in the country; and

(d) the total amount required to exploit the sources till the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The targets set for production of crude oil by the national oil companies, viz., Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) as well as Private companies/Joint Ventures (Pvt./JVs) during the VII, VIII and IX Five Year Plan period and actual performance against them are given below:

{in million metric tonne (MMT)}

	VII Plan (1885-90)		VIII Plan (1992-97)		IX Plan (1997-2002)	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
ONGC	143.64	144.92	180.73	138.32	144.89	129.05
OIL	15.50	12.90	16.59	13.97	16.47	16.10
Pvt./JVs	—	—	—	2.25	19.46	17.80

It may be mentioned that there was a Plan Holiday during 1990-92. Also, in the mid term review (MTR) for VII Plan, the targets of ONGC and OIL were reduced to 145.42 MMT and 14.56 MMT respectively due to technical and other reasons beyond the control of the companies. Further no targets were fixed for Pvt./JVs in VII and VIII Plan.

(b) The targets fixed for crude oil production by ONGC and OIL for the X Five Year Plan are 130.025 MMT and 18.70 MMT respectively. The projection for oil production as per the X Five Year Plan for fields/blocks operated by Pvt./JVs is 20.66 MMT.

(c) The balance recoverable reserves of oil and gas in the country as on 1.4.2003 are 732.77 MMT and 853.43 billion cubic meter (BCM) respectively.

(d) The XI Plan outlay for domestic Exploration and Production (E&P) activities has not been estimated as of date. However, the Plan outlay for domestic E&P activities by ONGC and OIL during the X Plan are Rs. 33,418.95 crore and Rs. 5,000.00 crore respectively.

For Pvt./JVs, the investments are not projected on Five Year Plan basis, but are based on work-programmes bid for in three exploration phases. Investments on

development of discoveries are estimated based on development plans, which are prepared after the declaration of discoveries as commercial.

Funds Released to Special Category States

*249. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 73 percent of the project cost released to the special category States, the utilization was only 49.56 percent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that in the case of other States, the funding plan was low as compared to the project cost;

(d) if so, facts thereof;

(e) the manner in which the remaining funds are likely to be generated to implement the projects;

(f) whether several State Governments had violated the guidelines of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) and (b) Under Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) projects worth Rupees 75.51 crores were sanctioned for States under Special Category against which Rupees 75.51 crores were released by Government of India under Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) during 2000-01. As on 15.11.2003, these States have utilised Rupees 46.81 crores. The details of the funds released and utilised by Special Category States are given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Under APDP, 50 percent of the project cost is provided to the Non-Special Category States as grant and loan in the ratio of 1:1, and for the balance 50 percent, the State and the Utilities are expected to arrange counterpart fund. In this category,

Projects worth Rupees 1805.07 crores were sanctioned and the entire APDP component of Rupees 902.64 crores i.e. 50 percent of the project cost sanctioned was released by Government of India during 2000-01. SEBs/Utilities are responsible to arrange for the balance funds from financial institutions like Power Finance Corporation (PFC)/ Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) or own resources. These States have utilised Rupees 1073.24 crores including part counterpart fund arranged by the States. The details of the funds released and utilised by the Non Special Category States are given in statement-II enclosed.

(f) and (g) In 11 cases where the implementing agencies could not tie counterpart funding even till October 2003, projects worth Rupees 343.98 Crore had to be short closed. In the remaining projects worth Rupees 1500.91 Crores counterpart funding has been tied up.

Statement I

Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) for the year 2000-01 as on 15.11.2003

(Rs. In Crores)

S.No.	State	Project Cost	Funds Released by Government of India	Utilization
Special Category				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.32	6.32	0.00
2.	Assam	20.02	20.02	5.05
3.	Himachal Pradesh	25.32	25.32	27.47
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.99	6.99	2.43
5.	Manipur	0.72	0.72	0.72
6.	Meghalaya	1.81	1.81	1.81
7.	Mizoram	1.06	1.06	1.06
8.	Nagaland	1.89	1.89	1.89
9.	Sikkim	6.38	6.38	6.38
10.	Tripura	5.00	5.00	0.00
Total		75.51	75.51	46.81

Statement II*Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) for the year 2000-01 as on 15.11.2003*

(Rs. In Crores)

S.No.	State	Project Cost	Funds Released by Government of India	Utilization
Non-Special Category				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	194.70	97.45	171.81
2.	Bihar	42.88	21.44	7.04
3.	Chhattisgarh	20.52	10.26	20.52
4.	Gujarat	27.22	13.62	27.22
	Bhuj	192.00	96.00	45.77
5.	Haryana	99.23	49.62	65.11
6.	Jharkhand	43.96	21.97	0.00
7.	Karnataka	162.98	81.50	147.92
8.	Madhya Pradesh	80.57	40.32	75.91
9.	Maharashtra	268.88	134.44	146.55
10.	Orissa	76.00	38.00	24.50
11.	Punjab	75.40	37.70	34.06
12.	Rajasthan	89.98	45.00	63.78
13.	Tamil Nadu	131.08	65.54	131.08
14.	Uttar Pradesh	202.90	101.48	69.06
15.	Uttaranchal	9.60	4.80	4.80
16.	West Bengal	87.17	43.50	38.11
	Total	1805.07	902.64	1073.24

Overdrawn of Power by SEBs

*250. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India has drawn up guidelines against States overdrawing their

requirements when the system frequency is lower than 49 htz.;

(b) if so, whether these States are violating the guidelines;

(c) if so, whether there is any provision to penalize erring States causing grid collapse; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has approved the Indian Electricity Grid Code (IEGC), vide its order dated 30th October, 1999. Accordingly, IEGC was issued by Central Transmission Utility (CTU) i.e. POWERGRID in discharge of its statutory duties which came into effect from 1st February, 2000. The IEGC lays down the rules, guidelines and standards to be followed by the various constituents in the system to plan, develop, maintain and operate the power system in the most efficient, reliable and economic manner. according to the provisions of IEGC, all regional constituents should make all possible efforts to ensure that the grid frequency always remains within the 49.0 to 50.5Hz. band. Further, when the frequency falls below 49.0Hz. requisite load shedding (manual) will be carried out by the Utilities to curtail overdrawal.

(b) The frequency excursions below 49.0Hz. is minimal, as the Availability Based Tariff (ABT) regime provides commercial deterrent against overdrawal by the Utilities. ABT mechanism is self regulatory and allows overdrawal by constituents if the frequency is high. However, sometimes, in view of system contingencies, like loss of generation, loss of power import etc., there are instances of overdrawal at lower frequency but it is usually corrected within schedules by States as per stipulations of IEGC.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There are provisions in both the IEGC as well as in the Electricity Act, 2003 for issuing directions as well as for levying penalty on Utilities to enforce grid discipline.

The provisions are as under:

- Section 29 sub-section (6) of the Electricity Act, 2003, provides for a penalty not exceeding Rupees Fifteen Lakhs for non-compliance with the directions of the Regional Load Despatch Centres.
- Section 142 of the Electricity Act, 2003, provides a penalty not exceeding Rupees One Lakh to be imposed for non-compliance of the directions of the Electricity Regulatory Commission and further Rupees Six thousand per day for continued non-compliance.

Power Sector Reforms

*251. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power sector reforms have made significant achievements;

(b) if so, the extent to which the power has been saved after implementing the reforms;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any road map for future reforms in Power Sector in the country; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the transmission and distribution losses would be reduced?

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

(b) and (c) The focus of power sector reforms is on improving quality of power supply, metering of all consumers, energy audit, improvement of billing and collection efficiency, reduction of technical and commercial losses, reduction and elimination of theft of power, constitution and Operationalisation of State Electricity Regulatory Commission, organizational restructuring to focus on accountability for performance and on achievement of commercial viability in a time bound manner.

The Government of India have 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 of (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 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 cash losses. Past debts of SEBs due to Central Public Sector Undertakings have been securitized and current payments streamlined under tripartite agreements.

The Electricity Act, 2003 which has been 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.

Many States have reported reduction in cash losses. During the current year, State Utilities are making timely payments of their dues to the Central Power Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). With investments in sub-transmission and distribution, technical losses are also being reduced.

(d) The extent of reduction of transmission and distribution losses and the timeframe for this is to be prescribed by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Concession to Senior Citizens

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

(a) the present age for treating a person as a senior citizen;

(b) whether there is any proposal to reduce the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the benefits/concessions announced/extended for the senior citizens?

(e) whether the Government has evolved model uniform guidelines in this regard to be followed by all States/UTs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal Ministry responsible for welfare of the senior citizens. It has announced the National Policy on Older Persons in the year 1999 which recognizes a person who has attained the age of 60 plus as a senior citizen.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Statement is enclosed.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Ministry/Department	Facilities/Benefits given to Senior Citizens
1	2	3
1.	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	<p>(1) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal Ministry responsible for welfare of the Senior Citizens. It has announced the National Policy on older persons that seeks to assure older persons that their concerns are national concerns and they will not live unprotected, ignored and marginalized. The National Policy aims to strengthen their legitimate place in the society and the help older people to live the last phase of their life with purpose, dignity and peace. The National Policy on Older Persons <i>inter alia</i> visualizes support for financial security, health care and nutrition, shelter, emphasis upon education, training and information needs, provision of appropriate concessions, rebates and discounts etc. to Senior Citizens and special attention to protect and strengthen their legal rights such as to safeguard their life and property. The National Policy on Older persons recognizes of senior citizen to a person who has attained the age of 60 years.</p> <p>(2) The Ministry has also written to all the Ministries/State Governments concerned for adopting a uniform age of 60 years for conferring the status of senior citizen to a person and for extending facilities/concessions to them.</p>

1	2	3
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(3) The Ministry is also implementing following schemes for the benefit of Senior Citizens:

- (a) The Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/multi-service centres for older persons. Under this Scheme, one time construction grant for older age homes/multi-service centre is provided.
- (b) An Integrated Programme for Older Persons has been formulated by revising the earlier scheme of "Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to the Welfare of the Aged". Under this Scheme, financial assistance upto 90% of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishing and maintaining old age homes, day care centres, mobile medicare units and to provide non-institutional services to older persons.

2. Ministry of Rural Development

(1) Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, Central Assistance of Rs. 75/-p.m. is granted to destitute older persons above 65 years. This Scheme has been transferred to the State Plan w.e.f. 2002-03.

(2) Under the Annapurna Scheme, free food grains (wheat or rice) upto 10 Kg. per month are provided to destitute older persons of 65 years or above, who are otherwise eligible for old age pension but are not receiving it. However, the scheme has been transferred to the State Sectors w.e.f. 2002-03.

3. Ministry of Finance

1. Section 88 of Finance Act, 1992, provides income tax rebate of upto Rs. 15,000 or actual tax which ever is less to senior citizens who have attained the age of 65 years at any time during the relevant previous year. This has been revised to Rs. 20,000 in the budget for 2003-04. As a result, their income upto Rs. 1.53 lakhs will henceforth become fully exempt from income tax. Hence, effective exemption limit may hereafter be actually higher and is Rs. 1.83 lakh due to standard deduction. They can get further relief by taking advantage through tax rebate under section 88.

2. For Senior Citizens, the deduction in respect of medical insurance premia is upto Rs. 15,000/-under Section 80D.

3. RBI has permitted higher rates of interest on saving schemes of Senior Citizens (persons having the age of 65 years and above). Accordingly, w.e.f. 15.05.01, banks permitted 0.5 per cent higher rate of interest on fixed deposits of Senior Citizen aged between 60 to 65 years & 1% higher rate of interest to Senior Citizens above 65 years of age.

4. LIC has launched a special pension policy called Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana guaranteeing an annual return of 9% in the form of monthly pension scheme to senior citizens aged 55 years and above.

4. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has informed that a decision has been taken regarding reservation of two seats for senior citizens in front row of the buses of the State Road Transport Undertakings.

1	2	3
5.	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, on request from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, has issued instructions to all State Governments to provide for separate queues for older persons in hospitals for registration and clinical examination.
6.	Ministry of Railways	(a) Indian Railways provide 30% concession in all Mail/Express including Rajdhani/Shatabadi/Jan Shatabadi trains for senior citizens aged 60 years and above. (b) Indian Railways also have the facility of separate counters for Senior Citizens for purchase/booking/cancellation of tickets.
7.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	1. Indian Airlines is providing 50 per cent Senior Citizen Discount on Normal Economy Class fare for all domestic flights to Indian senior citizens who have completed the age of 65 years in the case of male senior citizens and 63 years in the case of female senior citizens subject to certain conditions. 2. Jet Airways is providing 50 per cent discount on basic fare for all domestic flights in Economy Class to senior citizens having the age of 65 years (male and female). 3. Sahara India Airlines is providing 50 per cent discount on basic fare for all domestic flights in Economy Class to senior citizens having the age of 62 years (men and women)
8.	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	has on 5.6.2003 issued necessary guidelines to extend the coverage of the Antyody Scheme, under which food is provided to destitute old, to cover an additional 50 lakh below Poverty Line families including 60+population.
9.	MCD, Delhi	MCD, Delhi, has opened a separate counter for senior citizens for submission of property tax.
10.	Miscellaneous	1. Telephone connection is given on priority to senior citizens of age 65 years and above by the Ministry of Communications. 2. On the request of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has advised Chief Justices of all High Courts in the country to accord priority to cases involving older persons and ensure their expeditious disposal.

Generation of Power from Solar Energy

*253. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether vertical/horizontal panels for generation of power from solar energy are functioning in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantum of power generated through these panels during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) the steps being taken to promote the generation of solar-energy;

(e) whether the use of solar energy is far less in comparison to the capacity available;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Energy Development Agencies have been set up in various States for the purpose;

(h) if so the assistance provided to these agencies during the last three years to generate solar energy in their respective States; and

(i) the achievements made in those States in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) There are two routes to generate power from solar energy: Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) and Solar Thermal (ST). Under the SPV route, electricity can directly be generated through solar panels (containing devices called solar cells), which are mounted vertically facing South at angles close to the latitude of the location. Further, a provision is made to change this angle of mounting suitable to different seasons, such that maximum solar energy is incident on these panels. Presently, in the country Solar Photovoltaic panels of a total capacity of around 62 MW are generating electricity for various applications. The details of state wise installation of SPV systems are given the statement-I enclosed. Under the solar thermal route, solar energy is first converted to heat to produce steam which in turn can be used to produce power. A few solar thermal power plants have so far been installed in the country for experimental purpose only. The integrated solar thermal combined cycle power plant of 140 MW capacity at Mathania in Rajasthan will be set up, depending upon techno-economic viability.

(c) The total quantum of power expected to be generated through the SPV systems already installed are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(d) The following steps have been/are being taken by Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES) for promoting the energy generation from solar energy:

1. Research & Development (R&D) aiming at improving the performance and reliability of solar energy technologies.
2. Technical assistance in the form of specifications, standards, testing and performance evaluation.
3. Partial central financial assistance as direct subsidy, or indirectly as interest subsidy to users in assisting them to install such systems by offsetting a part of their high initial costs.
4. Encouragement for increased industrial production and introducing newer technologies for production by providing soft loans.
5. Support to training programmes, seminars, workshops, business meets for creating awareness, developing manpower and expanding business.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The use of solar energy is still less compared to its vast potential available in the country. The main reason is that the solar technologies are comparatively new. Only some of the applications have achieved technical and commercial viability. Further R&D and rigorous field trials for increasing the efficiency, performance reliability and decreasing the cost are still required for making them suitable for other applications. It is also required to make more and more people aware of these new technologies and their benefits.

(g) and (h) In most of the States, the Energy Development Agencies have been set up for the promotion of renewable energy sources. The details of the Central Financial Assistance (CFA) released state-wise and year-wise for the last three year are given in the statement-III.

(i) The achievements made by these states are given in statement-IV.

Statement-I

State-wise Details of Solar Photovoltaic Systems Installed as on 31.3.2003

Sl. No.	State/UT/ Others	Solar Lanterns (Nos.)	Home Lighting Systems (Nos.)	Street Lighting Systems (Nos.)	Power Plants & Other Systems (kWp)	Water Pumping Systems (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27707	1161	3648	296.66	603

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4937	750	738	17.10	1
3.	Assam	541	2787	98	7.50	45
4.	Bihar	28275	679	490	0.00	128
5.	Chhattisgarh	3192	3612	1237	76.65	5
6.	Goa	443	51	69	1.72	15
7.	Gujarat	31603	2552	1764	24.90	43
8.	Haryana	32727	9666	612	24.20	268
9.	Himachal Pradesh	20697	11948	1494	1.50	6
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	9202	25317	389	40.00	18
11.	Jharkhand	16374	102	135	0.00	6
12.	Karnataka	7334	6135	1009	38.91	339
13.	Kerala	39681	18679	1090	69.74	737
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8564	159	5714	361.40	78
15.	Maharashtra	8683	721	3388	191.40	189
16.	Manipur	3883	650	370	11.00	12
17.	Meghalaya	4875	540	593	42.00	5
18.	Mizoram	5812	1645	315	0.00	37
19.	Nagaland	95	143	271	6.00	-
20.	Orissa	8484	2937	5665	36.52	4
21.	Punjab	14495	2870	1766	346.00	1533
22.	Rajasthan	4716	34864	6473	75.80	268
23.	Sikkim	845	465	132	0.00	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	12818	471	2272	237.00	760
25.	Tripura	20805	2238	760	24.57	10
26.	Uttar Pradesh	52815	50938	550	454.20	234
27.	Uttaranchal	27027	37854	250	80.03	10
28.	West Bengal	3662	26890	1461	525.00	48
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	796	405	358	217.00	5
30.	Chandigarh	1675	275	0	0.00	12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	-	0	0	0.00	1
32.	Daman and Diu	-	0	0	0.00	-
33.	Delhi	4753	0	301	15.00	86
34.	Lakshadweep	8455	0	0	735.00	-
35.	Pondicherry	637	13	62	0.00	21
36.	NGOs (AIWC, SWRC, WRST) & PSUs	-	3295	0	0.00	-

Statement II

*State-wise Quantum of Electricity Likely to be Generated through the SPV Panels
Installed under Various Systems during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03*

(In million kWhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.47	1.58	2.12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.2	0.19	0.22
3.	Assam	0.17	0.18	0.25
4.	Bihar	0.89	0.90	0.98
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	0.01	0.51
6.	Goa	0.03	0.03	0.34
7.	Gujarat	0.50	0.78	0.91
8.	Haryana	0.70	0.84	1.5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.74	0.91	1.5
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.71	0.80	1.8
11.	Jharkhand	-	-	0.27
12.	Karnataka	0.45	0.59	1.11
13.	Kerala	1.49	1.71	2.92
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0.96	0.93	1.38
15.	Maharashtra	0.64	0.67	1.07

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Manipur	0.13	0.13	0.17
17.	Meghalaya	0.18	0.19	0.23
18.	Mizoram	0.22	0.21	0.26
19.	Nagaland	0.04	0.05	0.06
20.	Orissa	0.79	0.82	0.96
21.	Punjab	0.65	2.08	3.16
22.	Rajasthan	1.99	2.38	3.31
23.	Sikkim	0.03	0.03	0.05
24.	Tamilnadu	1.17	1.40	1.84
25.	Tripura	0.26	0.38	0.57
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4.63	3.32	4.9
27.	Uttaranchal	-	2.07	2.83
28.	West Bengal	1.03	1.54	3.45
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.30	0.30	0.31
30.	Chandigarh	0.03	0.03	0.058
31.	Delhi	0.21	0.23	0.24
32.	Lakshadweep Islands	0.36	0.46	1.22
33.	Pondicherry	0.03	0.03	0.04

Statement III*State-wise Release of Funds for Solar Energy Programmes during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Funds Released (Rs. in lakhs)		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	69.20	286.67	348.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18.53	3.53	151.69

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	55.14	1.26	89.50
4.	Bihar	6.20	0.33	4.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	197.00	249.70	629.17
6.	Delhi	14.11	0.76	17.88
7.	Goa	0.50	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	310.71	87.43	306.06
9.	Haryana	255.35	233.44	523.44
10.	Himachal Pradesh	131.25	135.44	120.91
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	75.25	772.06	715.83
12.	Jharkhand	—	3.41	133.98
13.	Karnataka	78.54	115.15	125.45
14.	Kerala	323.61	851.10	38.82
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.80	34.53	112.25
16.	Maharashtra	46.28	46.09	29.12
17.	Manipur	2.40	44.75	738.23
18.	Meghalaya	58.00	9.68	340.92
19.	Mizoram	165.55	19.95	57.33
20.	Nagaland	8.68	0.00	0.80
21.	Orissa	34.02	65.00	0.00
22.	Punjab	57.36	650.56	1043.57
23.	Rajasthan	187.61	592.25	667.98
24.	Sikkim	2.59	36.92	20.90
25.	Tamilnadu	75.66	55.50	73.75
26.	Tripura	110.87	205.80	399.09
27.	Uttar Pradesh	616.41	794.62	747.50
28.	Uttaranchal	208.60	261.37	587.19

1	2	3	4	5
29.	West Bengal	359.73	793.44	688.04
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	10.15	66.00	88.93
31.	Chandigarh	0.80	13.94	12.71
32.	Lakshadweep Islands	257.00	572.49	392.00
33.	Pondicherry	-	3.78	14.94

Statement IV*State-wise Cumulative Sale of Solar Cookers & Status of Aditya Shops Established Till 31.3.2003*

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Box cooker	Concentrating cookers		Steam cooking system	Aditya shops
			Dish type	Community		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11985	100	4	2	1
2.	Assam	80	0	0	0	1
3.	Bihar	450	25	0	0	0
4.	Jharkhand	280	0	0	0	0
5.	Gujarat	70410	50	21	0	0
6.	Haryana	20615	50	1	1	1
7.	Himachal Pradesh	27280	0	0	0	1
8.	Karnataka	250	0	3	1	1
9.	Madhya Pradesh	141600	16	2	0	1
10.	Chhattisgarh	37000	50	0	0	0
11.	Maharashtra	56635	100	4	0	1
12.	Orissa	3170	0	0	0	2
13.	Punjab	22050	0	0	0	1
14.	Rajasthan	36600	1	3	1	2
15.	Tamil Nadu	1355	1	5	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16.	Uttar Pradesh	45310	75	0	0	6
17.	Uttaranchal	7090	0	0	0	1
18.	Delhi	27990	0	0	0	1
19.	Jammu & Kashmir	345	21	2	0	1
20.	Kerala	195	0	0	0	3
21.	West Bengal	7930	24	5	0	4
22.	Chandigarh	1525	2	2	0	0
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	530	0	0	0	1
24.	Goa	1500	0	0	0	0
25.	Andaman & Nicobar	60	0	0	0	0
26.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Pondicherry	90	0	0	0	1
28.	Manipur	365	0	0	0	1
29.	Meghalaya	1165	0	0	0	0
30.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	80	0	0	0	0
32.	Mizoram	110	0	0	0	1
33.	Tripura	80	0	0	0	1
34.	Sikkim	20	0	0	0	1
35.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0
36.	AIWC (NGO)	385	15	0	0	0
37.	SDA (NGO)	0	50	0	0	0
38.	Direct sale by manufacturers	16300	-	-	-	-
Total		5,41,000 (approx.)	580	52	6	35

State-wise Cumulative Installation of SPV Systems as on 31.3.2003

Sl. No.	State/UT/ Others	Solar Lanterns (Nos.)	Home Lighting Systems (Nos.)	Street Lighting Systems (Nos.)	Power Plants & Other Systems (kWp)	Water Pumping Systems (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27707	1161	3648	296.66	603
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4937	750	738	17.10	1
3.	Assam	541	2787	98	7.50	45
4.	Bihar	28275	679	490	0.00	128
5.	Chhattisgarh	3192	3612	1237	76.65	5
6.	Goa	443	51	69	1.72	15
7.	Gujarat	31603	2552	1764	24.90	43
8.	Haryana	32727	9666	612	24.20	268
9.	Himachal Pradesh	20697	11948	1494	1.50	6
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	9202	25317	389	40.00	18
11.	Jharkhand	16374	102	135	0.00	6
12.	Karnataka	7334	6135	1009	48.91	339
13.	Kerala	39681	18679	1090	69.74	737
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8564	149	5714	361.40	78
15.	Maharashtra	8683	721	3388	191.40	189
16.	Manipur	3883	650	370	11.00	12
17.	Meghalaya	4875	540	593	42.00	5
18.	Mizoram	5812	1645	315	0.00	37
19.	Nagaland	95	143	271	6.00	-
20.	Orissa	8484	2937	5665	36.52	4
21.	Punjab	14495	2870	1766	346.00	1533
22.	Rajasthan	4716	34864	6473	75.80	268

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23.	Sikkim	845	465	132	0.00	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	12818	471	2272	237.00	760
25.	Tripura	20805	2238	760	24.57	10
26.	Uttar Pradesh	52815	50938	550	454.20	234
27.	Uttaranchal	27027	37854	250	80.03	10
28.	West Bengal	3662	26890	1461	525.00	48
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	796	405	358	217.00	5
30.	Chandigarh	1675	275	0	0.00	12
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	-	0	0	0.00	1
32.	Daman and Diu	-	0	0	0.00	-
33.	Delhi	4753	0	301	15.00	86
34.	Lakshadweep	8455	0	0	735.00	-
35.	Pondicherry	637	13	62	0.00	21
36.	NGOs (AIWC, SWRC, WRST) & PSUs	-	3295	0	0.00	-

Availability Based Tariff

*254. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission had introduced power tariff called 'Availability Based Tariff' (ABT), in early 2003;

(b) the advantages of the ABT system of tariff fixation;

(c) whether the ABT system had led to grid discipline and stability in frequency;

(d) if so, whether NTPC and other PSU power companies have sought changes in the ABT; and

(e) if so, the reasons for seeking such changes in the recently introduced ABT?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) The Central Electricity

Regulatory Commission (CERC) in its order issued on 4.1.2000, had directed implementation of Availability Based Tariff (ABT) in various Regions. Subsequently, on the petition filed by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) seeking to review the order dated 4.1.2000, the CERC passed orders on 15.12.2000. Based on the order of CERC, ABT has been implemented in all the five regions in phases in years 2002 and 2003.

(b) ABT promotes economic/efficient operation of power system and aims at grid discipline through commercial signals. The advantages of ABT are as follows:

(i) ABT facilitates merit order despatch.

(ii) The frequency linked Unscheduled Interchange (UI) charges for deviation from schedule generation/drawal and promotes grid discipline by way of stability in grid frequency.

(iii) It facilitates trading in electricity leading to better utilization of existing capacity.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) NTPC and other PSU Power Companies have not sought changes in the basic structure of the ABT scheme.

Generation of Electricity from Waste

*255. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether Government has formulated any plan to generate electricity from sugar mills waste and garbage in Urban areas in the country;

(b) the number of proposals for setting up 'waste-to-energy' projects approved under the scheme as on date, state-wise;

(c) the total estimated capacity of power generated/ to be generated by these projects;

(d) whether any financial assistance of subsidy is given to the entrepreneurs for setting up these projects; and

(e) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) A National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban and Industrial Wastes to promote setting up of projects to process industrial wastes, including sugar mill wastes and garbage, is already under implementation since 1995-96. Besides, a UNDP/GEF assisted project on 'Development of High Rate Biomethanation Processes as means of reducing Green House Gases Emission' is under implementation since 1994-95 which, *inter-alia*, envisaged setting up of pilot projects based on different biodegradable wastes.

(b) The State-wise number of Waste to Energy Projects installed and those under implementation are given in statement enclosed.

(c) The total capacity of renewable power generation from the installed projects is about 41.30 MW equivalent and that from the projects under implementation is 6.45 MW equivalent.

(d) The National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban and Industrial Wastes provides interest subsidy for reducing the rate of interest on loans availed by them to 4% in special category states such as North-East States, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir and to 6% for projects in other states to promoters, including entrepreneurs for setting up Industrial Waste-to-Energy Projects.

(e) The total amount of central financial assistance released under the scheme since its inception and till date is Rs. 36.40 crores.

Statement

State-wise Number of Waste to Energy Projects Installed and those under Implementation as on date

Sl.No.	Name of State	Installed Projects	Projects under implementation
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	2
2.	Gujarat	3	—
3.	Karnataka	1	—
4.	Madhya Pradesh	2	—
5.	Maharashtra	2	—
6.	Orissa	1	—
7.	Punjab	1	1
8.	Tamil Nadu	4	2
9.	Uttar Pradesh	3	1
Total		24	6

White Paper on Revival of PSUs

*256. SHRI V. VETRISLVAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the white paper on the status of Public Sector Undertakings, which was under finalisation, has been shelved; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SUBODH MOHITE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Non-Conventional Energy Technology
Commercialisation Fund**

*257. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a Non-Conventional Energy Technology Commercialisation Fund (NCETCF) scheme in the recent past;

(b) if so, the objectives of this scheme;

(c) the number of non-conventional energy technologies, which have been commercialized by way of finance under the scheme during the last two years; and

(d) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES) has launched a scheme on "Non-conventional Energy Technology Commercialisation Fund" during 2000-2001.

(b) The objectives of the scheme are (i) to support the commercialisation of indigenously developed non-conventional energy (NCE) technologies by supporting the setting-up of pilot plants for the manufacture of NCE systems/products/devices for their widespread domestic use and (ii) to develop the potential innovative products/technologies, which are in early stages of their life cycle and modification in foreign technologies to suit domestic as well as international market.

(c) and (d) No proposal received so far under the scheme has been found suitable for funding. However, solar cookers, solar water heating systems for domestic and industrial uses, solar dryers, solar photo-voltaic systems and biomass energy systems have been commercialized by providing fiscal and financial support under various other schemes of the MNES.

15-Point Programme for Welfare of Minorities

*258. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing 15-Point Programme for Welfare of Minorities;

(b) if so, the details of its implementation, item-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to recast the 15-point programme for the minorities afresh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 15-Point Programme is in the nature of guidelines for the States/UTs and Central Government and aims at giving a sense of security and for ensuring rapid socio-economic development of minority communities. Details of its implementation are as under:

(i) The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is implementing Points 1 to 5 and 8-9 of the Programme. In this regard, the MHA has set up the Rapid Action Force charged with the special task of quelling communal riots. The MHA has also issued guidelines for promotion of communal harmony. There is a provision for assistance to the children of families affected by communal violence under the National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) set up under the MHA. Besides, all the State Governments have been advised to give special consideration to minorities in the recruitment to the State Police Forces and to ensure that the composition of the Selection Committees is representative and steps are taken for proper representation of minorities in the State Police Forces/Armed Battalion. The Central Police Forces have also been asked to ensure proper representation of minorities by making the minority community candidates aware of the employment opportunities/recruitment programmes. The Recruitment Boards for Central Police Forces send information to minority community institutions/organizations to encourage the candidates to apply for recruitment in Central Police Forces.

(ii) In respect of Point 6 & 7, Prasar Bharati have framed Code and Policy Guidelines for official

media units which contain provisions exclusively for news broadcast relating to riots and communal disturbances.

- (iii) In respect of Point 10, instructions have been issued for having a member belonging to minority communities in Selection Committees/Boards constituted for recruitment for 10 or more vacancies in Group 'C' and 'D' posts/services under the Government of India and public sector undertakings including public sector banks.
- (iv) In respect of Point 11, a scheme of pre-examination coaching classes for weaker sections including minorities is being implemented by this Ministry to prepare the candidates from minority communities for successfully competing in the examinations for recruitment in services and admission in professional courses. A similar coaching scheme is also being implemented by the University Grants Commission for weaker sections amongst educationally backward minority communities in Universities/Colleges.
- (v) In respect of Point 12, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education is implementing Area Intensive & Madarsa Modernisation Programme in 325 Community Development Blocks with minority concentration.
- (vi) In respect of Point 13, all the State Governments/UTs Administrations have been advised to ensure representation of minorities in district level Committees constituted for implementation of the 20-Point Programme.
- (vii) In respect of Point 14, all the State Governments/UTs Administrations have been advised to make efforts to remove the encroachment on the Wakh Properties.
- (viii) In respect of Point 15, Minorities Cells has been created in Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- (c) and (d) Recasting of the 15-Point Programme for the welfare of minorities is currently being undertaken. As it requires consultation with several organizations, it is not possible to indicate time by which it will be finalized.

[*Translation*]

Agreement with Foreign Countries in Film Production

*259. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has recently entered into an agreement with some countries particularly with Italy to promote cooperation in the field of film production;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with names of such countries;

(c) the extent to which it will be helpful for the film industry;

(d) whether the Government has considered to appoint a joint commission for implementing these agreements; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) This Ministry has received a proposal from the Government of Canada to enter into an Audio-visual Co-production Agreement with that country. Similar interest has also been shown by the Government of the Italian Republic. Letters of Intent have been signed with both these countries expressing the intention of the Government to enter into Audio-visual Co-production Agreements with both the countries. The Agreements are still at the draft stage. Therefore appointment of a Joint Commission does not arise at present.

Entering into Government-to-Government Co Production Agreements with other countries will enable producers of both countries to pool their financial, creative, technical and marketing resources, thus providing access to a wider audience base. Such projects are expected to promote higher visibility in international markets for Indian films and increased opportunities for the animation sector.

[*English*]

New Railway Zones

*260. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new railway zones have done satisfactory work after they were formed;

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

(c) whether the income of the Central Railway Zone has increased as compared to the previous years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal pending with the Government to have more railway zones in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the creation of smaller administrative railway zones, it has been possible to achieve an all round improvement in the functioning of the railway due to better supervision and monitoring. Since all zones contribute to the performance of Indian Railways as a whole, the improvement in overall performance of the Indian Railways indicates a significant contribution of the new zones. The following indices reflect the improvement in the performance of the Indian Railways:

During the period April-October 2003, the originating freight loading was 311.29 million tonnes as compared to 290.88 million tonnes during the corresponding period of the previous year, recording an increase of 20.41 million tonnes implying a growth of 7%. Similarly, the total transport output in terms of Net Tonne Kilometres (NTKMs) increased from 202.05 Billion NTKMs to 212.60 Billion NTKMs, which is an increase of 10.55 Billion NTKMs, indicating an overall growth of 5.22%.

The total earnings of Indian Railways during 2003-04 upto October'03 are Rs. 24029.05 crore as compared to Rs. 23165.65 crore during the corresponding period of the previous year i.e., an increase of 3.73%.

During the period April-November, 2003, while the total number of consequential train accidents remained at the same level, there has been a significant improvement in the following areas of safety performance of the Indian Railways. During this period, there were 3 train collisions as against 10 train collisions during the corresponding period of the previous year. Similarly, the accidents at manned level crossing gates have dropped from 9 to 6 and the train derailments from 151 to 148.

During the current year, the punctuality performance of passenger carrying trains on most of the new railway zones is of the order of 95% to 98%.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The total earnings of Central Railway during the year 2003-04 upto November'03 is Rs. 2712 crore as compared to Rs. 2695 crore (truncated Central Railway) during the corresponding period of the previous year i.e. an increase of 0.63%.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Pilot Project on T.V. through KU Band

2391. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to establish a pilot project to provide 100 percent television coverage in the country through KU band.

(b) if so, whether at present only 90 percent of the population and 77.7 percent of the total geographical area are covered and further expansion using the traditional "C" band was providing to be economically unviable;

(c) if so, whether the Government also plans to establish community-wise reception centres under the said project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Doordarshan coverage in satellite mode is available throughout the country. All Doordarshan channels can be received anywhere in the country through a dish antenna or cable network. Antenna required for receiving Doordarshan programmes in C band is large in area and costlier while cable service is not available in far-flung and sparsely populated areas.

Doordarshan coverage in terrestrial mode is presently available in about 78% area of the country comprising approximately 90% of the population. It was estimated by the Working Group for 10th Five Year Plan that a capital investment of nearly 400 crore would be required to cover remaining 10% of the population in terrestrial

mode. To overcome these two obstacles i.e. huge cost of terrestrial coverage and dish antenna required for receiving C band transmission as well as unviability of cable networks in remote and sparsely populated areas, a scheme has been approved for setting up KU Band unlinking facilities which will enable TV homes in such areas to receive a bouquet of 30 free-to-air channels (20 Doordarshan and 10 private Channels) by using set top box and a small dish antenna.

The project also envisages distribution of 10,000 set top boxes to public institutions like Anganwadis, Schools, Public Health Centres, Panchayats, Youth Clubs, Cooperative Societies etc. in the NE Region and States of Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and Gujarat where terrestrial coverage is less than the national average.

[*Translation*]

Recruitment in Railways

2392. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of appointments made in the Railways during the last two years and the number of appointments proposed to be made by the Government in coming one year, post-wise;

(b) the time since when the shortage of staff was felt in the Railways;

(c) the details of demand for posts and appointments made, division-wise; and

(d) the burden of expenditure likely to incurred by the Railways every year due to these appointments?

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

(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[*English*]

Vacancies in Safety Category

2393. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to

Unstarred Question No. 2820 dated December 05, 2002 regarding vacancies in Safety Category and State:

(a) whether old sanctioned strength of staff are still being continued and no proper job evaluation has been done for long time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether utilization of staff appointed against the sanctioned vacancies without filling up the vacancies and leave reserve vacancies have been taken into account while declaring the figure of vacancies arising out of introduction of new services in safety categories;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reasons of not taking into count the TXR and carriage staff as safety category staff that are meant for maintenance of break power and other rolling stocks?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In reply to Unstarred Question No. 2820 the category of TXR {since re-designated as JE/SE/SSE (C&W)} and other carriage staff were not included since the reply covered only the categories mentioned in the question. However, this category is also a safety category and filling up of vacancies therein is monitored.

Revival of Burn Standard Company Limited

2394. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:
SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Refractory Units of Raniganj of Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL) were taken over by the Union Government alongwith its other Engineering Units in 1976 to modernize those units for effective running;

(b) if so, whether the refractory units of Raniganj were not modernized, as the result they started incurring

losses and subsequently referred to BIFR alongwith its other units;

(c) if so, whether the refractory units in particular were closed down due to apathy and not taking appropriate action by the Management of BSCL;

(d) if so, whether the ex-workmen of Lalkoti and No. 2 works—refractory units of BSCL—have now formed Ex-employees Cooperative Industrial Society Limited and have come out to run No. 2 and Lalkoti refractory units of Raniganj with an initial fund of Rs. 60 lakhs from their own savings.

(e) if so, whether the Government of West Bengal has approached the Ministry of Heavy Industry at the Centre for the purpose of handing over the above two refractory units to the newly formed society, so that it could run to viability; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union 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) Refractory Units of Raniganj and Engineering Units working under two private companies, i.e. Burn & Company Limited and the Indian Standard Wagon Company Limited were nationalized in 1976 to continue their production.

(b) Due to massive product obsolescence, modernization of these units was not considered viable.

(c) No, Sir. BIFR while sanctioning the revival scheme on 16.04.1999 of BSCL recommended closure of these units as their viability could not be established.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) A proposal for handing over the Unit to the Government of West Bengal for subsequent transfer to the Registered workers' cooperative received from Government of West Bengal is under consideration.

Unauthorised Storage Points for LPG Distribution in Karnataka

2395. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that LPG distributors of IOCL in Karnataka have made unauthorised storage points for distribution of LPG cylinders to the customers;

(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 PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) LPG distributors of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) have not made any unauthorised storage points for distribution of LPG cylinders to the customers in the State of Karnataka.

(c) Does not arise.

Silted Maithon Dam of DVC

2396. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maithon Dam of Damodar Valley Corporation are being heavily silted;

(b) if so, the steps taken/are being taken by the Corporation for removing the silted earths from the dams;

(c) whether the Government proposes to construct another dam in order to hold more water as well as facilitating the removal of silted earth from the existing dam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has informed that overall sedimentation in the reservoir is 22.1% as compared to its original capacity of 1955. Approximately 54% of dead storage, 22.4% of live storage and 4.3% of flood storage have been lost due to siltation.

(b) Various Soil Conservation measures such as afforestation, treatment of land, construction of check dams etc. have been undertaken by DVC in the upper reach of dam since 1949. However, desiltation of such a big reservoir is not economically viable and such practice is generally not being followed by DVC.

(c) and (d) DVC has proposed a multipurpose project at Balpahari in the upstream of Maithon Dam. The Dam is basically proposed for augmentation of storage in the system and increasing the life of Maithon dam in respect of sedimentation along with irrigation, power generation and other objectives. The feasibility report of the project has been prepared and sent to the concerned Government for views.

Growth of Automobile Industry

2397. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has achieved significant growth in the automotive industry and its fast emerging as the most preferred sourcing base for global majors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the foreign car manufactures who have established their companies in India and the investment made by each and the vehicles with their trade marks produced by them every year;

(d) whether some more companies have put forward their request to establish their companies in India;

(e) if so, the details alongwith the total number of vehicles of different categories produced by each company during the last two years;

(f) whether the vehicles being produced in India are also exported to the other countries; and

(g) if so, the details alongwith the foreign exchange earned therefrom during last three years?

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 a result of progressive liberalisation of auto sector during last decade and owing to implementation of the comprehensive Auto Policy announced by the Government in March 2002, the automotive industry has shown steady growth over the last few years. During the year 2002-03 the automobile industry has achieved a growth rate of 18.59% while the Auto component industry has achieved a growth rate of 16%. During the current financial year (April-October, 2003) automobile industry achieved a growth rate of 12.10% while the Component industry grew by about 18% during April-August 2003. Component export has also shown steady growth over the years. During the last three years the export of components has been Rs. 2706 crore, Rs. 2775 crore and Rs. 3800 crore respectively.

(c) In the wake of progressive liberalisation, several foreign car manufacturers have set up their plants for manufacture of Passenger Cars in India. The details of investment and the important models of cars currently being produced by these foreign car manufacturer are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Investment (in Rs. crore) till 2002-03	Important Models of cars being produced
1.	Daimler Chrysler India Pvt. Ltd.	51.00	Mercedez Benz
2.	Fiat India Pvt. Ltd.	1772.00	Palio & Uno
3.	Ford India Pvt. Ltd.	1024.80	Escort & Ikon
4.	General Motors India Pvt. Ltd.	588.3	Opel Astra & Opel Corsa
5.	Honda Siel Cars India Pvt. Ltd.	423.0	Honda City & Accord
6.	Hyundai Motor India Ltd.	1620.4	Santro, Accent & Sonata
7.	Suzuki Motor Corporation (Maruti Udyog Ltd.)	4523.1	Maruti 800, Baleno, Gypsy, Zen & Alto etc.
8.	Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd.	700.00	Qualis & Corolla
9.	Skoda Auto India Ltd.	NA	Octavia,

(d) So far, the Government has not received any such proposal.

(e) As per the information received from Society of

Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), production of various categories of vehicles by each of their manufacturers during the last two years is as under:

(in nos.)

Segment/Manufacturer	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3
I. PASSENGER VEHICLES		
A. Passenger Cars		
1. Daewoo Motors (India) Ltd.	0	0
2. Daimler Chrysler India Pvt. Ltd.	1412	1057
3. Fiat India Automobiles Pvt. Ltd.	NA	NA
4. Ford India Ltd.	14307	15831
5. General Motors India Ltd.	7964	7573
6. Hindustan Motors Ltd.	19397	18534
7. Honda Siel Cars India Ltd.	10568	13723
8. Hyundai Motor India Ltd.	93888	112527
9. Maruti Udyog Ltd.	288437	306293
10. Tata Engineering	64328	81821
11. Toyota Kirloskar Motor Ltd.	0	1350
B. Utility Vehicles		
1. Bajaj Tempo Ltd.	4435	3805
2. Daimler Chrysler India Pvt. Ltd.	0	0
3. General Motors India Ltd.	0	0
4. Hindustan Motors Ltd.	1397	1467
5. Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	44031	52034
6. Maruti Udyog Ltd.	5153	3503
7. Tata Engineering	25693	25493
8. Toyota Kirloskar Motor Ltd.	24958	28579
C. Multi-Purpose Vehicles		
1. Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	214	165
2. Maruti Udyog Ltd.	63537	48214
Total: Passenger Vehicles	669719	720969

	1	2	3
II. COMMERCIAL VEHICLES			
Medium & Heavy (H&H)			
A. Passenger Carriers			
1.	Ashok Leyland Ltd.	10623	9501
2.	Tata Engineering	9660	11532
B. Goods Carrier			
1.	Ashok Leyland Ltd.	20594	23694
2.	Eicher Motors Ltd.	4782	6328
3.	Hindustan Motors Ltd.	12	72
4.	Swaraj Mazda Ltd.	1237	1872
5.	Tata Engineering	49703	66944
6.	Tatra Udyog Ltd.	141	138
7.	Volvo India Pvt. Ltd.	NA	NA
LCVS			
A. Passenger Carriers			
1.	Ashok Leyland Ltd.	215	341
2.	Bajaj Tempo Ltd.	1307	3743
3.	Daimler Chrysler India Pvt. Ltd.	0	0
4.	Eicher Motors Ltd.	836	1296
5.	Hindustan Motors Ltd.	1834	1123
6.	Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	3618	4133
7.	Swaraj Mazda Ltd.	1689	1555
8.	Tata Engineering	5478	7236
B. Goods Carriers			
1.	Ashok Leyland Ltd.	391	110
2.	Bajaj Tempo Ltd.	1485	2063
3.	Eicher Motors Ltd.	4021	5172
4.	Hindustan Motors Ltd.	596	406
5.	Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	15177	20477
6.	Swaraj Mazda Ltd.	3434	4774
7.	Tata Engineering	25675	30436
Total Commercial Vehicles		162508	202948

	1	2	3
III. THREE WHEELERS			
1.	Bajaj Auto Ltd.	158342	194303
2.	Bajaj Tempo Ltd.	18899	25764
3.	Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	3208	10279
4.	Piaggio Vehicles Pvt. Ltd.	32299	40878
5.	Scooters India Ltd.	13011	14088
Total : Three Wheelers		225759	285312
IV. TWO WHEELERS			
A. Scooter			
1.	Bajaj Auto Ltd.	473723	321585
2.	Honda Motorcycles & Scooter India Ltd.	55669	166809
3.	Kinetic Engg. Ltd.	21282	40773
4.	Kinetic Motors Co. Ltd.	106479	92171
5.	LML Ltd.	125470	66529
6.	Majestic Auto Ltd.	8462	11090
7.	TVS Motor Co Ltd.	146421	151145
B. Motorcycles			
1.	Bajaj Auto Ltd.	724397	941151
2.	Hero Honda Motors Ltd.	1371325	1695367
3.	Kinetic Engg. Ltd.	50492	59827
4.	LML Ltd.	42180	119704
5.	Majestic Auto Ltd.	0	5406
6.	Royal Enfield Motors	24136	28088
7.	TVS Motor Co. Ltd.	455224	740370
8.	Yamaha motor India Pvt. Ltd.	238569	324713
C. Mopeds			
1.	Kinetic Engg. Ltd.	81164	39687
2.	Majestic Auto Ltd.	75407	58557
3.	TVS Motor Co. Ltd.	270927	246447
Total: Two Wheelers		4271327	5109419

(f) and (g) During the last few years the India made vehicles have increasingly gained recognition in the world market and are being exported to Srilanka, Europe, Bangladesh, South Africa, Morocco, Latin America and even in North America. According to the information received from Society of Indian Automobile manufacturers (SIAM), the details of export of vehicles along with its value are as under:

Period	Export in Units	Export in value (Rs. in Crore)
2001-02	184680	2564.00
2002-03	305368	3396.00
2003-04 (April-October)	254589	2928.00

**Construction of Mysore-Kozhikode Line
in Southern Region**

2398. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has presented a proposal to construct Maysore-Kozhikode 400 KV line to meet the shortage of power supply in the Northern part of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the present position of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Kerala State Electricity Board requested Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) to consider a 400 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line from Mysore to Kozhikode for supply of power to the Northern part of Kerala. PGCIL has planned to establish a 400 kV Mysore-Kozhikode D/C line as part of Transmission System associated with Kaiga Atomic Power Project Unit 3&4 (2x235 MW). PGCIL has submitted a Detailed Project Report in this regard for investment approval by the Government.

**Sale of Crude Oil to China and
other Countries by ONGC Videsh**

2399. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Videsh Limited has sold crude oil to China in spite of facing its shortages;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to sell crude oil to other foreign countries in future as well; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL) has been acquiring Participating Interest in exploration blocks and development fields abroad for equity oil and gas in order that the country's supply of hydrocarbons is secure. It is not envisaged that all of the equity hydrocarbons may come to India at all times because that would depend upon optimising logistics, technical and commercial considerations, during normal circumstances that is when there is no threat to oil supplies or any security consideration.

OVL has informed that till date 9 cargoes (totaling 0.79 million metric tonne) of Nile Blend Crude oil have accrued as equity oil to it. Out of these, 8 cargoes were brought to India and sold to the public sector refineries, namely Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL). One cargo was sold to a Chinese buyer since these refineries did not take it.

**Doubling of Ambari Falakata-Rani Nagar and
Sonarpur-Canning Rail Route**

2400. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of doubling work between Ambari Falakata-Rani Nagar and Sonarpur-Canning rail route;

(b) the amount sanctioned and spent so far on these projects;

(c) whether these projects are running as per schedule;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for expeditious completion of these projects?

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

(a) The doubling of Ambari Falakata-Rani Nagar is not sanctioned. On Sonarpur-Canning section, doubling of Sonarpur-Ghutiari Sharief (15 km) has been taken up in phase I. Earthwork, bridge works, ballast supply etc. are in various stages of progress.

(b) The cost of doubling of Sonarpur-Ghutiari Sharief is approximately Rs. 30.47 crore out of which Rs. 8.24 crore has been spent upto March, 2003. An outlay of Rs. 1 crore has been provided during 2003-04.

(c) and (d) No target for doubling of Sonarpur-Ghutiari Sharief has yet been fixed. The work is being progressed as per the availability of resources.

(e) A number of initiatives have been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of the ongoing project. These include sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence, additional resources for National Project of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla and funds for

National Rail Vikas Yojna. With these efforts, it may be feasible to expedite the progress of projects.

FOBs in Mumbai Division

2401. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the work of Kanjur Marg, Govandi, Ghatkopar FOBs in Central Railway, Mumbai Division;

(b) whether these projects are lagging behind the schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(a) Details are as under:

S.No.	Station	Details of work of FOB	Status
1.	Kanjur Marg	Work of FOB with over head booking office sanctioned in the Works Programme, 2003-04 at a cost of Rs. 38 lakh.	The work has been sanctioned in the current financial year and the detailed estimate for the same is under process of sanction. Further, no approach land has been provided by Municipal Corporation. meanwhile, existing Foot over Bridge (FOB) has been extended in connection with 5th & 6th line work.
2.	Govandi	Extension of FOB sanctioned in 2001-02 at a cost of Rs. 30 lakh.	Design & Drawing as also tender is under finalisation.
3.	Ghatkopar	Work of 12m wide additional FOB sanctioned in 2001-02 at a cost of Rs. 2.57 crore.	The agency for construction of FOB is fixed. Excavation for foundation is in progress. Meanwhile, existing Foot over Bridge (FOB) has been extended in connection with 5th & 6th line work.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) does not arise.

(d) Railways are making all out efforts to expedite the progress of works.

Expenditure of Power Sector Reform in West Bengal

2402. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expenditure incurred on the power sector reforms in West Bengal during the last three years;

(b) whether any expenditure has been incurred for this purpose in West Medinipur district of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) According to the information received for the Government of West Bengal, the expenditure incurred on power sector reforms during the last three years under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) were:

Financial Year	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in crores)
2000-01	27.26
2002-03	18.93
Total	46.19

(b) No, Sir.

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

Relief Package for Exploration of Crude Oil in North Eastern Region

2403. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has sought a relief package for exploration and production of crude oil as a part of the special package for economic development of the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details of the relief package sought by the ONGC; and

(c) the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) As a part of Annual Budgetary exercise, the suggestion to either exempt crude oil produced from North East region from levy of cess or to at least reduce rate of cess thereon by 50% has been one of the suggestions being made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), in regard to the relief

sought for Exploration and Production of crude oil. The Government decisions on such Budgetary proposals are reflected in the Finance Bills for the relevant years.

[*Translation*]

Acquisition of Land in Baramulla

2404. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land acquired in Baramulla district by the Government for defence purposes during the last three years; and

(b) whether it is a fact that no compensation or rent has been paid for this land;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) During the last three years, on receipt of awards from the Collector, Government sanction was issued in March 2000 for payment of compensation of Rs. 5,33,64,107 for acquisition of 1227 Kanals and 14¹/₂ Marlas of land and cost of structures and trees on the said land, in four villages in District Baramulla. Out of the above amount, a sum of Rs. 2,10,05,071 had been deposited with Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, in March 1993, as 'on account' payment. The remaining amount of Rs. 3,23,59,036 was also deposited with Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla on 31.3.2000 for disbursement to ex-land owners. Thus the acquisition cost of the land was deposited in fully by the Ministry of Defence in 1993 and 2000. Thereafter, disbursements were to be made by the Deputy Commissioner.

However, against the compensation sanctioned by Ministry of Defence, some ex land owners had sought appointment of Arbitrator and the State Government has appointed District and Session Judge Baramulla as Arbitrator for determination of compensation. Arbitration award is awaited.

[*English*]

Railway Schools in Orissa

2405. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway schools in Orissa, location-wise;

(b) the schools which do not have their own buildings; and

(c) the steps 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) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Chemanchery Railway Station

2406. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the decision of the Divisional Railway Manager to close down Chemanchery Railway Station, which is closely associated with Quite India Movement;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps to retain the station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (d) Due to poor offering of passenger traffic, a decision was taken by the Railway for closing of Chemancheri Halt Station. However, Chemancheri Halt Station will presently remain in operation.

Withdrawal of Toy Train

2407. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to Landslide in Darjeeling, the Toy Train movement was discontinued in July 2003;

(b) whether after repair of the tracks, the train was started;

(c) whether during the Pujas, even after sale of advance railway tickets, the Toy Train was not run;

(d) whether although the Railways returned the advance ticket money, the Toy Train was not run during the Pujas, thus depriving the tourists from the enjoying journey; and

(e) if so, the reasons for abrupt withdrawal of the Toy Train movement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) Yes, Sir. Toy Train movement was discontinued from 8th July, 2003 to 14th September, 2003, due to landslides.

(b) Yes, Sir. The services were restored between Darjeeling and Siliguri Jn. with effect from 15th September, 2003.

(c) No, Sir. The Toy Train was running during the Durga Puja period from 02.10.2003 to 05.10.2003.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Power Generation and Distribution in Bihar

2408. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the generation/distribution/transmission position of power in private and public sector in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bihar Government has requested for more power from Central pool;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received proposals/requests for setting up new power projects in the State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The details of actual power generation in the Bihar State during the last three years are given below:

Sl.No.	Year	Sector	Gross generation in MU		
			Thermal	Hydro	Total
1.	2000-01	State	716	49	765
		Central	4826	—	4826
		Total	5542	49	5591
2.	2001-02	State	673	58	731
		Central	4513	—	4513
		Total	5186	58	5244
3.	2002-03	State	531	59	590
		Central	4995	—	4955
		Total	5526	59	5585

There is no private sector unit in Bihar State.

The Government of India have approved the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution in densely electrified zones in the urban and industrial areas and improvement in commercial viability of State Electricity Boards by reducing the aggregate technical and commercial (AT & C) losses. During the year 2002-03, the Government has Sanctioned sub-transmission and distribution (ST&D), metering and DMS/SCADA projects amounting to Rs. 737.97 crores for upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution in the State of Bihar. Further, Government of Bihar and BSEB have signed the Memorandum of Understanding and Memorandum of Agreement with the Government of India to implement the power reforms in a phased manner. The Government has released Rs. 11.16 Crores and Rs. 66.11 Crores under APDRP for improvement of ST&D in Bihar during 2000-01 and 2002-03 respectively.

A scheme amounting to Rs. 365 crores for improvement of sub-transmission and distribution system in Bihar with a special grant to be made available by the Planning Commission under special economic package for Bihar, (after its bifurcation), has been agreed to.

(c) and (d) Government of Bihar/Bihar State Electricity Board had requested for enhancing allocation from cheaper power station i.e Talcher STPS of NTPC in the Eastern Region and re-appropriation of allocation between Farakka and Kahalgaon STPS of NTPC. Keeping in view the request of all the constituents in the region, allocation of Bihar from Talcher STPS was increased to the extent possible. In addition, an allocation of 50 MW was made to Bihar from Talcher STPS to meet its commitment for supply of power to Nepal.

(e) and (f) Detailed project reports (DPR) of the following Hydro-Electric Power Projects received from Bihar Hydel Power Corporation (BHPC) in CEA for Techno Economic Clearance (TEC) were examined and returned for the reasons as indicated below:

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Date of Receipt	Date of Return	Reasons
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Sankh Stage-II HEP (2x90+2x3=186MW)	December 1997/ December 1999	December 1998/ January 2000	Comments of CEA/CWC were not taken into account.
2.	Kanhar PSS (3x100=300MW)	January 1990/ May 1999	July 1990/ July 1999	Comments of CEA/CWC were not taken into account.

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Kadwan H.E. Project (3x150=450MW) (renamed as Indrapuri)	February 1995	March 1995	Involves Inter-state aspects.

[English]

Setting up of Field Publicity Units

2409. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to set up additional field publicity units in the country during 2003-2004; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Manu-Agartala Rail Project

2410. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the extension of Railway line in Tripura in Manu-Agartala sector, particularly of tunnels is proceeding as per schedule;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether out of three tunnels, the fate of two tunnels is still not known although tender for these tunnels were invited last year;

(d) the action the Government propose to take to expedite the tunnel work;

(e) whether tender for ballast and other materials have been invited as these materials be brought from outside;

(f) whether these materials will take considerable time as these are to be brought through hill section; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government for expeditiously completion of said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) The work of Manu-Agartala section of Kumarghat-Agartala new line is progressing as per the availability of resources. Earthwork, bridge work and tunneling work etc. are in various stages of progress. The total cost of work is about Rs. 879 cr. out of which Rs. 259.67 cr. has been spent upto March 2003. An outlay of Rs. 85 cr. has been provided for the project during 2003-04.

(c) and (d) The contract for two tunnels have already been awarded and for the 3rd tunnel is under finalization.

(e) to (g) The transportation of ballast and other materials through hill section may taken some extra time but is not a critical activity for this project. The procurement of material will be processed in due course depending upon the progress of other formation works.

[Translation]

Increase in Speed of Passenger Trains

2411. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the speed of passenger train in India is 60 Km per hour while the speed in other developing countries is 100-120 Km per hour;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the speed of passenger trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) The speed of the trains on Indian Railways is based on the classification of trains namely Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Janshatabdi, Superfast, Mail/Express and Passenger trains on specified sections of Indian Railways, the maximum permissible speed is 140 Kmph.

(c) and (d) Speeding up of trains is an ongoing process based on the operational feasibility.

[English]

Power Projects Funded by PFC in Assam

2412. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing power project funded by the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) in the country and particularly in State of Assam; and

(b) the details of amount sanctioned and released so far, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The details of sanction and disbursement made by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) to on-going power generating projects in the country is given in the statement enclosed. There is no ongoing power generation project which is presently being financed by PFC.

Statement

Disbursement made by Power Finance Corporation to ongoing state generation projects in the country (as on 30.11.2003)

State	S.No.	Description	Amount (Rs. in Crores)	
			Sanction	Disbursement
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	1	6x150 MW Srisalam Left Bank Project	115	51.77
		State Total	115	51.77
Delhi	1	330 MW Gas base Project, Delhi	700	485.53
		State Total	700	485.53
Gujarat	1	2x125 MW Thermal Power Project, Cher, Kutch	500	159.81
	2.	106.17 MW Thermal Power Project at Dhuvaran	231	119.65
		State Total	731	279.46
Haryana	1	2x25MW Panipat Thermal Unit 7&8	1000	534.23
	2.	14.4 MW Western Yamuna Canal Stage-II.	56	29.03
		State Total	1056	563.26
Himachal Pradesh	1	3x42 MW Additional Loan for Largi Hydel Project	214	94.63
		State Total	214	94.63
Jammu & Kashmir	1	3x2.5 MW Chenani Stage-III Hydel Project	6.56	6.26
	2.	3x35 MW Upper Sindh Hydel Project	61.47	47.46
		State Total	68.03	53.72
Karnataka	1	290 MW Almati Dam Power House	500	134.09
		State Total	500	134.09

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	1	1x500 MW Thermal Power Project at Birsinghpur	1560	163.64
	2.	90 MW Bansagar Tons Hydel Project Phase-II	93	89.62
	3.	2x20 MW Marikheda (Mohini) Hydel Project	119	20.71
	4.	2x10 MW Bansagar Ton Hydel Project	63.9	9.39
		State Total	1835.9	283.36
Maharashtra	1	1x250 MW Parli Thermal Power Extension Project	105	0.15
		State Total	105	0.15
Nagaland	1	24 MW Likimro Hydro Project	15	13.87
		State Total	15	13.87
Tamil Nadu	1	2x15 MW Bhavani-Kattalai Hydel Project	77.6	29.43
		State total	77.6	29.43
Uttaranchal	1	4x76 MW Maneribhali Stage-II	418	201.13
		State Total	418	201.13
Grand Total			5835.53	2190.4
Total Capacity Addition			3887.07 MW	

Fire Incidents in Ordnance Factories

2413. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Board of Enquiry/Court which enquired the cases of fire/explosion incidents took place during the past in various ordnance factories have suggested a number of measures to prevent the incidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite implementation of such suggestions incidents of fire are taking place frequently;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the facts in this regard in respect of last two years upto October, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A Board of Enquiry is constituted to investigate every incident of fire/explosion

and recommend remedial measures. During the preceding 3 financial year (i.e, 2000-2001 to 2002-2003), 10 incidents of fire/explosion were reported. Remedial measures suggested by the Boards of Enquiry in 8 cases have been implemented. The recommendations in respect of the remaining 2 cases are being examined.

(c) to (e) In the recent past, incidents of fire/explosion have declined. There have been 3 incidents in the financial year 2002-2003 as compared to 6 incidents in the year 2001-2002. During the current financial year one incident has occurred.

Short Supply of Petroleum Products from BPCL Depot, Rewari

2414. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the calibration tower of BPCL depot at Rewari and Panipat

have been found giving short delivery of petroleum products in each tanker;

(b) if so, the corrective measures taken to avoid this situation in future;

(c) whether the BPCL propose to compensate the dealers/consumers for their loss due to this said short delivery;

(d) if not, whether the dealers can follow the process of pure for sure in the situation of receipt of short supplies;

(e) if not, the corrective steps taken/to be taken by the corporation;

(f) whether there is a provision to pour six litres products extra in each tanker of 12 KL to ensure correct and exact delivery of product to consumers; and

(g) if so, whether this procedure was followed while giving delivery of petroleum products in Panipat Depot of BPCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) Calibration towers of standard measures provided at most locations have been calibrated and stamped by Weights & Measures (W&M) Department of State Government. This facility helps in calibration of tankers. At BPCL Rewari Depot, the Calibration Tower was calibrated and stamped on 13.06.2003 by W&M Department, Government of Haryana. On receiving a complaint from one of the dealers, the calibration tower was verified by W&M Department on 08.07.2003 when it was found that 3 litres per 1000 litres was being delivered short which was beyond permissible limit. Hence the tower was re-calibrated on the same day and since then the calibration tower and tankers have been in use and there have been no complaints from dealers/transporters.

At BPCL Panipat Depot, the calibration tower was calibrated and stamped on 03.03.2003 by W&M Department, Government of Haryana. At the instance of few dealers, W&M Department verified the calibration tower on 17.08.2003 when the calibration was found to be correct. The calibration tower and tankers have been in use since then and there have been no further complaint from dealers/transporters.

(f) and (g) Quantity of petroleum products is delivered as per the calibrated quantity of tanker and there is no practice to deliver extra quantity over and above the calibrated quantity.

Conspiracy between BPCL and FAIPT

2415. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the BPCL in connivance with the President FAIPT had worked against the Government's objective of disinvestment of BPCL and HPCL;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether BPCL has given undue benefits by way of allowing illegal reconstitutions of petrol pumps at New Delhi and allowing operation of benami petrol pumps in Delhi;

(d) the number of petrol pumps dealerships in Delhi and Haryana being operated under benami transactions with the help of Divisional/Regional Managers of oil companies; and

(e) the action to be taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty and the time by which the enquiry shall be conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has neither permitted any illegal reconstitution nor allowed benami operation of petrol pumps in Delhi.

(d) No reports have been received of petrol pumps in Delhi and Haryana being operated under benami transactions.

(e) Does not arise in view of 'of' above.

COCO Petrol Pumps of IOCL and IBP

2416. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the petrol pumps are being run by IOCL and IBP purely on COCO basis through COCO contractors/operators;

(b) if so, whether the tenure of COCO contractors has been/can be increased to 5 years based on the

recommendations of respective Divisional Incharge of the Companies;

(c) if so, the criteria being followed for increasing the tenure of such operators;

(d) the details of IOCL COCO pumps whose operators are to be changed during the next one year;

(e) whether the IOCL has authorized SDM's/CDM's of their Divisional officers to change the COCO Operators inspite of their best performance; and

(f) if not, the details of the circumstances under which the COCO operators to be changed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (f) Change of job contractor for a particular COCO dealership will depend on the following factors:

(i) Selection of regular dealer.

(ii) Breach of terms of contract.

(iii) Poor performance.

(iv) Expiry of tenure.

(e) No, Sir.

Dealer's Commission

2417. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the oil PSUs are still not settling the issue of dealers commission marketing it rational and practical inspite of study conducted by them;

(b) if so, whether the present dealers commission of the sale of petrol, diesel and kerosene is sufficient to survive the traders;

(c) if so, whether some of the oil PSUs particularly BPCL has some reservations on this issue;

(d) if not, the time by which decision is likely to be taken to increase the Dealers commission on the sale petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 01.04.2002, the Government is no longer fixing the dealers' commission on petrol and diesel, which is now being fixed by the oil companies. It is for the oil companies to take a view on the revision of dealers' commission. The oil companies had last revised the dealers' commission effective 01.11.2002. As per this revision, the dealers' commission on petrol was increased from Rs. 613 per KL to Rs. 639 per KL and on diesel from Rs. 365 per KL to Rs. 385 per KL.

As regards Kerosene, the last revision in wholesale dealers' commission was effected w.e.f 4th/5th June 2002 and the revised commission is Rs. 161 per KL for dealers without form XIII and Rs. 204 per KL for dealers with form XIII licence.

Dealerships to Women Land Owners

2418. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil undertakings has formulated a dealers selection policy in which the daughters/sisters of the land owners cannot be nominated for the award of dealership;

(b) if so, whether it is not against the provision of Hindus Succession Act and a step to deprive the women from their right of succession in this era; and

(c) the time by which this policy is likely to be amended with a view to benefit the women section of the society specially unmarried daughters of the family?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) are authorized to select dealers/distributors for retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships in the basis of guidelines adopted by them. The Government have only advised the OMCs to observe

certain broad parameters in the guidelines to be formulated by them. One of these parameters is that there should be no change in the percentages of reservation for various sections of the society, which means that 33% of the dealerships/distributorships in each category are to be reserved for women belonging to that category.

The guidelines formulated by the OMCs provide for allotment of dealerships to land-owners subject to fulfilment of certain requirements by the latter.

[*Translation*]

Grant to NGOs for Handicapped Persons

2419. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of representations received directly from handicapped persons, through Government, non-Government organizations, Members of Parliament for grants for the projects for handicapped persons, State-wise;

(b) the numbers out of them which have been accepted and which are pending along with the reasons for delay;

(c) whether recommendation for grants for the projects of the handicapped run by the voluntary organization Ambagam Institute for the mentally handicapped children, Madurai was sent to the Union Government in July-August last;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon;

(e) whether the Government is aware that there is an inordinate delay in processing of some cases;

(f) if so, whether any time limit has been fixed for early disposal of cases so that their purpose could be served and transparency be maintained; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) The number of proposals received, processed and pending for the year 2003-04 (as on 15.12.2003) under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) formerly known as the

Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities, is enclosed as statement.

(c) to (g) The proposal for grant-in-aid received from Ambagam Institute for the mentally handicapped children, Madurai has been considered. The same has not been recommended for sanction as 15 projects are already being supported in the District by the Ministry under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme formerly known as the Scheme to promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities. The organization has been informed of this decision.

Statement

Grants to NGOs for Handicapped Persons

S.No.	Name of the State	Received	Accepted	Pending*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	245	220	25
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	1	2
3.	Assam	21	15	6
4.	Bihar	29	26	3
5.	Chandigarh	3	2	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	4	3	1
7.	Delhi	41	33	8
8.	Goa	4	3	1
9.	Gujarat	37	27	10
10.	Haryana	20	18	2
11.	Himachal Pradesh	9	5	4
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	5	2
13.	Jharkhand	8	7	1
14.	Karnataka	105	95	10
15.	Kerala	96	74	22
16.	Madhya Pradesh	30	27	3
17.	Maharashtra	55	36	19

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Manipur	24	19	5
19.	Meghalaya	7	5	2
20.	Mizoram	6	5	1
21.	Orissa	46	40	6
22.	Pondicherry	4	2	2
23.	Punjab	9	17	2
24.	Rajasthan	23	19	4
25.	Tamil Nadu	158	128	30
26.	Tripura	8	5	3
27.	Uttar Pradesh	72	56	16
28.	Uttaranchal	9	5	4
29.	West Bengal	81	73	8

*On receipt of application for the release of grant-in-aid the same are examined and verified for availability of documents prescribed under the Scheme, inspection report, State Government recommendation etc. Deficient document/clarification, are sought, if required. Thereafter, the case is processed for concurrence of Integrated Finance Division and approval of competent authority. The pending cases are at various stages of processing.

[English]

Setting up of National Energy Board

2420. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up a National Energy Board;

(b) if so the details of the proposal and the main objectives of the Board; and

(c) the steps take by the Government to set up such board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Selection of Dealers by IOCL and IBP

2421. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision regarding selection of the dealers for 610 locations by IOCL and IBP in the month of January 2003 as per the then prevailing policy is still pending with the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government intends to terminate/scrap all such 610 interviews to avoid discrimination;

(c) if so whether these oil companies had conducted these interviews in violation of the Government of oil companies policy;

(d) if so, the action to be taken/proposed to be taken against the officers involved; and

(e) if not, the time by which all these pumps are to be installed as per the merit panels prepared by the oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) are authorized to select dealers/distributors for retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorship and SKO-LDO dealership on the basis of guidelines to the adopted by them. The Government have since advised the OMCs to observe certain broad parameters in the guidelines, and the OMCs have, thereafter, formulated their guidelines. Decision in respect of the cases of selection made by Indian Oil Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited will depend on the provisions in these guidelines.

RVP Test of Petrol

2422. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reid Vapour Pressure (RVP) test of petrol is conducted on refinery level and not in depots and terminals of the oil companies as per the specifications of products incorporated in RMDS;

(b) if so, whether the Ethanol is blended in petrol after the laboratory testing of petrol and no product testing is done after blending;

(c) if so, the impact on the specifications after blending of Ethanol in petrol;

(d) the reasons for not supplying Ethanol blended petrol in the area of NCT;

(e) whether Government/Oil companies have received representations about Ethanol blended petrol; and

(f) if so, the time by which corrective steps would be taken to protect interests of the motorists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The detailed analysis of petrol, as per BIS specifications, including Reid Vapour Pressure (RVP) test is done at the refineries;

(b) Ethanol is blended in petrol after the laboratory testing of petrol and ethanol. The ethanol is blended with petrol on-line during truck loading. The loaded product sample is tested to check ethanol content (vol%) in the petrol.

(c) Blending of Ethanol in petrol improves the Octane number and oxygen content in petrol.

(d) The Government has taken a decision to cover the entire country by ethanol blended petrol in two phases. The NCT of Delhi is to be covered in the second phase.

(e) and (f) There have been reports of vehicle malfunctioning from select pockets of the country. After examining its overall impact on vehicles and considering the fact that 5% ethanol blended petrol does not affect the interests of the motorist adversely, the sale of ethanol blended petrol has been allowed.

Seizure of Tankers with Bulk POL Products

2423. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some tankers loaded with bulk POL products for Leh were caught by Panchkula crime branch police for adulteration and later on the quality of product has been cleared on receiving location;

(b) if so, whether some T/T with products related to defence were also caught at Jagadhari by police officials and the transporters firm was banned;

(c) if so, circumstances under which these firms were again given transportation work;

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct enquiry to unearth the theft of petroleum products in the above areas; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) A Tank Truck was caught by the Jagadhari Police on deviation from the normal route in the last week of August, 2003. After investigation, the Tank Truck was released by the Police and was allowed to deliver the product to the consignee, which has been received by the consignee in full. However, since the Tank Truck was caught by the Police as it had not followed the normal route, the subject Tank Truck was banned for 2 years as per Transport Discipline Guidelines followed by the Oil Industry.

Retention of Samples of Petrol and Diesel

2424. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retention sample of petrol and diesel is handed over to the dealers for getting the same tested on payment in case of doubt/failure of samples is reported by laboratory;

(b) if not, the need for giving the retention samples i.e. third sample to the dealers;

(c) whether the investing agencies and sample drawing authorities are required and duty bound to get the reference sample available on petrol pumps for matching the test results as per the recent directions and decisions;

(d) if not, the importance of keeping the reference samples; and

(e) the time by which directions to oil companies shall be issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA

MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Oil Industry have adopted a 3 tier sampling procedure to isolate and thereby pinpoint the origin of adulteration, which would enable to safeguard the interest of unerring dealers. The dealer should retain 2 X 1 Litre MS (Motor Spirit) and or 1 X 1 Litre HSD (High Speed Diesel) samples with him and handover, against payment, 2 X 1 litres MS and/or 1 X 1 Litre HSD samples to the tank truck driver/representative of the transporter for retention by the transporter. The sample(s) so retained by the dealer will be called as "Retained Tank Truck Samples". The dealer shall retain these samples until next two loads are received in the respective underground tanks at the retail outlet.

On request of the dealer, retention sample of MS/HSD handed over to dealer can be tested with the approval of the competent authority.

(c) to (e) Supply locations, on daily basis, collect and retained samples of MS/HSD of the tank(s) from which the product is supplied on that day. As and when any sample is drawn from the retail outlet and sent for testing, the "Retained Tank Truck Sample" of the last supply which was drawn and retained by the dealer and the reference sample of the supply location are also needed to be retained and sent for testing. This procedure facilitates to identify the point of adulteration and to initiate action against the erring dealer/transporter.

Safety Measures Adopted by Helicopters of ONGC

2425. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the helicopters being used by ONGC are not fulfilling the safety measures as prescribed by the authorities; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to implement the safety measures for the helicopters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has informed that it is chartering helicopters wherein the operators have to fulfil the conditions as laid down by the concerned statutory and Regulatory Authorities. After the unfortunate accident on 11.8.2003 of a helicopter chartered by ONGC from MESCO Airlines, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is conducting a statutory inquiry to look into the

cause of this accident. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have also set up a three member Independent Inquiry Committee to look into *inter alia*, the aspects of Safety and Security of lives in offshore operations, especially air logistics and inspection mechanism; and hiring of helicopters, especially MI-172 helicopters, including the circumstances under which the ill-fated helicopter was hired etc. An Interim Reports has been received from the Committee, and the final report is awaited.

[Translation]

Collapse of Sixth Unit of Kota Thermal Power Station

2426. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sixth unit of Kota Thermal Power Station, Kota, Rajasthan collapse and ceased to function causing heavy loss of life and property;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) the financial participation of the Government in the said power generation unit along with the support of the Government in compensating for the loss; and

(d) the names of the officials of the Central and State Governments under whose supervision the construction of the said unit was going on and who were responsible for faults?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The sixth unit (195 MW) of Kota Thermal Power Station contains six coal bunkers, out of which four collapsed on 25.9.2003. As a result, generation from the unit stopped. In the accident, four workers of M/s. Dowel Engineering Company, Chennai (Sub-contractor of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) died. The details of the loss suffered are yet to be finalized and assessed.

(c) The total expenditure booked for the construction of the unit is Rs. 500.00 Crores (Approx.) out of which the State Government has provided Rs. 190.0 crores as equity. The State Government has paid compensation of Rs. 1.00 lakh to each to the next of kin of the four workers died in the accident.

(d) The work of fabrication and erection was carried out by M/s. Larsen & Toubro as the contractor of RVUNL and the installation of other equipment such as coal mills

etc. was carried out by BHEL with the supervision of RVUNL Departmental Engineers under Chief Engineer (KTPS).

[English]

Gas Based Power Plants

2427. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the major consumers of Gas Based Power Plants in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the prices of power generated from gas based power plants in the country;

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

(d) whether the Union Government has received requests from some State Governments not to increase the price of gas based power which will directly hit the State's fiscal burden; and

(e) if so, reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The power generated by gas based power plants under Central Sector is supplied to the States as per their allocated shares and that generated in the State Sector, to the respective State Grid. The power from various sources is generally pooled in to the State Grid and supplied to the various categories of consumers in the State.

(b) No, Sir. The power tariff is regulated by the respective Regulatory Commissions. However, since the price of gas is a pass through, any increase in gas prices would get reflected in the tariffs.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Requests have been received from some State Governments not to increase the price of natural gas in the country in view of the resultant additional financial burden on the State Utilities and consumers and also on the fiscal deficit.

(e) Presently no decision has been taken on the price increase.

Grants/Loans for Non-Conventional Energy Projects

2428. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned grants/loans for non-conventional energy projects particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of such projects in Maharashtra during the current financial year; and

(c) the names of the projects are pending in the State of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Government is providing central financial assistance for programmes/schemes throughout the country, including Maharashtra.

(b) A total central financial assistance of Rs. 4.10 crores, including Rs. 2.85 crores for two biomass cogeneration projects and Rs. 1.24 crores for biogas plants has been provided in the current financial year (upto 30.11.2003) to Maharashtra.

(c) No non-conventional energy project for Maharashtra is pending in the Ministry.

Selection of LPG Dealers for U.P.

2429. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations against the selection of LPG distributorship for some places in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the representations have been investigated thoroughly by competent authorities;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken thereon;

(e) whether the Government have cancelled the selection of first empanelled candidate; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (f) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have started the selection of LPG distributorships as per the new guidelines adopted by them. Under these guidelines, OMCs are competent to investigate the complaints received against the selections made by their officers and take the decision at their own level. Government have not cancelled any selection of LPG distributorship made by OMCs as per the new guidelines in Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

Scam in National Commission for SCs/STs

2430. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any large scale financial scam has taken place in the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the fact thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered by the Government thereon; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry and the further action taken/to be taken by the Government on inquiry report or against guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a case of allegedly fake air journeys undertaken by some

unknown persons has come to the notice of the Commission during the year 2002. A case FIR No. 172/03 dated 08.10.203 U/S 420/468/471/120-B IPC has been registered at Police Station Tuglaq Road, New Delhi for carrying out necessary investigation by Delhi Police.

Cases against Corrupt Officials

2431. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether a number of officers at the senior level of the Prasar Bharati have been found indulging in corrupt practices and the cases have been initiated against them;

(b) if so, the names of the officers and the specific charges of corruption against each;

(c) whether some of these officers still continue to be in service and have not been placed under suspension pending the completion of the cases against them; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The decision to place an officer under suspension or otherwise is taken by the disciplinary authority keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the case with specific reference to the recommendations of the investigating authority.

Statement

Names of senior level officers proceeded against during the year 2003 and specific charges of corruption in brief

Sl. No.	Name & Designation of the officer S/Sh.	Specific Charges in brief
1	2	3
1.	M.B. Pahari, Deputy Director General, DG: Doordarshan.	Extended undue favours to certain firms by awarding TV programmes in violation of existing Rules/Guidelines.
2.	S.Z. Fazil, Station Director	While working as Assistant Station Director, Centre Production Centre, Doordarshan, Asiad Village, New Delhi he processed

1	2	3
		<p>a programme of Kashmiri music and entertainment. While preparing estimates for payment of fees to the artists the estimates were prepared on the higher sides and double payments were made to them. Shri Fazil accepted false/ forged/fabricated receipts in collusion with private producers.</p>
3.	<p>Shashank Narayan, Assistant Controller of Sales, Prasar Bharati</p>	<p>He approved banking of unused free commercial time in favour of a private firm in violation of bid rules for telecast of feature film in Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata.</p>
4.	<p>Shri Y.S. Kataria, News Editor, News Services Division, All India Radio, New Delhi.</p>	<p>Possession of assets, disproportionate to his known source of income.</p>
5.	<p>Shekhar Prasad, Station Engineer, Doordarshan Maintenance Centre, Dhanbad</p>	<p>Favoured the firms of his relatives without market survey and quotations while awarding contracts for supply of Diesel Generator sets.</p>
6.	<p>Biswanath Das, Director (retd.), Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata</p>	<p>Committed irregularities in the process of framing bid rules, tender procedures in respect of telecast of Bengali Feature Film in Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata.</p>
7.	<p>K. Kunhikrishnan, Deputy Director General (C&S), Doordarshan</p>	<p>Approved increase in duration and periodicity of a programme against the decision of Prasar Bharati Board and also deviated Rate Card while finalising the commercial terms of the said programme.</p>
8.	<p>Shyamal Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Station Director, Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata</p>	<p>Approval of number of episodes was conveyed by him without the approval of the competent authority.</p>
9.	<p>Shri Arvind Kumar, Director (Estimate), DG: All India Radio.</p>	<p>Committed irregularities while dealing with the FMRDS paging service with various companies leading to financial loss to the Government.</p>
10.	<p>Shri S.K. Das, SE (Civil), Civil Construction Wing, All India Radio. Kolkata.</p>	<p>Acceptance of tenders considering arbitrary market rates for the justification of tenders.</p>

1	2	3
11.	M.B.A. Khan, Surveyor of works (Civil), Civil Construction Wing, All India Radio, New Delhi	Adoption of very high rates for justification of the work. While executing work at All India Radio Station, constructed the Retaining wall in dry stone random rubble masonry in violation of the agreement resulting in collapse of wall leading to loss to Government.
12.	A.K. Khan, Executive Engineer (Civil), Civil Construction Wing, All India Radio, Calcutta	Excess material were issued beyond sanctioned limit and also spent towards minor works from contingency without maintaining records while executing work at All India Radio station.
13.	Shri T. Nanakan, Executive Engineer, Civil Construction Wing, All India Radio. Trivandrum.	Committed gross financial irregularities in awarding transportation contract of cement.
14.	Shri Lalit Kumar, Executive Engineer (E), Civil Construction Wing, All India Radio, New Delhi	Releasing the final bill to the agency without making recovery from the agency for their lapses and overlooking their liabilities of balance work and without getting sanction of extra items and deduction items from the competent authority.
15.	Shri Rati Ram, the then Station Director, Doordarshan Kendra, Jaipur (since retired).	Allowed coverage of news based current affairs programme to the unapproved stringers/unauthorised firms against the existing guidelines.

Constitution of Commando Force

2432. SHRI AMIR ALAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any 'Commando-Force' with the nomenclature GARUD;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the functions likely to be assigned to this 'Commando-Force'?

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

(b) and (c) In September, 2003, Government sanctioned a commando force called 'Garud', with a total strength of 1090 personnel. The main functions of the force are:

(i) Protection of critical Air Force bases and installations;

(ii) Search and rescue during peace and hostilities;

(iii) Disaster relief during calamities.

[English]

Public Premises Act, 1971

2433. SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued an Office Memorandum dated February 11, 2002 under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupation) Act, 1971 laying down the parameters to be followed by the Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so the circumstances under which the guidelines were issued alongwith the purpose for issuing the guidelines;

(c) whether such guidelines were issued to pre-empt the application of above said Act of 1971 against genuine tenants;

(d) if so, the details alongwith the number of cases have been instituted before the designated Court of Estate Officer appointed under the above said Act of 1971;

(e) whether the Designated Authority ensured compliance of the guidelines dated February 19, 1992 before instituting Cases for Eviction against unauthorized occupant of the Public Premises; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith action contemplated by the Government thereon?

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 (c) The Government have issued detailed guidelines on 19.2.1992 (not 11.2.2002) setting limits for the resort to P.P. Act by the PSEs for the eviction of the unauthorized occupants from public premises and also to ensure that the interests of the genuine tenants are not jeopardized. A copy of OM dated 19.2.1992 given in the statement enclosed.

(d) to (f) The DPE guidelines are not mandatory in nature. These guidelines are implemented by the administrative Ministries and CPSUs and compliance of the guidelines is not centrally monitored.

Statement

No. 2 (6) 92-DPE (WC)
Government of India
Ministry of Industry
Department of Public Enterprises

Public Enterprises Bhavan,
Block No. 14, CGO Complex,
Lodi Road, New Delhi-110 003.

February 19th, 1992.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Public Premises (Eviction of unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971—parameters to be followed by the PSEs.

The Public Premises (Eviction of unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 (referred to as P.P. Act) provides for the eviction of unauthorised occupants from Public Premises by Estate Officers appointed by the Government of the Public authority and provides for a summary procedure of eviction within 15 days of passing the eviction order. The scope of this Act was expanded through an amendment in 1980 in order to bring within its purview the properties of the Companies defined under Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956, in which at least 51% shares are held by Central Government and the properties of Companies established by or under any Act and owned or controlled by the Central Government. The cardinal principle of this amendment was removing the difficulties faced by these bodies in evicting unauthorised occupants including their employees no longer in service from the premises owned by these institutions.

2. Although the provisions of the P.P. of eviction of unauthorised Act, 1971 have been upheld by the hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Ashoka Marketing Ltd. Vs. Punjab National Bank and various other civil petitions, the Supreme Court had also observed that every activity of the public authority should be guided by public interest, and they should deal with their tenants distinctly from private landlords. The matter has, therefore, been further examined in the Government having regard to all the relevant factors, it has been decided that PSEs should not use the P.P. Act to evict genuine tenants, but use the Act primarily to evict those found to be subletting the premises for commercial or residential purpose, or illegal occupants, or recalcitrant employees who have ceased to be in service of the Public Sector Undertakings. Government is of the view that protection of the Public Premises Act enjoyed by the premises of Government owned organisations mentioned in Para 1 above should continue. At the same time, it has been decided to prescribe for the benefit of all these organisation a set of guidelines in order to prevent arbitrary use of the provisions of the P.P. Act to evict genuine tenants and to limit the use of the summary powers primarily to evict unauthorised occupants and retired employees of the enterprises. This will ensure empliance with the spirit underlying the protection extended by the Parliament to these Premises and the observation of the Supreme Court while upholding the validity of the amended Act. The guidelines given below set limits for the resort to P.P. Act by the PSEs and are to ensure that the interest of the genuine tenants are not jeopardised. The following are the guidelines:

- (i) The provisions of the P.P. Act should be used primarily to evict totally illegal occupants of the

premises of public authorities or unauthorised sublettees, or employees who have ceased to be in their service and thus ineligible for occupation of the premises. The proceedings should be initiated in accordance with the provisions of the Act only in cases where the occupation becomes unauthorised on genuine grounds of law.

- (ii) The provisions of the Act should not be resorted to either with a commercial motive or to secure vacant possession of the premises in order to accommodate their own employees, where the premises were in occupation of the original tenants to whom the premises were let either by the public authorities or the persons from whom the premises were acquired.
- (iii) A person in lawful occupation of any premises should not be treated or declared to be an unauthorised occupant merely on service of notice of termination of tenancy, nor should any contractual agreement be wound up by taking advantage of the provisions of the Act. At the same time, it will be open to the public authority to secure periodic revision of rent in terms of the provisions of the Rent Control Act in each State, or to move under genuine grounds under the Rent Control Act for resuming possession. In other words, the public authorities would have rights similar to private landlords under the Rent Control Act in dealing with genuine legal tenants;
- (iv) It is necessary to give no room for allegations that evictions were selectively resorted to for the purpose of securing an unwarranted increase in rent, or that a change in tenancy was permitted in order to benefit particular individual or institutions in order to avoid such imputations or abuses of discretionary powers. The release of premises or change of tenancy should be decided at the level of Board of Directors of the Public Undertakings.
- (v) All the Public Undertakings should immediately review all pending cases before the Estate Officer or Courts with reference to these guidelines, and withdraw eviction proceedings against genuine tenants on grounds otherwise than as provided under these guidelines. The provisions under the P.P. Act should be used henceforth only in accordance with these guidelines.

3. All the Administrative Ministries of the Government of India are requested to bring the above guidelines to the notice of the PSEs under their administrative control for strict enforcement. These guidelines may also be given wide publicity.

(T.S. Narasimhan)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India,
Tel: 360 204.

To

All Administrative Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

Copy to:

1. Chief Executives of Public Enterprises.
2. Secretary, SCOPE, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi.
3. Comptroller & Auditor General of India, New Delhi.
4. Secretary (PE), Joint Secretary (M), J.A. (MOU), J.A. (S), DPE.
5. All Financial Advisers in the Administrative Ministries.
6. Additional Secretary, Insurance Division, Deptt. of Economic Affairs, Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi.
7. Additional Secretary, Banking Division, Deptt. of Economic Affairs, Jeevan Deep Building, New Delhi.
8. Department of Expenditure, E-II Branch, North Block, New Delhi.
9. Dy. Comptroller & Auditor General-cum-Chairman Audit Board, C/o C.A.G; All Principal Directors of Commercial Audit & ex-officio, Members of Audit Board and Principal Directors of Audit (Food), New Delhi.

(T.S. Narasimhan)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India,
Tel: 360 204.

[Translation]

Violation in Publication of Newspapers

2434. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether major Hindi dailies like 'Hindustan', 'Aaj' and 'Dainik Jagran' etc. by violating the section 5(2-4) of Registration of Press and Book Act, 1867 are publishing these newspapers from different district and towns instead of place or place as stipulated according to the provisions of the said Act;

(b) if so, whether any action is being taken against those newspapers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Dabhol Power Company

2435. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the proposed termination of the contract with Dabhol Power Company (DPC), the Government of Maharashtra and the Union Government have to bear a huge liability of a whopping over Rs. 15,000 crore besides tariff dues and compensation etc.;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware of the significant interest in the project among large foreign corporates and possibility of injection of foreign investment in the form of additional equity and diversification of activities of the company; and

(c) if so, the decision being taken by the Government for inviting additional foreign investments and diversification of its activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) As per information available, neither Government of India nor the Government of Maharashtra have so far incurred any liability either as a result of mutual settlement or an arbitration award in relation to the Dabhol Power Project.

(b) and (c) Some foreign as well as Indian companies have evinced expression of interest for acquiring the interests of the Offshore Sponsors in Dabhol Power Company. The role of Government of India in the

restructuring/restart of the Dabhol power plant is that of a facilitator and the decision in the matter including the possible induction of new sponsors is to be taken by the concerned stake holders subject to the settlement of the various ongoing legal proceedings.

[*Translation*]

Misuse of Railway Complementary Passes

2436. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been misuse of the railway complementary passes;

(b) if so, the number of such cases come to light so far and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to assess and recover the loss of revenue caused thereby; and

(d) the extent of success achieved by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) Some cases of misuse have come to notice.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[*English*]

Amount Spent by GAIL on Pipelines Project

2437. SHRI SUKHDEO PASWAN:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

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

(a) whether GAIL (India) Limited has spent an extra amount of Rs. 450 crores on choosing Pipes for their Gas Pipeline Project;

(b) if so, the reasons for selecting expensive SAW Pipes, once equal effective and low cost options were also available; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The matter is under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

Container Corporation of India

2438. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: .

(a) whether the Container Corporation of India proposes to increase the number of domestic container depots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of its depots presently in operation;

(d) whether CONCOR is contemplating any scheme of linking the prominent cities of North India with Kolkata Dock system;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of its present transaction and turnover?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) is planning to setup rail-linked container terminals at following locations: Agra, Dhappar (Chandigarh), Raipur, Bhopal, Gandhidham (Kandla), Ankleshwar, Belgaon, Visakhapatnam, Kota, Kolkata Port Trust area (KoPT), Vapi (Gujarat) and Shambhupura (Rajasthan).

(c) Thirty-two (32).

(d) and (e) Regular train services are running between Tughlakabad (Delhi) and Cossipore Road (Kolkata).

(f) during the year 2002-03, containers handled and financial turnover of CONCOR at Cossipore Road (Kolkata) was 24793 Twenty feet Equivalent Units (TEUs) with the turnover of Rupees 21.47 crores.

System of Arbitration

2439. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any permanent system of arbitration has been set up in the Department of Public Enterprises for the purpose of resolving all commercial disputes, arising between two public sector enterprises or between a public sector enterprise and any Government department; and

(b) if so, the details along with its composition and functioning 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) A Permanent Machinery of Arbitrators (PMA) was set up in the erstwhile Bureau of Public Enterprises (now Department of Public Enterprises), in 1989 to settle commercial disputes (excluding disputes on income-tax, customs and excise) between public sector enterprises (PSEs) *inter se* and between a public sector enterprise and a Government department. All the administrative Ministries/Departments concerned with PSEs were advised vide DPE's D.O. letter No. 15 (9)/86-BPE (Fin) dated 29th March, 1989 to issue necessary Presidential directives to the PSEs under their administrative control so as to incorporate an Arbitration Clause to this effect in all their current and future contracts. Subsequently, Port Trusts were also brought under the purview of PMA in July, 1993. However, disputes with Railways were taken out from the PMA in February, 1997.

A Joint Secretary level officer from the Ministry of Law, nominated by the Law Secretary and appointed by the Secretary, DPE in each case, functions as Arbitrator in the PMA.

Commercial disputes are referred to the Arbitrator by DPE. The Arbitrator, after giving due hearing to the parties, publishes his award. Any party aggrieved by such award may prefer appeal before the Law Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India whose decision shall be binding upon the parties.

[English]

C Band T.V. Channel

2440. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States, the Andhra Pradesh in particular, have urged the Union Government to make available a C band TV channel to allow the States to use the electronic medium to educate the masses;

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

(c) the response of the Union Government on the requests of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) A proposal has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for allowing Cable TV operators in the State to receive and distribute Ku-band signals through their networks for dissemination of high quality educational programmes to needy and isolated schools and colleges. The matter is under examination in the Ministry.

Discrepancies in Working of Power Reforms

2441. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has found discrepancies in working of power reforms initiatives launched a few years back where funds allocated to States have been found to be diverted elsewhere; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) In the Quarterly Performance Review (QPR) meeting (1st quarter 2003-04) held on 12th September, 2003 in Planning Commission for the Ministry of Power, Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) was also reviewed along with Annual Plan (2002-03) for the Ministry of Power. Among other things, it was discussed that if some States have diverted their APDP/APDRP funds for other sectors, the matter would be taken up with Ministry of Finance, to initiate recovery proceedings.

(b) The issue of delay in transfer of APDRP funds by the State Governments to State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Utilities and related issues were discussed in the Steering Committee on 28.11.2003 and accordingly it was decided that:

(i) In specific cases, Ministry of Power would inform Ministry of Finance for making it mandatory before release of normal assistance by Ministry of Finance.

(ii) To write to all State Governments that they give their consent with approval of the State Finance Department for release of APDRP funds to the implementing agencies.

(iii) To withdraw the sanctions of APDRP where State Government have not released funds.

Mega Project Status of Bellary TPP in Karnataka

2442. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the Government of Karnataka seeking mega project status for the Bellary Thermal Power Project in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the action taken, if any, in this regard;

(c) whether the recognition helps the above project to get waiver of excise duty for components used; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (KPCL), a power generation company of the Government of Karnataka has requested that power projects having a minimum capacity of upto 500 MW be considered for the benefits available to mega power projects. As per the existing policy of Government of India, the Mega Power Project status is currently available to the new thermal power projects having capacity of 1000 MW and above. Bellary Thermal Power Project having capacity of 500 MW does not fulfill the criteria laid down for according Mega Power status.

[Translation]

Export of Petroleum Products

2443. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether petroleum products are being exported to various countries;

(b) if so, the details of petroleum products exported during the last three years by public/private sector oil companies, year-wise; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned separately by both the sectors during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity of petroleum products exported during the last three years by public/private sector oil companies are given below:

	(Qty. in TMT*)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Public Sector	1,178	1,078	1,827
Joint Sector	480	425	1,957
Private Sector	6,707	8,582	6,505

(*thousand metric tonne)

(c) The amount of foreign exchange earned during the last three years are given below:

	(Value in million US\$)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Public Sector	252	195	426
Joint Sector	78	55	395
Private Sector	1,346	1,481	1,430

Pending Power Sub-Station in Jharkhand

2444. SHRI PRADIP YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to open power sub-stations in all the block headquarters of the country;

(b) if so, whether the work on the power sub-station in the Mehrama block in Godda district of Jharkhand is still pending;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to complete the construction of the said sub-station; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Promotion Policy

2445. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT 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 SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Power Grid Station in Bihar

2446. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Grid Station has been sanctioned for Gopalganj District HQ, Bihar, but the same has not started as yet;

(b) if so, the time by which the Power Grid Station will be constructed and made operational;

(c) whether the transmission system is faulty in North Bihar, consequent to which, consumers are suffering heavily; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to improve the transmission system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) A new substation at Gopalganj has been planned by Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB), as a part of sub-transmission system improvement scheme for Bihar. BSEB has requested POWERGRID to execute the scheme on their behalf. This scheme is being implemented with a grant

from Planning Commission to Government of Bihar. The work on the scheme would commence after the signing of Memorandum of Agreement among POWERGRID, Government of Bihar and Ministry of Power, which is expected shortly.

(b) The substation is a part of the aforesaid scheme, which is expected to be commissioned in 18 months from the date of receipt of first tranche of the grant from the Planning Commission.

(c) and (d) The aforesaid Sub-transmission scheme in Bihar would strengthen the existing network in the northern part of Bihar and shall facilitate reliable power supply in this part of the State.

Upgradation of Railway Stations

2447. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received demands for modernization/upgradation of Dahanu road and Bhiwandi Railway Stations in Maharashtra and Katihar Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) No request has been received in the recent past.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Power Project in Nepal

2448. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a power project in Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Nepal have entered into Mahakali Treaty in 1996 for the development of potential of Mahakali River. Pancheshwar Multi-purpose Project will be the centre-piece of Treaty. For Pancheshwar Multi-purpose Project, Survey work has been conducted at Pancheshwar, Rupaligad and Purnagiri on both sides of border.

There is an understanding between two countries to develop Sapta Kosi and Sun Kosi Multi-purpose Project and Burhi Gandak Hydro-electric Project in Nepal through Letter of Exchange & MOU are yet to be signed.

Upper Karnali Project (300 MW) is under discussions by NHPC with HMG, Nepal for implementation under HMG, Nepal Hydro Power Policy, 2001.

(c) Expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government of India on the above mentioned projects would be finalized only after preparation of DPR.

(d) The time by which these projects are likely to be completed will be decided only after finalization of DPR and after signing of formal agreement with HMG, Nepal.

[*English*]

Interruption in Live Cricket Match

2449. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Channel, which had the exclusive right to live telecast the final of cricket match between Australia and India at Kolkata on November 18, 2003, could not relay the match for sometime to Delhi viewers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to relay live telecast of such an important event without any interruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) There was a break in telecast, due to failure of power supply through generator to DSNG at OB spot at Kolkata, to CPC Delhi and DDK

Delhi, between 2130 to 2135 hrs. It is the endeavour of Prasar Bharati to ensure uninterrupted telecast, through standby power supply arrangements.

[Translation]

Acquisition of Land in Himachal Pradesh

2450. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the report from Officers' Board regarding verification of suitability of land offered by the Government of Himachal Pradesh in Una for establishment of its units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the land is likely to be acquired?

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

(b) to (e) Not applicable in view of reply to (a) above.

[English]

Opening of Petrol Oil Lubricants Depots in North East States

2451. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IOCL or Numligarh Oil Company has been given any direction to open up Petrol Oil Lubricant depots in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number for each State;

(c) whether the public representatives are taken into confidence while identifying the place for establishing the depots; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), has 18 Petrol Oil Lubricant (POL) depots in North Eastern States. In the deregulated scenario, Oil Companies are free to establish POL depots at the locations as per their commercial considerations.

Nagpur Railway Station

2452. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan has been finalized for upgrading the facilities at Nagpur Railway station which *inter-alia* include railway yard, rail yatri niwas, maintenance and cleanliness of trains, infrastructure improvement, provision of special relief vehicles, medical facilities etc. at an estimated cost of Rs. 100 crores;

(b) whether the sanction for the proposed plan has been accorded;

(c) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be started at this Railway Station; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) There is no such plan for upgrading the facilities at Nagpur Railway Station costing Rs. 100 crore. However, work of remodelling of yard involving extension of platforms, washing pit lines etc. are in progress costing about Rs. 10.92 crore.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The upgradation of facilities at a station is considered depending upon the operational requirements and the volume of traffic being handled at the station.

Pilferage of Oil from Wells and Refineries

2453. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether in the absence of a proper monitoring system, theft of oil worth crores of rupees from oil wells and refineries takes place every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the officials responsible for the same; and

(d) the concrete action taken by the Government to check such pilferages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The incidents of loss of crude oil from oil wells and refineries occur due to various reasons such as theft/pilferage, leakage in pipelines and sabotage by miscreants. A proper monitoring system helps detect and check such incidents. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has reported that 14 such instances were detected in the year 2000, 25 during 2001 and 50 during 2002. A net loss of Rs. 4.78 lakhs has been incurred by the Company due to these thefts. The Oil Public Sector Units (PSUs) in the down stream Hydrocarbon Sector have reported that there has been no instance of theft of oil/petroleum products from the refineries.

(c) Oil Companies in the Upstream Hydrocarbon Sector, namely ONGC and Oil India Limited, have posted Senior Officers as Heads of Security in the installations, Assets and Regions with directions to take all measures to ensure safety & security so as to prevent instances of theft and pilferage. They are assisted by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), State Police Personnel and Contract Security Personnel, wherever these are required.

(d) A high level committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary to Government of India has been set up on safety and security of oil installations. Besides, the Government had appointed a Committee of Experts headed by Major General (Retd.) S.C.N. Jatar in November, 2001 to examine the aspects of security and safety of oil installations. The Report of this Committee has been accepted "in principle" by the Government. The Government have given directions to ONGC, OIL, Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) and Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) to take necessary measures in light of the recommendations of the Committee. The process of review and monitoring of progress by the Government is a continuous one.

Wind Power Capacity

2454. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the wind power capacity in the country;

(b) the policy of the Government to encourage exploration of this venue by 2007; and

(c) the role of Indian Wind Energy Association in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) A wind power capacity aggregating 2074 MW has been installed so far in the country;

(b) The gross wind power potential in the country has been estimated at about 45,000 MW. The technical potential, which can be tapped at present is, however, limited to about 13,390 MW. A wind power capacity addition of 1500 MW is envisaged during the 10th Plan.

(c) The Indian Wind Energy Association is one among the several wind energy associations involved in wind power related issues in the country. However, the Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET) established by this Ministry at Chennai has been implementing the Wind Resource Assessment Programme of the Government in association with the State Nodal Agencies.

Regulatory Board for Petroleum Sector

2455. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in setting up a regulatory board for petroleum; and

(b) the function of this proposed board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Government introduced the Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill, 2002 in Lok Sabha on 6th May, 2002 for setting up of the Petroleum Regulatory Board. The Bill was referred to the department related Parliamentary Standing Committee for examination and report on 17th May, 2002. The Committee presented its report to Lok Sabha on 8th May, 2003 and recommended that the Bill may be passed subject to the recommendations and observations. The Ministry has examined the recommendations made by the Standing Committee and Government has approved moving amendments to the Bill in Parliament.

(b) The function of the proposed Board is to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum and petroleum products to all parts of the country including

remote areas, at fair prices and to establish sectoral regulations to ensure competition, protect the consumer and encourage investment as well as to take action in case of violations.

ROB/RUB Projects in Kerala

2456. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR:
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received demands for construction of ROB/RUBs in Kerala;

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

(c) the present status of new/ongoing ROB/RUB projects in Kerala along with the target set for completion of these projects;

(d) the amount sanctioned and expenditure incurred so far on these projects; and

(e) 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 (e) Construction of Road Over/Under Bridges is undertaken by Railway based on proposals sponsored by State Governments/Road Authorities on Cost Sharing basis on busy Level Crossings where Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) are more than 1 lakh duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules which *inter alia* include undertaking to bear their share of Cost, Closure of Level crossing on completion of Road Over/Under Bridge, Prioritisation of work in their annual plan etc. If Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) are less than 1 lakh, work can be considered on Deposit terms.

Railway constructs Bridge proper (Over the track portion) and approaches of ROB/RUB by State Government, Railways starts work on their portion only after the State Government starts work on approaches. All efforts are made by Railway to complete its portion of work alongwith approach work by State Government. Presently there are total 64 works sanctioned on Cost Sharing, Deposit, BOT basis in Kerala State which are at various stages of planning and execution. Status of these works is given below.

Allotment and expenditure of funds for Road Over/Under Bridges is maintained Railway-wise, not State-wise. Southern Railway, which serves Kerala State also was allotted Rs. 51.24 Crore during 2003-04 out of which approximately Rs. 2.4 Crore has been spent upto end of October 2003.

S.No.	Name of work	Year of sanction	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Pollachi-Pundunagaram-Palghat Town-ROB in lieu of LC No. 49 at Km 53/10-11 bet Palghat-Palghat Town stations on Shoranur-Mangalore section.	2001-02	GAD concurred in by State Government Estimate sanctioned by Railways. Work in progress. Checking of design of bow string and RCC T beam in progress. Ty. Staging to be submitted by State Government.
2.	Idappally-Emakulam-ROB in lieu of LC No. 69A at Km 101/10-11 between Idappali-Emakulam Stations.	2001-02	Work to be taken up in combination with LC 71 at Pachalam.
3.	Athani-ROB in lieu of LC No. 13 at Km 21/5-6 bet Wadakkancheri and Mulagunnathukavu stns.	2001-02	GAD concurred in by State Government. Estimate provisionally vetted by Railway Accounts. Work in progress.
4.	Kanjikode-ROB in lieu of LC No. 159 at Km. 531/8-10 bet Kanjikode-Palghat stns. on Erode-Palghat section.	2001-02	GAD concurred in by State Government. Work in progress.

1	2	3	4
5.	Pallikera-Kottikulam-ROB in lieu of LC No. 276 at Km 825/15-826/1 bet Pallikera-Kotikulam stns on Shoranur-Mangalore section.	2001-02	GAD concurred in by State Government.
6.	Cochin harbour ROB in lieu of LC No. 14 at Km 25/5-6 between Punkunam and Mulagunathukava station.	2002-03	Work included in the Pink Book at a cost of Rs. 5119 lakhs.
7.	Palghat-Palghat Town-ROB in lieu of LC No. 52 at Km. 56/4-5 bet. Palghat-Palghat town stns. On Palghat-Pollachi section.	2001-02	This ROB is very close to existing weak Bridge. Further investigation is being done. GAD yet to be finalised.
8.	Quilon-Mayyanad-ROB in lieu of LC No. 541	2001-02	Instead of LC No. 543 originally sanctioned. GAD concurred by State Government. Detail road approach cost awaited from State Government. Tender for Railway portion opened.
9.	Varkala-Road Under Bridge in lieu of LC No. 561 at Km. 179/13-14	1996-97	Bridge work completed. Approach work nearing completion.
10.	Trikarapur-Charavattur-ROB at Km. 800/2-3 on Shoranur-Mangalore Section.	1996-97	Estimate sanctioned. Superstructure cast. CRS sanction received.
11.	Westhill-ROB in lieu of LC No. 201 at Km 688/2-3 bet. Elattur-quilandi stns on Shoranur-Mangalore section.	2001-02	GAD concurred in by State Government.
12.	Payyanur-ROB in lieu of LC No. 271 @ Km 807/6-7 in Shoranur-Mangalore section	2000-01	GAD concurred in by State Government. Estimate sanctioned by Railways. Foundation drawing issued. Substructure drawing approved. Work is in progress. Design for ty. Staging yet to be received from State Government.
13.	Vengali ROB in lieu of LC No. 192 @ KM. 673/8-9 bet. West Hill and Elattur stns in Shoranur-Mangalore Section.	1999-00	Substructure completed. Super structure is in progress. Works on approaches nearing completion.
14.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 272 at Km. 810/1-2 bet. Kanhangadi and Nileshwar stns. (Padanakkad) in Shoranur-Mangalore sec.	1999-00	GAD concurred by State Government. Road approach cost awaited from State Government.
15.	Mahe ROB in lieu of LC No. 226 at Km 730/7-8 between Mahe and Telicherry station.	2002-03	GAD finalised.
16.	Cannore ROB in lieu of LC No. 241 at Km 752/1-2 between Cannonore and Cannonore South Station.	2002-03	GAD finalised.
17.	Nileshwar ROB in lieu of LC No. 268 at Km 801/9-10 between Charavattur and Nileshwar Station	2002-03	Work included in the Pink Book at a cost of Rs. 5752 lakhs. Planning in progress.
18.	Ontham Road-ROB at Km. 711/9-10 near Badagara Railway Station.	1997-98	Revised GAD concurred by State Government. Estimate sanctioned. Substructure completed. CRS sanction obtained. TY staging is to be taken up. State Govt. advised to remit the balance amount.

1	2	3	4
19.	Shranur ROB in lieu of LC No. 59 at Km 74/12-13 between Karukutti and Angamali station.	2002-03	Works sanctioned in supplementary demand for grants 2002-03. GAD not received from State Govt.
20.	Construction of two ROB's at Km. 94/12-13 between Kalamassery and Edappalli stations in SRR-ERS Section.	1996-97	Railway portion completed. Approaches portion is in progress.
21.	Cherrode-Shoranur-Calicut-ROB in lieu of LC No. 215 at Km 713/10-11.	1999-00	Railway portion is in progress and approaches nearing completion.
22.	Calicut ROB in lieu of LC No. 185 at Km 666/3-4 at Calicut and West Hill station.	2002-03	GAD finalised.
23.	Mangalore ROB in lieu of LC No. 170 at Km 615/3-4 at Thirunavaya station.	2002-03	GAD finalised.
24.	Karukutti ROB in lieu of LC No. 19 at Km 30/140-15 between Karukutti and Angamalistan Station.	2002-03	Work included in the Pink Book at a cost of Rs. 4961 lakhs and planning of work underway.
25.	Irugur-Coimbatore-Podanur RUB in lieu of LC No. 20	1993-94	Proposed to be revised with box jacketing method.
26.	Kanjangad ROB in lieu of LC No. 274 at Km 816/13-14 between Kanhagad and Pallikere station.	2002-03	Work included in the Pink Book at a cost of Rs. 6077 lakhs. Planning of work underway.
27.	ROB between Wadakanchery and Mulagunnathukavu in lieu of LC No. 13 at Km. 19/01	1987-88	Abutments up to bed block completed. Agency fixed for Super-structure approach road is in progress.
28.	Cheravattur & Nileshwar-ROB in lieu of LC No. 269 at Km. 805/5-6 bet. Chervattur & Nileshwar stn. In shoranur-Mangalore Section (Chochin Harbour yard).	1999-00	GAD concurred by State Government. Road approach cost awaited from State Government.
29.	Badagara-ROB in lieu of LC No. 229 at km. 732/9-10 on Shoranur-Mangalore Sec.	2000-01	ROB constructed under another sanction and LC closed. Govt. of Kerala has issued letter to delete the work.
30.	Elattur & Quilandi-ROB in lieu of LC No. 196 at Km 679/1-2 bet. Elattur and Quilandi (Vengalam stns. In Shoranur-Mangalore Section.	1999-00	9 out of 12 piles completed. Awaiting CRS sanction for TY. Staging.
31.	Muzhuppiangadi-ROB in lieu of LC No. 232 at Km. 738/7-8 bet. Dharmadam & Ettakot stns. (Muzhuppiangadi) in Shoranur-Mangalore Section.	1999-00	Substructure completed. Some observations for approving ty. Stage drawing are under compliance.
32.	Irinjalakuda-ROB @ Irinjalakuda LC No. 43 @Km. 56/9-10 in Shoranur-Emakulam Section.	1999-00	Substructure completed. CRS sanction awaited.
33.	Palghat Town-Pollachi-ROB in lieu of LC No. 50 at Km. 54/12-13 between Palghat-Palghat Town stations on Palghat-Pollachi Section.	2000-01	GAD concurred in by State Government.

1	2	3	4
34.	Pullapady-Thamman Road-ROB in lieu of LC No. 73 at Km. 105/5-6 on Pullapady-Thammanam Road on Emakulam town-Emakulam Junction Section.	2000-01	GAD concurred by State Government. Work awarded.
35.	Iddappalli-ROB @ Km. 102/13-14 in lieu of LC No. 71 bet. Idapalli & Emakulam stns.	1999-00	Details such as longitudinal section and cross section called for is awaited from State Govt.
36.	Nandi ROB in lieu of LC No. 206 at Km. 695/12-13 bet. Ettokot and Cannanore stns in Shoranur-Mangalore Section.	1999-00	GAD concurred. Estimate sanctioned by Railways. Contract awarded. Foundation drg. issued on 18.2.02. Work in progress. Awaiting CRS sanction.
37.	Irumpanam-ROB in lieu of LC in CRL yard at km. 8/15-16 (Irumanam) on Emakulam-Quilon Sec.	2000-01	Work completed. Awaiting opening to traffic.
38.	Chova-ROB in lieu of LC No. 238 at Km. 743/3-4 bet. Ettokot and Cannanore stns in Shoranur-Mangalore Section.	1999-00	GAD concurred by State Government. Estimate under preparation. Road approaches cost awaited from State Government.
39.	Kalamasserry-ROB in lieu of LC No. 67 at km. 95/7-8 on Shoranur-Emakulam Sec.	2000-01	GAD concurred in by State Government. Estimate sanctioned by Railways. Foundation drawing issued. Substructure design and drawing under check. Pile load test scheme and drawing approved. Awaiting approval for ty. Staging drawing.
40.	Ollur-ROB in lieu of LC No. 26 at km. 39/14-15 (Ollur Yard) on Shoranur-Emakulam Sec.	2000-01	Proposal to be dropped.
41.	Mundoor Road-ROB in lieu of LC No. 17 at km 28/10-11 on Shoranur-Emakulam Sec.	2000-01	Work included in the Pink Book at a cost of Rs. 5119 lakhs.
42.	Korattiyangadi-ROB in lieu of LC No. 54 at Km. 67/13-14 on Shoranur-Emakulam Sec.	2000-01	GAD concurred by State Government. Estimate sanctioned by Railways/C. Work awarded. Substructure drawing to be submitted by State Government.
43.	Kuttipuram-ROB in lieu of LC No. 171 at Km. 626/10-11 on Shoranur-Mangalore Sec.	2000-01	GAD concurred in by State Government. Estimate sanctioned by Railways. Foundation drawing issued. Substructure completed. Superstructure drg. for 20m already issued and 30m span approved. CRS sanction obtained. Construction of super structure is in progress.
44.	Tirur-ROB in lieu of LC No. 174 at Km. 639/14-15 on Shoranur-Mangalore Sec.	2000-01	GAD finalised.
45.	Emakulam-ROB in lieu of LC No. 2 at Km 3/19-20	2000-01	GAD finalised.
46.	Karukutty-Angamali ROB in lieu of LC No. 59 at Km 74/600-700 in SRR-ERS section.	2002-03	GAD finalised.
47.	Velayil ROB at Km. 666/11-12 bet. Calicut & West Hills. in lieu of LC No. 186 in Shoranur-Mangalore Section.	1999-00	Railway portion and approach nearing completion.

1	2	3	4
48.	Chalakkudi-ROB in lieu of LC No. 48 at Km. 62/9-8 at Chalakkudi in Shoranur-Ermakulam section.	1999-00	Substructure completed. Superstructure design awaited from State Government. Approach work is in progress.
49.	Chakkai-ROB between Kochuveli and Trivandrum station at Km. 215/8-9 at Chakkai on NH-47.	1998-99	Railway portion completed. Approach work is in progress.
50.	Shoranur-Ermakulam section ROB in lieu of LC No. 45 at Km. 58/2-3 between Irinjalakuda & Chlakkudi stns.	2002-03	GAD finalised.
51.	Badagara ROB in lieu of LC No. 216 at Km 714/14 between Badagara and Mukali station.	2002-03	Work included in the Pink Book at a cost of Rs. 6389 lakhs.
52.	Divine nagar ROB in lieu of LC No. 52 at Km. 65/11-12 Between Chalakkudi & Karukkutti stns (Divine nagar).	2002-03	GAD finalised.
53.	Vellanchira ROB in lieu of LC No. 46 at Km. 60/15 between Irinjalakuda & Chalakkudi stns. (Veilanchira)	2002-03	GAD finalised.
54.	Chengottukavu-ROB in lieu of LC No. 199 at Km. 686/1-2 bet. Elattur and Quilandi stns in Shoranur-Mangalore section.	1999-00	GAD concurred. Estimate sanctioned by Railways. 20m span approved on 5.11.02. Foundation drawing issued. Substructure drawing issued. Piling work is in advance stage. CRS sanction obtained.
55.	Additional 2 lane to existing ROB No. 165/A @Km 78/800-900 between Angamali and Chawara in SRR-ERS section.	Deposit	GAD approved. Cost of estimate advised to Railways/NHAI Salem. Approach work is fast progressing. Tender under finalisation.
56.	Nandikkara-ROB in lieu of LC No. 31 at Km. 49/2-3 between Pudukkad and Irinjalakuda.	2002-03	Finalised GAD received from CBE.
57.	Angamali-ROB in lieu of LC No. 64 at Km. 80/12-13 between Angamally & Aluva station of Shoranur-Ermakulam section.	2000-01	Site plan, LS is awaited from CE/Highways
58.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 261 at Km. 787/15 between Pavyyanur & Thrikkaripoor stns.	2002-03	GAD finalised.
59.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 172 at Km. 629/11/1-2 between Tirur & Tanur stns.	2002-03	GAD finalised.
60.	Kunjipally ROB in lieu of LC No. 216 at Km. 721/6-7 between Badagara and Mahe stns. (Kunjipally).	2002-03	GAD finalised.
61.	Nadal ROB in lieu of LC No. 239 at Km. 749/2-3 bet. Ettokot and Cannanore stns. in Shoranur-Mangalore Section	1999-00	GAD concured by State Government. Road approaches cost awaited from State Government.
62.	ROB in lieu of LC No. 228 at Km. 731/14-15 between Tellicherry & Jagannath Temple stns.	2002-03	GAD finalised.

1	2	3	4
63.	Tirunettur-ROB in lieu of LC No. 76-T at Km. 1/9-10.	2000-01	GAD and site plan awaited from Cochin Corpn.
64.	Ferok-Kallayi-ROB in lieu of LC No. 177 at Km. 600/4-5 on Shoranur-Mangalore section	2000-01	GAD concurred in by State Government Estimate sanctioned by Railways. Substructure completed. Structural drawing for superstructure (12.5 m span) approved and issued.

Note. "GAD" stands for General Arrangement Drawings.

[*Translation*]

Survey for Electrification of Rail Routes

2457. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the surveys conducted for electrification of the railway lines during the last three years and till date along with the amount spent thereon; and

(b) the details of the on-going surveys for the above purpose along with the time by which these surveys are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) The details of the Cost-cum-feasibility survey for Railway Electrification conducted during the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and during the current financial year 2003-04 till Nov. 2003 are as under:

Year	Section	Railway	Route Kilometre	Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Year of completion
2000-01	Katwa-Azimganj	Eastern	78	4.44	Sept. 2000
2001-02	Nil	—	—	—	—
2002-03	Nil	—	—	—	—
2003-04 till Nov. 2003	Coimbatore- Udagamandalam	Southern	79	4.79	March 2004

[*English*]

Employment to the People of Land Loser of Mejia Thermal Power Plant

2458. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement was made by the State Government and the management of Damodar Valley Corporation in Mejia Thermal Power Plant at the time of inception that 520 employees will be absorbed through land loser;

(b) if so, whether out of 520 land losers, only 247 were recruited so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not providing jobs to remaining land losers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Damodar Valley Corporation (CVC) has informed that there is no formal agreement between the management of Mejia Thermal Power Project and the Government of West Bengal. However, during the meeting with the State Government of West Bengal it was agreed 'in principle' to provide employment to 520 land losers in Group 'D' category as per actual manpower requirement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Employment to the remaining persons could be considered after verification by District authorities and availability of suitable vacancies in that project.

Procurement of Branded Item by CSD

2459. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether branded items of reputed firms are not being procured by Canteen Stores Department (CSD);
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry to probe the commissions and omissions of this nature by the CSD authorities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether refined groundnut oil of all brands has been removed from the list of oil of the Canteen Stores Department (CSD);
- (g) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the steps taken by the Government to reintroduce the refined groundnut oil of all brands in CSD canteen?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. All the branded items listed with CSD are being regularly procured.

- (b) to (e) Not applicable in view of (a) above.
- (f) No, Sir.
- (g) and (h) Not applicable in view of (f) above.

[Translation]

Hydrogen as Alternative Source of Fuel

2460. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

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

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has undertaken a study on Hydrogen energy as an alternative source of fuel;
- (b) if so, the details of reference made to the study group;

(c) whether the hydrogen potential in the country has been assessed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has constituted a Group on Hydrogen Energy in July 2003, to study the prospects of hydrogen energy as an alternative fuel.

(b) The terms of reference of the Group include examining steps for accelerating progress and compressing the timeframe for commercial viability of specific hydrogen energy applications; suggesting areas of comparative advantage for India among the various end-uses of hydrogen; and suggesting measures for research and commercial collaboration with recognized and established international work in this sector.

(c) and (d) Hydrogen is available in abundance in a combined form and not as an independent gas in the atmosphere. Hydrogen can be produced from water, biomass and hydrocarbons, etc. Hydrogen energy has the potential of providing a safe, clean and non-polluting alternative to fossil fuels. A comprehensive R&D programme on hydrogen energy is being implemented in the country, with the support of the Government, on different aspects of hydrogen, including its production, storage and applications. Hydrogen energy and its utilization are in the development and demonstration stage.

[English]

Poor Reception of Doordarshan

2461. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

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

- (a) whether the relay of Doordarshan Programmes in the country is poor in sound and picture particularly from Kolkata Doordarshan alongwith rural/backward areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) 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) to (c) Prasar Bharati have informed that technical quality of Doordarshan transmissions both in terrestrial and satellite modes, is generally satisfactory. However, improvement in transmission quality is a continuous process and for this, steps have been taken in 10th Plan to digitalise all the Satellite channels and for replacing old ageing transmitters with new transmitters. Performance of all the three high power transmitters at Kolkata is reported to be satisfactory. Recently, a Pilot project of Ku-Band transmission has been approved. Doordarshan has planned commencement of Ku-Band transmission by mid-2004 and thereafter, it would be possible to receive transmission (30 channel bouquet) anywhere in the country with the help of a small dish antenna receiver system.

MoU with Pakistan

2462. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Publishers have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Pakistan publishers and book sellers association to promote book trade and co-publishing;

(b) if so, the details of Memorandum of Understanding signed by both the countries; and

(c) the extent to which it will be benefited to each other?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information received, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed in New Delhi on 29.8.2003 by the Federation of Indian Publishers, a representative body of the publishers in India and Pakistan Publishers and Booksellers Association to promote book trade and publishing. According to the Federation of Indian Publishers, the Memorandum of Understanding will be beneficial to both the countries to promote the cause of the books, writers and the publishing industry in each other's country like co-publishing, sale and purchase of copyrights between the publishers of the two countries. Both Federation of Indian Publishers and Pakistan Publishers and Booksellers Association will also cooperate with each other in publishing matters at various international publishing forums and exchange of information for mutual benefit.

Vigyan Rail

2463. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the start of railway train 'Vigyan Rail' which was intended to spread awareness about progress of the country has been postponed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) the special features of the train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) 'Vigyan Rail' Science Exhibition Train—a project of the Department of Science & Technology—has already started on 15th December, 2003.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The said Exhibition train consists of 12 Exhibition Coaches highlighting various scientific, technological and industrial achievements.

ONGC Agreements with Private Financial Institutes

2464. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is planning to rope in non-public sector financial institutions for hiring people at market related pay packages; and

(b) if so, the details including the stake to be hold by the Corporation in the Joint Venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) In view of recent policy changes in the hydrocarbon sector, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking in the upstream Hydrocarbon sector, intends to expand its business through value chain integration encompassing refining and marketing sectors also, so that it can effectively face market competition. In this scenario, examination of various options, including formation of Joint ventures, by the management of ONGC, for efficient structure and to seize emerging business opportunities, has been a continuous process. ONGC has informed that

their Board of Directors has not taken any decision on formation of the said Non-Government Joint venture, as of now.

Marketing Scheme for Petroleum Products

2465. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced a parallel Marketing scheme for some petroleum products;

(b) if so, the main objectives of this scheme; and

(c) the States where the scheme has been introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The parallel marketing scheme for LPG and SKO was introduced by the Government in April, 1993. The main objective of this scheme was to increase the availability of these products in the country.

(c) This scheme is applicable throughout the country.

Procurement of Mirage Aircraft

2466. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to buy a combat aircraft Mirage 2000 from Qatar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost involved therein;

(c) whether IAF has the necessary backup for the maintenance of the combat aircrafts to be acquired from Qatar; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the maintenance of these combat aircraft proposed to be done?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Qatar has offered for sale of 12 Mirage-2000-V aircraft along with a package. The package includes supply of necessary tools, testers, spares, ground equipment and training aids, etc. in addition to the aircraft. The above package would facilitate the maintenance of the aircraft.

Gas Availability in Jaisalmer District

2467. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil India Limited had worked on 26 wells near Dandewala in Jaisalmer district (Rajasthan) but only 13 Gas wells are in operation;

(b) if so, reasons for closing or not making the remaining 13 Gas wells operative;

(c) whether it is a fact that if these 13 Gas wells are also made operative Gas availability from Oil India Limited for Ramgarh Extension Project may increase to 10 lacs cubic meter per day;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to prevail upon Oil India Limited to make these 13 remaining gas wells operative early; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) Out of the 26 wells drilled by Oil India Ltd. (OIL) in Jaisalmer district in the State of Rajasthan, as on 16th December, 2003, 12 wells are on gas production, 1 well was shut-in due to poor production calibre and 3 wells were temporarily abandoned due to poor hydrocarbon prospect. Remaining 10 wells became sick after initially contributing gas production. OIL has planned to revive these 10 gas sick wells by carrying out workover operations by April, 2004. OIL expects that depending on the success of workover operations, the total gas production from gas fields may be augmented to 7 lacs cubic meter per day from the present level of about 4.5 lacs cubic meter per day, for an initial period of 2 years. In addition, OIL has identified a new structure in Mining Lease area in Jaisalmer and Bikaner-Nagaur basins after carrying out geo-scientific studies. Based on the outcome of new structure drilling, OIL may be able to augment the gas production beyond 7 lacs cubic meter per day.

Revival Package for Instrumentation Limited

2468. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revival package for the Instrumentation Limited has been worked out;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any move to disinvest this company; 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) Yes, Sir. A revival scheme sanctioned by Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on 24.03.1999 is under implementation. The scheme envisaged formation of joint ventures (JVs) for Distributed Digital Control Unit (DDC), Kota, Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) Unit, Jaipur and Control Valves Unit, Palghat. The JV exercise somehow evoked response only in case of Control Valves Unit, Palghat and the disinvestment is in advance stage pending clearance of the BIFR. In the meanwhile, DDC Unit and UPS Unit have been integrated with the mother unit, Kota. On 10.10.2003, the BIFR have asked the Operating Agency to submit a modified draft rehabilitation scheme (MDRS) for circulation.

(c) and (d) It has been decided to disinvest the integrated Mother Unit.

Losses due to Non-completion of Projects

2469. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Union Government that some public sector undertakings have incurred losses of crores of rupees due to non completion of projects undertaken by them;

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

(c) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Union 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) and (b) As on 30.09.2003, there were 515 projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above under implementation in the central sector. These projects had registered an overall cost overrun of Rs. 41376.28 crore with reference to the original approved cost of Rs. 189862.67 crore. The reasons for time and cost overruns vary from project to project. However, the sector-wise details of cost overruns and reasons for delay in execution of projects is given in statement enclosed.

(c) The steps taken by the Government vary from project to project and time to time to tackle the situation. However, some of the measures taken by the Government include stricter appraisal of project reports before investment approval, taking up of projects for implementation only after funds have been fully tied up, monthly and quarterly review of projects, inter-ministerial coordination for resolving unresolved problems, follow up with State Governments in respect of field level problems, setting up of standing/empowered committee in the Ministers/Departments to review as well as to fix responsibility for time and cost overrun, appointment of nodal officers for each project and issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents for adoption.

Statement

(Costs: in rupees crore)

S.No.	Sector	No. of Project	Original Cost	Now anticipated cost	Cost Overrun	Reasons for Delay
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Atomic Energy	8	24115.33	26262.27	2146.94	Delay in supply of equipment.
2.	Civil Aviation	3	161.23	181.68	20.45	Delay in award of contracts, law and order problems.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Coal.	56	7311.25	7714.78	403.53	Fund constraints, delay in land acquisition, environmental, clearance and supply of equipment geominig problem.
4.	Fertilisers	1	350	509.40	159.40	Delay in supply of equipment.
5.	I&B	2	93.32	140.77	47.45	Delay in selection of technology award of contracts, supply of equipment and execution of civil works, court cases.
6.	Mines	3	2598.76	2598.76	0.00	
7.	Steel	7	939.07	956.81	17.74	Delay in erection of equipment.
8.	Petroleum	30	33352.64	35654.25	2301.61	Delay in award of contracts.
9.	Power	46	55238.99	69845.91	14606.92	Delay in land acquisition, geominig problems, law and order problems and slow progress in execution of works.
10.	Health & Family Welfare	3	159.94	780.86	620.92	Redesing of the project.
11.	Railways	168	29588.56	43955.43	14366.87	Problems relating to land acquisition and selection of technology, fund constraints, delaying award.
12.	Road Transport	122	25721.28	26545.86	824.58	Delay in land acquisition, import of equipment, design complexities in bridges, slow progress by contractors.
13.	Shipping & Port	41	3955.8	3961.49	5.69	Fund constraint, delay in supply of equipment, delay in civil works, slow progress.
14.	Telecommunication	11	652.98	692.83	39.85	
15.	Urban Development	12	5214.19	10995.85	5781.66	Delay in land acqution, finalisation of designs and award of contracts, slow progress of work execution.
16.	Water Resources	2	409.33	442.00	32.67	
Total		515	189862.67	231238.95	41376.28	

Allowing of Girls in NDA Entrance Examination

2470. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the girls are not allowed to appear for competitive entrance examination for seeking admission to National Defence Academy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal to start sainik school exclusively for girls;

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

(e) the details of schools imparting defence training to girls in India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) National Defence Academy is for personnel who are entitled to permanent commission. Girls are not considered for grant of permanent commission in the Armed Forces, except as Medical Officers.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A letter had been received from Minister of State for Education, Women and Child Welfare, Government of Gujarat, in 1998 requesting for the setting up of a sainik school for girls. But since the primary aim of Sainik Schools is to prepare boys for their induction into the Armed Forces through National Defence Academy, it was not found necessary to start Sainik Schools for girls. Lady candidates who are selected for Short Service Commission, however, are imparted training at Officers Training Academy, Chennai.

Shifting of Coast Guard Headquarters

2471. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Headquarters of Coast Guard is presently situated in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to move the head-quarters to a more appropriate place on the sea-coast;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the place identified therefor; and

(d) the time for which the headquarters of Coast Guard is likely to be shifted?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Import of Papers for Newspapers

2472. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether newsprint is being imported by various leading newspapers;

(b) if so, the yearly quantity of newsprint imported by each of such newspapers during the last three years;

(c) the rate of indigenous newsprint and imported newsprint;

(d) whether the newsprint produced in India is not sufficient for our newspapers;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) if not, reasons due to which leading newspapers are importing paper/newsprint from other countries; and

(g) the steps taken to meet the requirement of newsprint indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The quantum of newsprint imported by five leading newspapers during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The rate of indigenous newsprint varies with its quality, grammage and size of the quantity. The rate of imported newsprint varies from country to country, its quality, grammage and quantity as well. The average rate of imported newsprint during 2002-03 was in the range of US \$ 370-420 per tonne while for the corresponding indigenous newsprint, price range was Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 22,000 per tonne.

(d) to (f) The reasons for the use of a mix of indigenous newsprint with imported newsprint by the leading newspapers may include their requirement for superior quality newsprint for high speed printing machines and multi-colour printing, which essentially requires gloss in newsprint, as also the price advantage.

(g) Steps taken by the Government to increase newsprint production in the country include:

(i) delicensing of newsprint industry;

(ii) duty free import of pulp for manufacture of newsprint; and

(iii) excise duty exemption of the newsprint manufactured by the mills included in Schedule-I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962.

Statement

Quantum of Newsprint Imported by Leading Newspapers during the last three years.

S.No.	Name of Newspapers	Newsprint Imported (Quantity in Million Tonnes)					
		2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
		Standard	Glazed	Standard	Glazed	Standard	Glazed
1.	Hindustan Times	41678	2858	36921	1528	36414	346
2.	Times of India	34880	382	55780	3659	34736	24
3.	Dainik Jagran	19329	895	20108	1485	23716	1444
4.	Eenadu	11343	1508	13231	1357	18209	1449
5.	Anand Bazar Patrika	16852	357	19532	160	24012	349

Non-Recovery of Amount by MOPC

2473. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minority Development Finance Corporation (MOPC) has failed to recover over Rs. 4 crores financed for ginger cultivation in Nagaland;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present position with regard to the recovery of the amount financed by the MOPC; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government for the recovery of the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) has not provided any funds for ginger cultivation in Nagaland. However, the NMDFC has provided Rs. 4.00 crore for ginger cultivation to its State channeling Agencies (SCAs) in Mizoram. Repayment of the same is due since 1.4.2003.

(b) It has been indicated by the Government of Mizoram that the crop of ginger failed due to diseases and therefore, the recovery of loan from the beneficiaries is not forthcoming.

(c) The NMDFC has not received any repayment of principal as well as interest, from its SCAs in Mizoram, so far.

(d) The NMDFC is following up regularly with the Mizoram Government as well as its SCAs in Mizoram for repayment of its loan. Pending receipt of repayment against the loan for ginger cultivation scheme, the NMDFC has decided to stop any further disbursement to the State of Mizoram. Further, non-repayment of its loan for ginger cultivation may force NMDFC to invoke the State Government Guarantee provided by them.

[Translation]

Child Artists in DD/AIR

2474. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the method of recruiting child artists in the Doordarshan and AIR; and

(b) the number of child artists recruited in Doordarshan and AIR in the year 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Doordarshan and AIR do not recruit child artists. However, they book child artists on contract basis as and when required, depending on the programme requirement of the Kendra/Stations.

[English]

Issue of Bonds

2475. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to issue bonds to generate money for taking up renewals and safety norms at the earliest in order to avoid recurring accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government for generating money for safety work in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOU DA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Renewals and safety related works are mainly financed out of internal generation and Special Railway Safety Fund and not market borrowings.

(d) Measures being taken are towards improving earnings and controlling expenditure so as to improve the internal generation, which funds Depreciation Reserve Fund and Development Fund, the two funds from which works relating to safety are mainly financed. Also Government has approved the setting up of the Special Railway Safety Fund of Rs. 17,000 crore in October, 2001, funded by grant of Rs. 12,000 crore from General Exchequer and balance to be raised as safety surcharge on passenger fares.

Crash of Mirage Aircraft

2476. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mirage aircraft crashed during 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 so far, alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) the outcome of the enquiries conducted in this regard;

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether any Foreign conspiracy is involved in such crashes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reactions of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Nil.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

OBCs Status to Kunabi Maratha Caste

2477. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide OBC status to 'Kunabi' Maratha caste/community of Maharashtra region in the central list of OBCs for Maharashtra State;

(b) if so, whether National Commission for Backward Classes also examined the proposal for its inclusion in the list; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not inclusion of this caste in the OBCs list so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has examined the proposal for the inclusion of 'Maratha' caste/community as synonym of

'Kunbi' in the Central List of OBCs for Maharashtra State and rejected the proposal as it is not a synonym of 'Kunbi'. The Commission has also advised the Government that 'Maratha' should also not be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Maharashtra as a separate entry, as it is not socially backward caste/community but on the contrary is socially advanced and prestigious caste/community.

Construction of Houses by MES

2478. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MES only looks after the work of buildings, maintenance and other facilities like construction of roads, sewage etc. for the three wings of the forces and the related departments;

(b) if so, whether the responsibility of the constructions of the residential buildings for the army personnel as announced on August 15, 2001 has been entrusted to MES;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the names of the agencies alongwith the contractors on which the responsibility for construction works has been entrusted;

(e) whether the Government would have to bear additional expenditure due to the decision;

(f) if so, the quantum thereof; and

(g) the number of buildings constructed so far and the reasons for non-completion of the remaining construction work, if any?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Military Engineer Services (MES) did not have adequate capacity to take up the entire work of Married Accommodation Project.

(d) Out of 80 stations of Phase-I, work of 41 stations has been entrusted to Director General Married Accommodation project, an organisation created out of the establishment of Engineer-in-Chief's Branch/MES. Work has also been entrusted to Central Public Works

Department (CPWD), Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and three Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd. (NBCC), Indian Railway Construction (IRCON) & RITES.

(e) For the work entrusted to CPWD & DRDO, no additional expenditure will be incurred. The PSUs and consultant will be paid service charge/consultancy fees. the additional expenditure on this will be offset by the cost of additional staff and other charges, which would have been required, if the work was done through the MES.

(f) Service charge @ 7% of the project cost based on lowest bid will be paid to the PSUs.

(g) No building has been constructed so far. Construction is likely to commence on ground in a few stations by March, 2004. The modalities of construction and works procedure have been finalised. At present, works in respect of 80 stations are at planning stage. The works of Phase-I are projected to be completed by 2005/2006. Other phases will be taken up later.

NCES in Rural Areas of Bihar

2479. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by the Government for the expansion of non-conventional energy sources in rural areas of Bihar in view of the severe power shortage in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated under this head for the year 2002-2003 alongwith the progress report thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing various programmes based on non-conventional energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass and small hydro throughout the country, including in rural areas of Bihar and provides financial and fiscal incentives for the same. Details of cumulative achievements under the various programmes as on 31.3.2003 in Bihar are given in statement enclosed.

(c) Central financial assistance of Rs. 5.00 lakh has been released under various non-conventional energy programmes to Bihar during 2002-03. As a result, 550 biogas plants, 6523 improved chulhas and one solar photovoltaic pump has been installed in Bihar during 2002-03.

Statement

Details of cumulative achievements under the various non-conventional energy programmes as on 31.3.2003 in Bihar

S.No.	Programme	Achievement as on 31.3.2003
1	2	3
1.	Small hydro power (MW)	44.90
2.	Biomass gasifier (MW)	0.02
3.	Solar Photovoltaic	
	i. Solar street lighting system (Nos.)	410
	ii. Solar home lighting system (Nos.)	679
	iii. Solar lantern (Nos.)	28275
4.	Solar photovoltaic pump (Nos.)	128
5.	Waterpumping windmill (Nos.)	42
6.	Solar cooker (Nos.)	450

1	2	3
7.	Biogas plant (Nos.)	123963
8.	Community/Institutional/Night-soil-based plant (Nos.)	40
9.	Integrated rural energy programme (No. of blocks)	56
10.	Energy Park (Nos.)	03
11.	Improved Chulha (Nos. in lakhs)	11.94

MW = Megawatt.

[English]

Allotment of Railway Land to Freedom Fighters

2480. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has formulated a scheme to allot railway land on lease to freedom fighters;

(b) if so, the places identified therefor, State-wise particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the terms and conditions of such land lease?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Building of Aircraft Carriers

2481. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work has not since been started in the direction of achieving the target set for building the indigenous aircraft carrier during 2003-2004;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay therein;

(c) the time by which the steel cutting work is likely to be taken up for building the indigenous aircraft carrier and the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the year-wise target set for developing the indigenous aircraft carrier; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to speed up the work of developing indigenous aircraft carrier and the number of such ships proposed to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Government have sanctioned construction of an Air Defence Ship of approximately 37500 MT at Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi.

(b) to (e) Work on the design of the ship has started. Other activities for constructing the ship as per the time schedule laid down have also commenced. A monitoring mechanism to monitor the progress of ship construction activities at a high level has been set up so that the ship construction activities proceed smoothly without any hindrances and the time schedules laid down for construction are adhered to. Presently only one ship of this type is planned to be constructed in India.

Expenditure Incurred in Engineering Projects (India) Limited

2482. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expenditure incurred on the salary, allowances etc. of General Manager alongwith their number in the Engineering Projects India Limited during the last three years and till date; and

(b) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to cut down the mounting expenditure in the said unit?

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) The number of General Managers (G.Ms) and expenditure incurred by Engineering Projects (India) Limited (EPI) on their salary and allowances during last three years are as under:

Year	No. of G.Ms.	Amount (in Rupees)
2000-01	04	1358015.00
2001-02	17	6391277.00
2002-03	29	10414286.00
2003-04 (upto 30.11.2003)	28	8224577.00

(b) Considering the all India nature of activities of EPI an the order book, the company feels the number of General Managers employed by them is essential to execute the projects. The Government always advise the PSEs to cut down costs.

[English]

Uniformity in Pay Scale

2483. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of conditions laid for recruitments and promotions of Firemen grade-wise in the three services of Armed Forces including Ordnance Factories alongwith their scales of pay;

(b) whether there is any difference in scales of pay and conditions for promotions in the three services for different grades of firemen;

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

(d) whether some exercise has been undertaken to bring uniformity in the scales of pay, conditions for their recruitments and promotions;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The details are placed in the statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f) The Anomalies Committee of the Ministry of Defence in its second meeting held on 7th January 1999 considered the disparity in scales of pay and conditions for promotions in the Fire Fighting Staff of three Services. The Anomalies Committee recommended the initiation of proposals by the three Services to achieve parity with firemen of Defence Research & Development Organisation. Accordingly, the Naval Headquarters sent their proposal and the same was sent by MOD to Ministry of Finance. They, however, rejected it on the ground that the same was not in conformity with the recommendations of Vth Central Pay Commission.

Statement

Details of Pay Scales in Respect of Fire Fighting Staff of Naval Headquarters

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Pay scale	Method of recruitment	Eligibility condition for DR/Promotion/Transfer/re-employment
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Deputy Fire Officer	5000-8000	50% by Promotion and 50% by Transfer on deputation/re-employment (for ex-serviceman) and failing all by DR	Promotion: Civilian Assistant Fire Master/ Assistant Fire Superintendent with 5 years service in the grade, failing that Civilian Assistant Fire Master/Assistant Fire Superintendent with 7 years continuous combined service in the grades of Civilian Assistant Fire Master/Assistant Fire Superintendent and Supervisor (Fire).

1	2	3	4	5
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2.	Civilian Assistant Fire Master/ Assistant Fire Superintendent	4000- 6000	By promotion failing that by transfer, failing both by Transfer on deputation/re- employment (for ex-serviceman) and failing all by DR
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For Ex-Serviceman: Transfer on deputation/re-employment.

For Armed forces personnel due to retire or to be transfer to the reserved within a period of one year having the qualification of DR can be considered. Such persons will be given deputation terms up to the date on which they are due for release from Armed Forces and thereafter they will be continued on re-employment basis till the attain the age of superannuation in civil post.

DR: Essential: (i) Matriculation or equivalent qualification.

(ii) Senior Fire Supervisors course from Defence Institute of Fire Research, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi or the Sub Officers course from National Fire Service College, Nagpur or any other recognised course.

(iii) Must be conversant with the use and maintenance of all types of extinguishers, hose fittings and fire appliances and equipment like fire engines, traylor fire pumps, foam branches, etc.

(iv) Must have served in a recognised civil or Defence or Port Trust Fire Brigade in a supervisory capacity for a minimum period of three years.

Desirable: (i) Station Officers Course from National Fire Service College, Nagpur.

(ii) Experience of inareuxrional duties in a Fire Service Organisation.

Promotion:

Supervisor (Fire) with three (03) years continuous service in the grade on regular basis, failing which Supervisor (Fire) having total continuous combined service of 5 years in the grade of Supervisor (Fire) and Leading Hand Fire (Selection Grade) and Fire Engine Driver grade-I.

Transfer:

Persons serving in similar, equivalent or higher grades in the lower formations of the Defence Services and possessing qualifications of DR.

1 2 3 4 5

For Ex-Serviceman:*Transfer on deputation/re-employment*

The Armed forces personnel due to retire or to be transfer to the reserved within a period of one year having the qualification of DR can be considered. such persons will be given deputation terms up to the date on which they are due for release from Armed Forces and there after they will be continued on re-employment basis till the attain the age of superannuation in civil post.

DR:

(i) Matriculation or equivalent qualification.

(ii) Senior Fire Supervisors course from Defence Institute of Fire Research, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi or the Sub Officers course from National Fire Service College, Nagpur or any other similar recognised course.

(iii) Must be conversant with the use and maintenance of all types of extinguishers, hose fittings and fire appliances and equipment like fire engines, trailor fire pumps, foam branches, etc.

(iv) Must have served in a recognised civil or Defence Fire Brigade in a supervisory capacity not below the rank of Supervisor grade-I or sub officers for a minimum period of three years.

3. Supervisor (Fire) 4000-6000

(a) 50 % by promotion failing that by transfer, failing both by transfer on deputation/re-employment (for ex-serviceman) and failing all by DR

(b) 50% by promotion from Fire Engine Driver grade-I failing that by transfer, failing both by transfer on deputation/re-employment (for ex-serviceman) and failing all by DR.

Promotion: (a) *From Leading Hand Fire (Selection Grade):* 50% Leading Hand Fire (Selection Grade) with two years continuous service in the grade, failing that Leading Hand Fire (Selection Grade) with four years combined service in the grade of Leading Hand Fire (Selection Grade)/Leading Hand Fire (Ordinary Grade)/Fire Engine Driver.

(b) *50% from Fire Engine Driver Grade-I:* Fire Engine Driver Grade-I with two years continuous services in the grade, failing that Fire Engine Driver Grade-I with 4 years combined service in the grade of Fire Engine Driver Grade-I/Fire Engine Driver Grade-II (including the service rendered as erstwhile Fire Engine Driver), failing both Fire Engine Driver Grade-II with 5 years continuous service in the grade.

1	2	3	4	5
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Transfer: Persons serving in similar, equivalent or higher grades in the civil post of the Defence Services.

For ex-Serviceman: *Transfer on deputation/re-employment.*

The Armed forces personnel due to retire or to be transferred to the reserved within a period of one year and having the qualification of DR can be considered. Such persons will be given deputation terms up to the date on which they are due for release from Armed Forces and thereafter they will be continued on re-employment basis till they attain the age of superannuation in civil post.

DR: (i) Matriculation or equivalent qualification:

(ii) Senior Fire Supervisors course from Defence Institute of Fire Research, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi or the Sub Officers course from National Fire Service College, Nagpur or any other recognised course.

(iii) Must be able to impart training to Fire Crew and Unit personnel in the use and maintenance of all items of the fire fighting equipment or appliances and all evaluation of fire service drills.

(iv) Must have served in a recognised civil or Defence Fire Brigade for a least for three years in rank not below the rank of leading hand (Fire) or equivalent.

(v) Must be conversant with the use and maintenance of all types of extinguishers, hose fittings and fire appliances and equipment like fire engines, trailer fire pumps, foam branches, etc.

(vi) Must be physically fit and capable of performing strenuous duties and must have passed the test specified in note-II below.

4.	Leading Hand Fire (Selection Grade)	3050-4590	Promotion	<p>Promotion: Leading Hand Fire/Leading Fireman/Fire Engine Driver/Fire Engine Driver Grade-II with 3 years service in the grade subject to passing the prescribed trade test.</p>
5.	Leading Hand Fire (Ordinary)	3050-4590	By promotion failing which by	<p>Promotion: Fireman Grade-I with 3 years continuous service in the grade, failing that</p>

1	2	3	4	5
Grade)/Leading Fireman			transfer, failing both by transfer on deputation/re- employment (for ex-serviceman) and, failing all by DR	Fireman Grade-I with 4 years combined service in the grade of Fireman Grade-I and Fireman Grade-II and, failing that Fireman Grade-II with 5 years service in the grade subject to passing in departmental test. Transfer: Persons serving in similar, equivalent or higher grades in the civil post of the Defence Services and possessing qualification or DR. For Ex-serviceman: <i>Transfer on deputation/re- employment.</i> The Armed forces personnel due to retire or to be transferred to the reserved within a period of one year and having the qualification of DR can be considered. Such persons will be given deputation terms up to the date on which they are due for release from Armed Forces and thereafter they will be continued on re- employment basis till the attain the age of superannuation in civil post. DR. Essential: (i) Must have passed Matriculation examination or equivalent. (ii) Must be conversant with the use and maintenance of all types of extinguishers, hose fittings and fire appliances and equipment like fire engines, trailer fire pumps, foam branches, etc. (iii) Must be capable of training guiding and controlling the working independent of a shift. (iv) Must have served in a recognised civil or Defence fire brigade as Fireman for a minimum period of three years. (v) Must be physically fit and capable of performing strenuous duties and must have passed the test specified in note-II below. Desirable: Should have passed the general fire fighting course from Defence Institute of Fire Research, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi or the sub officers course from National Fire Service College, Nagpur or any other similar recognised course.
6.	Fire Engine Driver Grade-I	3050- 4590	Promotion failing that by transfer and failing that by DR	Promotion: Fire Engine Driver/Fire Engine Driver Grade-II/Leading Hand Fire (OG) with three years service in the grade subject to

1	2	3	4	5
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possessing heavy vehicle driving license and passing in the trade test and failing that Fire Engine Driver/Fire Engine Driver/Grade-II/Leading Hand Fire (OG) with four years combined service in the grade of Fire Engine Driver//Fire Engine Driver Grade-II/Leading Hand Fire (OG) and Fireman Grade-I of which 2 years must be in the grade of Fire Engine Driver/Fire Engine Driver Grade-II/Leading Hand Fire (OG), subject to possessing heavy vehicle driving license and passing in a trade test.

Transfer: persons serving in similar, equivalent or higher grades in the civil post of the Defence Services and possessing qualifications of DR.

For Ex-Serviceman: Transfer on deputation/re-employment.

The Armed forces personnel due to retire or to be transferred to the reserved within a period of one year and having the qualification of DR can be considered. Such persons will be given deputation terms up to the date on which they are due for release from Armed Forces and there after they will be continued on re-employment basis till the attain the age of superannuation in civil post.

DR: (i) Middle School Examination passed or equivalent.

(ii) 5 years experience as Fireman and Driver.

(iii) Must possess heavy vehicle driving licence from recognised authority.

(iv) To possess physical standard as laid down for DR of Fireman Grade-II.

7.	Fire Engine Driver Grade-II	3050-4590	By Promotion failing which by transfer, failing both by transfer on deputation/re-employment (for ex-serviceman) and failing all by DR
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Promotion: Fireman Grade-I with 3 years service in the grade, failing that Fireman Grade-I with 4 years combined service in the grade of Fireman Grade-I and Fireman Grade-II, failing that Fireman Grade-II with 5 years service in the grade and possessing valid heavy vehicle driving licence and subject to passing in a departmental trade test.
Transfer: Persons serving in similar, equivalent of higher grades in the civil post of the Defence Services and possessing qualifications of DR.

1 2 3 4 5

For Ex-Serviceman: Transfer on deputation/re-employment.

The Armed forces personnel due to retire or to be transferred to the reserved within a period of one year and having the qualification of DR can be considered. Such persons will be given deputation terms up to the date on which they are due for release from Armed Forces and thereafter they will be continued on re-employment basis till they attain the age of superannuation in civil post.

DR. Essential (i) Must have passed Middle School Examination or equivalent.

(ii) Must have at least three years experience of driving heavy vehicle and be in possession of valid driving license.

(iii) Must be physically fit and capable of performing strenuous duties and must have past trade test specified in note-II below.

Desirable: (i) Should be familiar with maintenance and operation of various types of fire appliances.

(ii) Experience of having worked on a regular civil or Defence fire brigade as Fireman grade-I or Senior Fireman.

(iii) Should have passed the general fire fighting course of Defence institute of fire research, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi or the sub officers course from National Fire Service College, Nagpur or any other similar recognised course.

8. Fireman Grade-I 2750-4400

By Promotion, failing that by transfer, failing both by transfer on deputation/re-employment (for ex-serviceman) and, failing all by DR.

Promotion: Fireman Grade-II with 3 years service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on regular basis.

Transfer: Persons serving in similar, equivalent or higher grades in the civil post of the Defence Services and possessing qualifications of DR.

For Ex-Serviceman: Transfer on deputation/re-employment.

The Armed forces personnel due to retire or to be transferred to the reserved within a period

1	2	3	4	5
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of one year and having the qualification of DR can be considered. Such persons will be given deputation terms up to the date on which they are due for release from Armed Forces and there after they will be continued on re-employment basis till the attain the age of superannuation in civil post.

DR: (i) Middle School or equivalent qualification.

(ii) Must be conversant with the use and maintenance of all types of extinguishers hose fittings and fore appliance and equipment like fire engine, Trailor, Fire pumps, Foam branches etc.

(iii) Must be familiar with use of and maintenance of first aid fire fighting appliances and Trailor pump.

(iv) Must know elementary principles of fire fighting methods employed in fighting different types of fire.

(v) Must be conversant foot and appliances fire service drills and be able to performed the task allotted to the member of fire crew.

(vi) Must have served in recognised in civil Defence fire brigade as fireman grade-II for minimum period of three years.

(vii) Must be physically fit and capable of performing strenuous duties and must have past trade test specified in note-II below.

9. Fireman Grade-II 2650-4000
By transfer, failing that by transfer on deputation/re-employment (for ex-serviceman) and, failing all by DR

Transfer: Persons serving in similar, equivalent or higher grades in the civil post of the Defence Services and possessing qualifications of DR.

For Ex-Serviceman: Transfer on Deputation /re-employment.

The Armed forces personnel due to retire or to be transferred to the reserved within a period of one year and having the qualification of DR can be considered. Such persons will be given deputation terms up to the date on which they are due for release from Armed Forces and thereafter they will be continued on re-employment basis till the attain the age of superannuation in civil post.

1	2	3	4	5
				<p>DR. (i) Must have passed middle school examination.</p> <p>(ii) Must be physically fit and capable of performing strenuous duties and must have passed the trade test specified in Note-II below.</p>

Details of Pay Scales in respect of Fire Fighting Staff of EME Directorate

Grades	Pay Scales	Condition for Recruitment	Condition for Promotion
1	2	3	4
Fireman Grade-II	2650-65-3300-70-4000	<p>(i) Must have passed Middle School examination.</p> <p>(ii) Must be physically fit and capable of performing strenuous duties and must have passed the test prescribed to check physical fitness.</p>	Not applicable
Fireman Grade-I	2750-70-3800-75-4400	<p>(i) Middle School or equivalent qualification</p> <p>(ii) Must be conversant with the use and maintenance of all types of extinguishers, hose fittings and fore appliance and equipments like fire engines, trailer, fire pumps foam branches, etc.</p> <p>(iii) Must be familiar with the use and maintenance of first aid and fire fighting appliances and Trailer Fire Pump.</p> <p>(iv) Must know elementary principles of Fire fighting methods employed in fighting different types of fire.</p> <p>(v) Must be conversant with foot and appliance Fire Service Drills and be able to perform the task allotted to the member of a Fire Crew.</p> <p>(vi) Must have served in a recognized civil or defence Fire Brigades as Fireman Grade-II for a minimum period of three years.</p> <p>(vii) Must be physically fit and capable of performing strenuous duties and must have passed the test prescribed to check physical fitness.</p>	Fireman Grade-II with three years continuous service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis.

1	2	3	4
Leading Hand Fire (Ordinary Grade)	3050-75- 3950-80-4590	<p>Essential:</p> <p>(i) Must have passed Matriculation examination or equivalent.</p> <p>(ii) Must be conversant with the use and maintenance of all types of extinguishers, hose fittings and fire appliances and equipments like fire engines, trailer, fire pumps foam branches, etc.</p> <p>(iii) Must be capable of training, guiding and controlling the working of B Crane and capable of taking independent charge of a shift.</p> <p>(iv) Must have served in a recognized Civil of Defence Fire Brigade as Fireman for a minimum period of three years.</p> <p>(v) Must be physically fit and capable of performing strenuous duties and must have passed the test prescribed to check physical fitness.</p>	<p>Fireman Grade-I with three years' Service and Fireman Grade-II with six years continuous service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis and subject to passing a departmental trade test.</p>
Fire Engine Driver	3050-75- 3950-80-4590	<p>Desirable:</p> <p>Should have passed the general Fire Fighting Course from Defence Institute of Fire Research, Min of Def., New Delhi or the Sub-Officers Course from National Fire Service College, Nagpur or any other similar recognized course.</p> <p>(i) Must have passed Middle School examination or equivalent.</p> <p>(ii) Must have at least three years experience of driving heavy vehicles and be in possession of valid driving licence.</p> <p>(iii) Must be physically fit and capable of performing strenuous duties and must have passed the test prescribed to check physical fitness.</p> <p>Desirable:</p> <p>(i) Should be familiar with maintenance and operation of various types of fire appliances.</p> <p>(ii) Experience of having worked in a regular civil or defence Fire Brigade as Fireman Grade-I or Senior Fireman.</p>	<p>Fireman Grade-I with three years continuous service in the grade failing which six years combined service in the grade of Fireman Grade-I and Fireman Grade-II rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis and possessing a valid heavy driving licence and subject to passing a departmental trade test.</p>

1	2	3	4
<p>Leading Hand Fire (Selection Grade).</p>	<p>3050-75-3950-80-4590</p>	<p>(iii) Should have passed the general Fire fighting Course from Defence Institute of Fire Research, Min. of Def., New Delhi or the Sub-Officers Course from National Fire Service College, Nagpur or any other similar recognized course.</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	<p>Leading Hand Fire (Ordinary Grade/Fire Engine Driver with three years service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis.</p>
<p>Supervisor (Fire)</p>	<p>4000-100-6000</p>	<p>(i) Matriculation or equivalent qualification.</p> <p>(ii) Senior Fire Supervisors Course from Defence Institute of Fire Research, Min of Def., New Delhi or the Sub-Officers Course from National Fire Service College, Nagpur or any other similar recognized course.</p> <p>(iii) Must be able to impart training to Fire Crew and unit personnel on the use and maintenance of all items of Fire Fighting equipment or appliances and all evaluation of Fire Service Grades.</p> <p>(iv) Must have served in a recognized Civil or Defence Fire Brigade at least for three years in a rank not below the rank of Leading Hand Fire or equivalent.</p> <p>(v) Must be conversant with the use and maintenance with the use and maintenance of all types of extinguishers, hose fittings and fire appliances and equipments like fire engines, trailer, fire pumps foam branches, etc.</p>	<p>Leading Hand Fire (Selection Grade) with two years continuous service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis subject to possessing qualification of Senior Supervisors Course from Defence Institute of Fire Research, Min of Def, New Delhi or the Sub-Officers Course from National Fire Service College, Nagpur or equivalent.</p>

1	2	3	4
		(vi) Must be physically fit and capable for performing strenuous duties and must have passed the test prescribed to check physical fitness.	

Details of pay Scales in Respect of Fire Fighting Staff of Ordnance Service Directorate

Post	Pay Scale	Method of Recruitment	Conditions of Promotion
Fire Supdt.	Rs. 5000-8000	100% promotion	Fire Master with three years qualifying service in the grade.
Fire Master	Rs. 4500-7000	By 100% promotion	Leading Hand (Fire) 'B' and FED 'B' with five years of qualifying service in the grade subject to possessing qualification of senior Fire Supervisors Course from DIFR Delhi or Sub Officer Course from National Fire Service College, Nagpur.
LHF 'B'	Rs. 4000-6000	By 100% promotion failing which by deputation	By promotion: Leading Hand Fire 'A' with eight years qualifying service in the grade.
LH (Fire) 'A'	Rs. 3050-4590	By 100% promotion	Fireman with three years qualifying service in the grade.
FED 'B'	Rs. 4000-6000	By 100% promotion failing which by deputation	Fire Engine Driver 'A' with eight years qualifying service.
FED 'A'	Rs. 3050-4590	By 100% promotion	Fireman with three years qualifying service in the grade after appointment possessing a valid heavy vehicle driving licence.
Fireman	Rs. 2750-4400	By absorption failing which by direct recruitment.	

Details of Pay Scales in respect of Fire Fighting Staff of Air Force

Post	Pay Scale	Method of Recruitment	Conditions of Promotion
1	2	3	4
Fire Master/ Dy. Fire Officer	Rs. 4500-7000	50% by promotion and 50% by Direct Recruitment	By promotion from among Fire Supervisor Gde-I/ Civilian Asstt. FireMaster /Asstt Fire Supdt. with 05 years of continuous service in the grade.
Fire Supervisor Gde I/ Civilian Asstt. Fire Supervisor/Asstt. Fire Superintendent	Rs. 4000-6000	By promotion failing which by transfer failing both by transfer on deputation, re-employment (for ex-serviceman), failing all by Direct Recruitment.	Supervisor (Fire) with three years continuous service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis subject to possessing the qualification of Sr. Fire Supervisors Course from Defence Institute of Fire Research, New Delhi or the Sub-Officers Course from National Fire Service College, Nagpur.
Supervisor (Fire)	Rs. 4000-6000	By promotion failing which by transfer failing both by transfer on deputation/re-employment (for ex-serviceman) failing all by Direct Recruitment	Leading Hand Fire (Selection Grade) with 02 years continuous service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis subject to possessing the qualification of Sr. Fire Supervisors Course for Defence Institute of Fire Research, Ministry of Defence or the Sub-Officer Course from the National Fire Service College. Nagpur or equivalent.
Leading Hand Fire (Selection Grade)	Rs. 3050-4590	By Promotion only.	Leading Hand Fireman/Fire Engine Driver/Driver trailer Pump with three years service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis subject to passing the prescribed departmental trade test.

1	2	3	4
Leading Hand Fire/Leading Fireman	Rs. 3050-4590	By promotion failing which by transfer failing both by transfer on deputation, re-employment (for ex-serviceman), failing all by Direct Recruitment.	Fireman Gd-I with 03 years continuous service in the grade failing which 06 years combined service in the grade of Fireman Gd-I and Fireman Gd-II rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis subject to passing a departmental trade test.
Fire Engine Driver Trailer Pump	Rs. 3050-4590	By promotion failing which by transfer failing both by transfer on deputation/re-employment (for-ex-servicemen) failing all by direct recruitment.	Fireman Gd-I with 03 years continuous service in the grade failing which 06 years combined service in the grade of Fireman Gd-I and Fireman Gd-II rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis and subject to passing a departmental trade test.
Fireman Gde-I	Rs. 2750-4400	By promotion failing which by transfer failing both by transfer on deputation/re-employment (for ex-Servicemen) failing all by direct recruitment.	By promotion failing which by transfer failing both
Fireman Gde-II	Rs. 2650-4000	By transfer failing which by transfer on deputation/re-employment (for ex-serviceman), failing all by Direct Recruitment.	

Details of Pay Scales in respect of Fire Fighting Staff of Ordnance Factories

Post	Pay Scale	Method of Recruitment	Conditions of Promotion
1	2	3	4
Driver Fire Brigade	Rs. 3050-4590	By promotion after adjustment of surplus and transfer failing by Direct Recruitment	By promotion from Fireman Grade-I and allied grades with 5 years of regular service in the grade. By Transfer on passing Trade Test.

1	2	3	4
Leading Hand Fire	Rs. 3050-4590	By promotion after adjustment of surplus and transfer failing by Direct Recruitment	By promotion from Fireman Grade-I and allied grades with 5 years of regular service in the grade. By Transfer on passing Trade Test.
Fireman Grade-I	Rs. 2750-4400	By promotion after adjustment of surplus and transfer failing by Direct Recruitment	By promotion from Fireman Grade-II and allied grades with 3 years of regular service in the grade. By Transfer on passing Trade Test.
Fireman Grade-II	Rs. 2610-4000	By Transfer failing which by Direct Recruitment after adjustment of Surplus.	By Transfer on passing Trade Test.

Customs Duties for Power Plants

2484. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided that there would be no customs duties for power plants upto 250 mega watts capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken by the Government to boost the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following steps taken are expected to boost the power sector:

(i) Generation capacity addition of around 41,110 MW has been targeted for 10th Five Year Plan in all Sectors (State+Private+Central).

(ii) Increase of generation from existing thermal power plants.

(iii) Enhancement of inter-regional transfer of power from surplus region(s) to deficit region(s).

(iv) Demand side management and promotion of energy efficiency and conservation measures.

(v) Disbursement of loans with interest subsidy by Power Finance Corporation for Renovation, Modernization and Life Extension Schemes for old and inefficient generating units.

(vi) Focus on metering of all consumers, energy audit, improvement of billing and collection efficiency, reduction of technical and commercial losses, reduction and elimination of theft of power, constitution and Operationalisation of State Electricity Regulatory Commission, achievement of commercial viability in a time bound manner.

(vii) 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.

(viii) The Union Government, in order to help the State Electricity Boards, is providing funds to States under Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme for investment in identified distribution areas and also incentivising the reduction of cash losses through grants.

- (ix) The Electricity Act, 2003, which has been 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 etc.

Installation of C.C.T.Vs in Trains

2485. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to check illegal activities, the RPF/Railway Police in Karnataka has installed closed circuit television in some important trains;

(b) if so, whether the CCTV will be installed in all other trains running in the State;

(c) whether the RPF/Railway Police had been able to apprehend smugglers of narcotics and electronic goods with the help of images beamed by hidden cameras installed in trains;

(d) whether the improve security at railway stations, the Railway police has installed metal detectors at important railway stations in the State; and

(e) if so, the extent to which it has helped the Railway Safety and also checking the accidents in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) "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 Government Railway Police (GRP). As far as Railway is concerned, no CCTV has been installed on the Railways in Karnataka.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e): As and when required, metal detectors are being used at important Railway Stations by RPF to ensure safety and security of travelling passengers as well as to check the undesirable elements and carrying of dangerous and deadly substances in trains and on the Railway platforms.

Charter of Demands for BSCL

2486. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether payment of Interim Relief of Rs. 100/- as sanctioned by DHI pending settlement of Charter of Demands since 1990 was not paid to the workmen of Raniganj Group of closed refractory and ceramic units of BSCL till now;

(b) if so, whether the last charter of demands expired in 1982 and no fresh agreement was made thereafter;

(c) if so, whether the workmen of the said refractory units were also deprived of the payment of the enhanced VDA of Rs. 2.00 per point; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith 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) As per BPE's Order dated 09.09.1987, the Interim Relief was to be absorbed in future wage Settlement. Due to persistent loss making performance of Raniganj Group of Works, the Company could neither entire into a fresh wage settlement with the workmen nor could pay the interim relief.

(c) and (d) The persistent loss making performance of the sick Refractory & Ceramic units of BSCL including Raniganj Group of Works made it impossible to carry out any increase in labour costs by way of implementing enhanced rate of VDA.

Self Printing Ticketing Machine

2487. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for providing Self Printing Ticketing Machine at any railway station;

(b) the names of the railway stations in Marathwada Region and other States where Self Printing Ticketing Machines have been installed for issuing tickets at booking windows, State-wise; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to provide Self Printing Ticketing Machines at all the railway stations in Marathwada Region and other States to lessen the long queue of commuters at booking windows?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) Self Printing Ticket Machines (SPTMs) are installed at major stations where a large number of passengers are handled.

(b) The Railway-wise details of SPTMs installed at various stations is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Modernisation of unreserved ticketing is a continuous process.

Statement

Central Railway

1. Mumbai CST
2. Dadar (T)
3. Kurla (T)
4. Thane
5. Kalyan
6. Lonavala
7. Nagpur
8. Wardha
9. Ballarshah
10. Betul
11. Amla
12. Nagpur
(Santra Market)
13. Hinganghat
14. Chandrapur
15. Pulgaon
16. Bhusawal
17. Akola
18. Jalgaon

19. Nasik Road
20. Amravati
21. Badnera
22. Bhurhanpur
23. Pachora
24. Chalisgaon
25. Manmad
26. Shegaon
27. Bhusawal (North)
28. Bhusawal (ZTC)
29. Solapur
30. Daund
31. Gulbarga
32. Ahmadnagar
33. Kurdwadi
34. Shahabad
35. Wadi
36. Pandharpur
37. Pune
38. Sangli
39. Miraj
40. Kolhapur

Eastern Railway

1. Howrah
2. Bardhaman
3. Lituah
4. Rishra
5. Shrirampur
6. Georaphuli
7. Chandannagar
8. Uttarpara
9. Bally

Note: ZTC-Zonal Training Centre.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10. Tarakeswar | 41. Shantipur |
| 11. Katwa | 42. Garla |
| 12. Belur | 43. Subhasgram |
| 13. Hindmotor | 44. Park Circus |
| 14. Chuchura | 45. Burrabazar |
| 15. Bandel | 46. Asansol |
| 16. Belur | 47. Durgapur |
| 17. Math | 48. Raniganj |
| 18. Sealdah | 49. Malda Town |
| 19. Bidhannagar Road | 50. New Farakka |
| 20. Dum Dum Jn. | 51. Jasidih |
| 21. Barrackpur | 52. Baidyanath Dham |
| 22. Ballygunge | 53. Madhupur |
| 23. Sonarpur | 54. Godda |
| 24. Diamond Harbour | 55. Sahebganj |
| 25. Naihati | 56. Bhagalpur |
| 26. Baruipur | 57. Jamalpur |
| 27. Budge Budge | East Central Railway |
| 28. Canning | 1. Patna |
| 29. Dum Dum Cant. | 2. Kiul Jn. |
| 30. Jadavpur | 3. Mokama |
| 31. Barasat | 4. Luckesarai |
| 32. Machchlandapur | 5. Bakhtiyarpur |
| 33. Boangaon | 6. Patna Sahib |
| 34. Kalyani | 7. Danapur |
| 35. Ranaghat | 8. Ara |
| 36. Krishnnanaga | 9. Buxar |
| 37. Sodepur | 10. Rajendra Nagar T |
| 38. Belgharia | 11. Mughal Sarai Jn. |
| 39. Agarpara | 12. Gaya |
| 40. Dhakuria | 13. Bhabhua Road |

14. Anugarah N. Road
15. Sasaram
16. Dehri on Sone
17. Dhanbad
18. Gomoh
19. Hazaribagh
20. Kodarma
21. Barkakana
22. Daltonganj
23. Renukut
24. Sonapur
25. Hajipur
26. Muzzaffarpur
27. Barauni
28. Khagaria
29. Darbhanga
30. Narkatiaganj
31. Samastipur
32. Saharsa

East Coast Railway

1. Bhubaneswar
2. Cuttack
3. Puri
4. Khurda Road
5. Berhampur
6. Vishakhapatnam
7. Gyanpuram
8. Simhachalam
9. Vijayanagram
10. Rayagada
11. Sambalpur
12. Srikakulam Road

Northern Railway

1. Delhi Cantt
2. Delhi Sarairohilla
3. Gurgaon
4. Sonapat
5. Panipat
6. Rohtak
7. Kurukshetra
8. Kamal
9. Bhatinda
10. Pathankot
11. Jalandhar Cantt.
12. Jammu Tawi
13. Rai Bareilly
14. Faizabad
15. Unnao
16. Jaunpur
17. Pratapgarh
18. Sultanpur
19. Brabankee
20. Muzzafermagar
21. Merrut City.
22. Chandousi/ZTC
23. Dehradun
24. Haridwar

North Central Railway

1. Allahabad
2. Kanpur
3. Aligarh
4. Tundla
5. Etawah
6. Firozabad
7. Jhansi

8. Gwalior
9. Murena
10. Banda
11. Lalitpur
12. Dabra
13. Agra Cantt
14. Raja Ki Mandi
15. Mathura

North Eastern Railway

1. Pilibhit
2. Kasganj
3. Farrukhabad
4. Gorakhpur
5. Basti
6. Mankapur
7. Gonda
8. Bharaich
9. Lucknow Jn.
10. Sitapur
11. Lakhimpur
12. Deoria Sadar
13. Siwan
14. Chhapra
15. Bhatni
16. Salempur
17. Belthara Road
18. Mau Jn.
19. Ballia

North Western Railway

1. Jaipur
2. Rewari
3. Bikaner
4. Ajmer

5. Jodhpur
6. Merta Road
7. Pali Marwar
8. Makrana

Northeast Frontier Railway

1. Guwahati

Southern Railway

1. Shoranur
2. Calicut
3. Tellicherry
4. Cannanore
5. Palghat Jn
6. Tirupur
7. Quilon Jn.
8. Ernakulam North
9. Alleppey
10. Ernakulam Jn.
11. Tiruchur
12. Guruvayur
13. Chengannur
14. Kottayam
15. Alwaye
16. Trivendrum Central
17. Madras Central
18. Madras Egmore
19. Chengleput Jn.
20. Arkkonam Jn.
21. Katpadi Jn.
22. Madurai Jn.
23. Dindugal Jn.
24. Tirunelveli Jn.
25. Tuticorin
26. Salem Jn.

27. Erode Jn.
28. Coimbatore Jn.
29. Mangalore
30. Tiruchchirapalli Jn.
31. Thanjavur

South Central Railway

1. Secunderabad
2. Hyderabad
3. Warangal
4. Khammam
5. Kazipet
6. Mahabubabad
7. Mancherial
8. Jangaon
9. Ramagundam
10. Madhira
11. Jammi Kuntia
12. Bhadrachalam Road
13. VIKARABAD
14. Tandur
15. Vijaywada
16. Tenali
17. Ongole
18. Nellore
19. Rajahmundry
20. Chirala
21. Samalkot
22. Gudivada
23. Tuni
24. Godavari
25. Anakapalli
26. Nidubrolu
27. Nidadavolu

28. Bhimavaram
29. Tadepalligudam
30. Kachiguda
31. Mahaboobnagar
32. Nizamabad
33. Selu
34. Parchur
35. Jadcherla
36. Tirupathi
37. Raichur
38. Guntakal
39. Dharmavaram
40. Cuddapah
41. Guntur
42. Repalle
43. Nanded
44. Aurangabad
45. Parbhani
46. Jalna
47. Bellampalli
48. Jame Street
49. Sanjeevaiah Park
50. Begum Pet
51. Nature Care Hospital
52. Fateh Nagar
53. Bharat Nagar
54. Borabanda
55. Hi Tech City
56. Hafeezpet
57. Chanda Nagar
58. Lingam Palli
59. Khairabad
60. Kurnool Town

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 61. Gudur | 5. Bangalore City |
| 62. Bapatla | 6. Hubli |
| 63. Kavali | 7. Gadag |
| 64. Tanuken | 8. Bellari |
| 65. Eluru | 9. Belgaum |

66. Annavaram

67. Kakinada Town

68. Anantapur

69. Adoni

70. Srikalahasti

South Eastern Railway

1. Howrah
2. Kharagpur
3. Balasore
4. Tatanagar
5. Chakradharpur
6. Jharsuguda
7. Adra
8. Hatia
9. Ranchi
10. Bokaro Steel City
11. Rourkela

South East Central Railway

1. Gondia
2. Itwari
3. Bilaspur
4. Raipur
5. Durg
6. Raigarh

South Western Railway

1. Mysore Jn.
2. Devangere
3. Bangalore Cantt.
4. Bangarapet Jn.

Western Railway

1. Mumbai Central
2. Ahmedabad
3. Surat
4. Vadodara
5. Rajkot
6. Bhavnagar
7. Anand
8. Ujjain
9. Ratlam
10. Bandra Terminus
11. Borivali
12. Indore
13. Nagda
14. Bharuch
15. Nadiad

West Central Railway

1. Jabalpur
2. Katni
3. Madan Mahal
4. Satna
5. Maihar
6. Damoh
7. Sagar
8. Pipariyah
9. Gadarwara
10. Narisinghpur
11. Bhopal

12. Habibganj (c) whether projects for which loan was sanctioned have been completed;
13. Itarsi (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the present status of these projects; and
14. Vidisha (e) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?
15. Ganj Basoda
16. Bina
17. Kota
18. Hoshangabad.

World Bank Loan to PGCIL

2488. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India received \$450 million loan assistance from the World Bank for various projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) signed an agreement with World Bank on 13th June, 2001 for a loan of \$450 million (PSDP-II Ln. 4603 IN). The loan has become effective from 21.11.2001 and will close on 30.06.2006.

(c) to (e) Some of the projects covered by this loan have been completed. The status of the projects implemented/being implemented by PGCIL under this loan is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Status of projects implemented/being implemented by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) under PSDP-II Loan 4603 IN.

S.No.	Description	Present status
1	2	3
1.	East-North Interconnector-I Project (Sasaram HVDC B/B Project)	Completed
2.	System Coordination & Control Project in Eastern Region	Under implementation. The project is expected to be completed by March, 2005.
3.	System Coordination & Control Project in Western Region	Under implementation. The project is expected to be completed by March 2006.
4.	PGCIL's Diversification into Telecom	Under implementation. Project is expected to be completed by December, 2004.
5.	High capacity East-North Interconnector-II	Under implementation. Project is expected to be completed by June, 2006.
6.	National Load Despatch Centre	Detailed Project Report has been submitted by PGCIL for investment approval by the Government.

1	2	3
7.	System Strengthening-III in Southern Region Grid	Detailed Project Report has been submitted by PGCIL for investment approval by the Government.
8.	Balance work in respect of the following projects which were being executed under earlier World Bank loans (No. 3577-IN & No. 3237-IN):	Completed
	(i) Moga-Hisar-Bhiwani Transmission System	
	(ii) Kishenpur-Moga Transmission System	
	(iii) Nathpa-Jhakri Transmission System	
	(iv) SC&C project in Northern Region	
	(v) Vindhyachal-Dhule Transmission System	
	(vi) Ramagundam-Hyderabad Transmission System.	
	(vii) Central Power Transmission Project-I.	
	(viii) Rihand Power Transmission Project.	
	(ix) Transmission System Associated with Kayamkulam GBCC.	
	(x) SC&C Project in Southern Region.	

Withdrawal of Volume Discount Scheme

2489. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

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

(a) whether the producers have put forward their several demands for the consideration of the Prasar Bharati which inter alia include the withdrawal of volume discount scheme; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to consider these demands and decision taken thereon?

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

SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan has received such demand from few producers. They have considered these demands and decided to continue with volume discount scheme with some modifications since this is in the interest of the organisation.

[Translation]

COCO Pumps in Rajasthan

2490. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Public Sector Oil Companies which are running their own petrol pumps in Rajasthan and the details of these petrol pumps;

(b) the places where petrol pumps have been set up in the last three years till date; and

(c) the location identified where petrol pumps are to be set up in the State during the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Four public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited are operating a number of retail outlets (petrol pumps) in the State of Rajasthan on 'Company Owned Company Operated' (COCO) basis.

(b) and (c) During the last three years and till date, the OMCs have set up a number of retail outlet dealerships, under various categories and at various locations in the State of Rajasthan. The locations include those in the districts of Kota, Jaipur, Sikar, Dausa, Jalore, Nagaur, Dungarpur, Jodhpur, Alwar, Dholpur, Tonk, Bhilwara, Bharatpur, Ajmer, Jhunjhunu, Bikaner, Sriganganagar, Churu, Sirohi, Udaipur, Pali, Bundi, etc.

OMCs have plans to set up more retail outlet dealerships at various locations in the State.

[English]

Budgetary Allocation for Power

2491. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the budgetary allocations for power are, in many cases, not fully utilized because of considerable delay in securing project clearances from the Environment Department; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to secure expeditious clearances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Generally power projects are being completed in time. However there could be under-utilization of budgetary allocation in respect of some of the hydro power projects for want of environmental clearance.

(b) A two stage process for site clearance has been put into place and monitoring mechanism has been strengthened. For each project a nodal officer has been

designated in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) who monitors the projects under his charge on day-to-day basis with a view to facilitating resolution of bottlenecks through inter-actions with the concerned agencies at appropriate level.

Running of Special Trains Beyond Festivals

2492. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South-Eastern Railway had introduced special trains from Howrah to Bangalore in order to clear the extra rush during the Durga Pooja/Dussehra festival;

(b) if so, the total trains introduced during this season;

(c) the extent to which it had reduced the rush;

(d) whether the special trains will continue to run even after the Dussehra/Durga Pooja festivals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A total of 8 pair of trains were run between Howrah and Bangalore during this season.

(c) Each trip of this special train provided about 1026 seats/berths to the general public. For further reducing the wait-listed passengers, loads of 8003/8004 Howrah-Yashwantpur (Bangalore) bi-weekly Expresses were augmented by extra coaches.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Energy Summit In Guwahati

2493. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Energy summit was recently organized in Guwahati;

(b) if so, the proposals, projects and schemes considered at summit for augmenting power supply in the Region, indicating state-wise break up; and

(c) the steps taken therein and the plan of action worked out to carry out the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir. No 'Energy Summit' was organized recently in Guwahati by the Government of India or any its Public Sector Undertakings. However, it has been ascertained that the North East Chamber of Commerce & industry has organized an Energy Summit III—2003 at Guwahati from 22-23 September, 2003.

(b) and (c) Details are not available.

Tender for Transportation of POL Products

2494. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the oil companies are playing mischief in the finalisation of tenders for transportation of POL products in Haryana, Delhi, Punjab and UP which has resulted into strikes etc.;

(b) if so, whether these oil companies are manipulating one or two tenders at nonworkable and uneconomical rates to deprive all the other tenders from getting the economically workable and viable rates;

(c) whether these oil companies specially IOCL has reduced the Round Trip Distance (RTD) Ex Panipat for most of the locations;

(d) if so, how RTD locations have been cut short; and

(e) the time by which these reduced RTD shall again be rechecked and reverified for the sake of avoiding unnecessary resentment among the transporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Transportation rates are finalised as per the offers received against the Public Tenders after going through the process of Industry negotiations with the Tenders.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Wind Energy Project in Kerala

2495. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala agency ANERT has given any proposal for production of wind energy in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ANERT has submitted wind energy project in Raja Kooppu of Aryan Karn Panchayati in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the total Mega Watt of Power likely to be produced from this Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal for 2 MW demonstration wind farm project in Idukki district, Kerala has been received in the Government. The Agency for Non-Conventional Energy and Rural Technology (ANERT), has been requested to provide information about the status of land acquisition for the project, details regarding cost sharing by the State Government as also Power Purchase Agreement with the State Electricity Board.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Helipad by ONGC in Mumbai

2496. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is considering to develop a new helipad site in South Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether ONGC alongwith Pawan Hans have shortlisted two sites;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether preference will be given to Government site as suggested by Navy;

(e) if so, the amount involved in these two different sites; and

(f) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA

MAHAJAN): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has informed that no proposal to set up a new helipad in South Mumbai is under its consideration.

(b) to (f) Does not arise, in view of the reply to part (a) above.

Concession to Passengers/Students

2497. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways give any concession to passengers for pilgrimage to religious places and for attending congregations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways give travel concession to students to travel from institutions to home towns and back during vacations; and

(d) if so the categories of institutions or criteria for recognizing such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) As per tariff rules, no concession is granted to persons going for pilgrimage and for attending religious congregations.

(c) and (d): Students studying in Educational Institutions recognized by Ministry of Education, Government of India or Education Department of the concerned State Government or colleges affiliated to recognized Universities are granted concession for visiting home-town during vacations and for travel on Educational tours organized by the Institution.

Dabhol Project

2498. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the off-shore lenders to Dabhol Project have initiated a claim for Rs. 722 crores from the Centre;

(b) if so, whether earlier, Bechtel Enterprises Holding Inc and GE Finances have already filed an international arbitration claim of \$1.26 billion against the Government on Dabhol account;

(c) if so, whether the Government is bound to honour these claims under bilateral investment treaties it has signed with the countries of lenders' origin; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per information made available by the Ministry of Finance, no liability has so far arisen which requires the Government, either as a result of mutual settlement or an arbitration award, to honour such claim.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts in DD/AIR

2499. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question No. 1667 dated July 31, 2003 regarding "Recruitment Quota for fresh candidates in Doordarshan/All India Radio" and to state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said information is likely to be collected?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information is being collected from various Kendras/Stations of Doordarshan/All India Radio located in different regions of the country which is a time consuming process.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that the information is likely to be collected and furnished soon.

[English]

Eviction of Unauthorised Occupation

2500. SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Secretary, Bureau of Public Enterprises has collected the details of the cases for the eviction of unauthorised occupation under the P.P. Act, 1971;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the functional role of B.P.E. PSU-wise, year-wise;

(c) whether the duties and responsibilities of B.P.E. are over only by issuing the guidelines;

(d) if so, whether the BPEs have issued several reminders to the defaulting PSUs for the enforcement of the guidelines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the action Government propose to take for the strict enforcement of the guidelines?

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 (f) Department of Public Enterprises issued guidelines on Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 on 19th February, 1992, which were reiterated on 19th January, 2001. The role of DPE (erstwhile BPE) includes *inter alia* issue of policy guidelines to PSEs in the areas of autonomy and delegation of financial power, professionalisation of Board, pay scales of employees of PSEs, permanent machinery of arbitration for settlement of disputes between PSEs, Voluntary Retirement Scheme, purchase preference, Memorandum of Understanding etc. The respective Boards of PSEs and the administrative Ministries implement guidelines issued by DPE. The guidelines are not mandatory in nature. Compliance of these guidelines is not centrally monitored.

Setting up of separate Schools/Institutions for Physically Handicapped Persons

2501. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is setting up separate schools and other institutions separately for the physically handicapped persons in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the financial assistance provided thereunder, State-wise; and

(c) the total number of educational institutions to be set up during 2003-2004 in the country particularly in Karnataka, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Expenditure Incurred by PSUs on TA/DA

2502. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure incurred by most of the Public Sector Undertakings for the top executives and management as travelling allowances (TA/DA) boarding and lodging is very high and increasing every year;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred by 'Navratna' PSU's in this regard for the last three years, PSU-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce such lavish expenditure from the public money by the PSU's?

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 (c) The PSUs follow their own rules in regard to Travelling Allowance/Daily Allowance (TA/DA) including boarding and lodging for their employees. The expenditure incurred in these heads for the top executives and management by the PSUs including Navratna PSUs is not centrally maintained.

CVC Guidelines on Indian Oil Corporation Limited

2503. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited is following the CVC guidelines regarding award of tenders to the lowest party only or to match the lowest rates in equal proportion alongwith the lowest party;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether IOCL has taken action against such officials who are not following CVC guidelines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) follows the guidelines/clarifications issued by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) from time to time.

(c) and (d) IOCL takes action against officials who contravene the guidelines of CVC. IOCL initiated disciplinary proceedings against 11 officers.

Railway Users Consultative Committees

2504. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether meetings of Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committees and Divisional Railways Consultative Committees are not held regularly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Standing Committee on Railways (2001) in its ninth report has directed Ministry of Railways to take urgent action to ensure that these meetings are held regularly;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of meetings of DRUCC and ZRUCC were held during each of the last three years, zone-wise;

(e) the existing norms for appointment of Members, in ZRUCC & DRUCC with their tenure and power;

(f) whether the Members of DRUCC/ZRUCC are not appointed in due time; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government for proper functioning of DRUCC and ZRUCC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANGOURA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) and (b) All efforts are made to hold the meetings of Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees

(DRUCCs) and Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCCs) as per schedule but due to various reasons such as delay in receipt of nomination from various organizations, administrative constraints and exigencies, sometimes, meetings are not held as per schedule.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) After receipt of Standing Committee, instructions were reiterated to all zonal railways to hold the meetings of these Committees as per schedule. The railway-wise details of meetings of DRUCCs and ZRUCCs held during 2001, 2002 and 2003 till date is enclosed in the statement.

(e) With a view to provide a forum for frequent interaction between railways and railway users on matters relating to the services provided by the railways, Railway Users' Consultative Committees are constituted at various levels including Divisional and Zonal level. Each of these Committees are constituted for a two year term. On DRUCCs/ZRUCCs representation is given to local Chambers of Commerce, Passenger Associations, Trade Associations, Handicapped Associations, Consumer Forum, representatives of State Governments, State Legislatures, Members of Parliament etc. The Members of DRUCC/ZRUCC are authorized to call upon a Station Master or a Ticket Collector or Travelling Ticket Examiner, who is readily available at any station to arrange a check in his presence of a compartment or carriage where it is suspected that persons without valid tickets or passes are travelling. The members of ZRUCC are also authorized to inspect Bookstalls and Books Trolleys on the stations and also Catering and Vending establishments at stations and Restaurant/Dining/Buffer Cars on trains, whether run by contractor or departmentally. The members of DRUCC and ZRUCC possessing an identity card can also enter a station platform without purchasing a platform ticket.

(f) and (g) All efforts are made to send the nomination letters in time.

Statement

Details of meetings of ZRUCC

Name of the Railway	Number of meetings of ZRUCC held in the year		
	2001	2002	2003 (till date)
1	2	3	4
Central	2	2	1+1 proposed
Eastern	2	1	1

1	2	3	4
Northern	1	2	2
North Eastern	1	1	1+1 proposed
Northeast Frontier	3	2	2
Southern	2	3	2+1 proposed
South Central Railway	2	1	1
South Eastern	1	2	1
Western	1	1	—

Details of meetings of DRUCC

Name of the Railway	Number of meetings of DRUCC held in the year		
	2001	2002	2003 (till date)
Central	20	17	16+2 proposed
Eastern	16	14	13+1 proposed
Northern	21	20	22+1 proposed
North Eastern	10	8	8+2 proposed
Northeast Frontier	9	6	7+3 proposed
Southern	16	16	14+2 proposed
South Central Railway	11	8	9
South Eastern	17	19	17+2 proposed
Western	14	14	18

Note: The details of the DRUCC meetings of the Divisions, which have been transferred to new zones, have also been included in their parent railway's figures.

Promotion Policy

2505. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of POWER 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 POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. The said OM was circulated to all the Central Public Sector Undertakings/Organizations under the administrative control of this Ministry for implementation.

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

Subsidy in Solar Energy to Rural Areas

2506. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering further subsidies to solar energy installation programme in remote villages, river banks and sea shores islands;

(b) if so, whether hundred per cent subsidy for installation to be considered for SC, ST and OBC dominated villages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a programme for electrification of remote census villages based on non-conventional energy systems and devices such as solar energy systems, biomass gasifiers and mini and micro hydel plants. The coverage of the programme also includes remote census villages in such areas as river banks, coastal areas, islands, etc. The Ministry has so far been providing Central Financial Assistance (CFA) in the form of capital subsidy upto 50% of the cost of solar energy systems for such projects subject to certain benchmarks. Upto 90% CFA is being provided for projects in North-Eastern Region and Sikkim. During the current year it is proposed to extend 90% CFA for electrification of remote census villages throughout the country.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to provide hundred percent subsidy for SC, ST and OBC dominated villages.

Bureaucratic-PSU Nexus in Power Sector

2507. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has severely criticized the bureaucrat—PSU nexus and whether due to this nexus the power consumers were badly affected;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to remove bureaucratic hurdles in the functioning of the various PSUs in power sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Outstanding Dues of PSU Employees

2508. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBÁ MANDLIK:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has accepted the recommendations of the Group of Ministers on Payment of outstanding statutory dues and salaries to public sector employees as reported in the 'Business Standard' dated October 16, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Public Sector Undertakings have been asked to submit proposals for restructuring; 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) to (d) Based on the recommendations of the Group of ministers, Government have directed CPSUs to clear the outstanding dues and salary/wages of the employees in a time bound manner. The CPSUs facing financial difficulties have been advised to submit specific action plan for revival/closure/disinvestment of the PSU/unit thereof to avail of one time financial assistance from the Government to clear the dues expeditiously. PSU-wise action plan furnished by the administrative Ministry/Department is examined on metrics of the case by Govt. taking into consideration the available resource in that enterprise, efforts to mobilize additional resources if any, and one time budgetary support is considered to meet the resource gap for clearing the outstanding dues on case to case basis.

Firing Ranges taken over from Army

2509. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun is going to lose its massive live firing range at Asan near Dhera Dun;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of field firing ranges which have been taken over from Army during last three years, and its impact on military training; and

(d) the alternative arrangements being made/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The firing range at Asan is notified upto 13th September 2004 and its notification will be renewed thereafter, on expiry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No ranges have been taken over from the Army during the last three years.

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

Identity Cards to Handicapped Persons

2510. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the identity cards issued to the handicapped persons by different States for confessional travel etc. are not recognized in other States;

(b) if so, whether this leads to inconvenience to the disabled persons; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to provide such basic facilities to the handicapped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment does not have information in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to provide uniformity in the identity cards to be issued to the disabled persons, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has circulated guidelines to all States/Union Territories with a request to adopt them so that such persons do not face inconvenience in

availing various concessions and facilities admissible to them.

Reservation to Physically Handicapped Persons in Government Deptts./PSUs

2511. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether physically challenged persons are provided with statutory 3 percent job reservations in various Central Government departments and public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of posts filled up by such candidates during the last three years till date and number of posts lying vacant till date;

(d) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some public sector undertakings are not filling the quota reserved for these people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) As per Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, every appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment such percentage of vacancies not less than three per cent for persons or class of persons with disability of which one per cent each shall be reserved for persons suffering from:

I. blindness or low vision;

II. hearing impairment;

III. locomotor disability or cerebral palsy; in the posts identified for each disability.

(c) to (e) According to the information received from the Department of Personnel and Training (in March 2001) and the Department of Public Enterprises (in January 2002) the status of reservation with reference to the identified posts is as under:

Group of Posts	%age of reservation in Ministries/Departments	%age of reservation in Public Sector Undertakings
A	6.56	2.78
B	5.43	8.54
C	6.50	5.04
D	6.39	6.75

[Translation]

Una-Takarla Rail Line

2512. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of acquisition of land for construction of railway line ahead Takarla in Himachal Pradesh has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay;

(d) the dates on which the railway Administration has requested the State Government to acquire the land and assign the same to the railway Administration at an early date;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to acquire the aforesaid land;

(f) whether the Government also propose to electrify the Una-Takarla rail line;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the target fixed for completion of Una-Takarla rail line?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The work of Una-Talwara has been planned to be taken in phases. At present the work of Una-Churaru Takrala is in progress. In the next phase, the work of Churaru Takrala-Amb (11 km) is planned to be

taken up. The State Govt. of Himachal Pradesh was requested on 14.08.2003 to acquire the land for this section. A meeting in this connection was also held on 11.11.2003 during which the State Government has agreed to expedite the process of land acquisition. The State Government has also been requested to acquire the land under section 17 of Land Acquisition Act.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Una-Churaru Takrala section is targeted for completion by 31.03.2004.

Funds to NIOH, Kolkata

2513. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has supported the plans of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped to hold outreach camps all over the country;

(b) if so, the financial assistance given to NIOH, Kolkatta for this purpose;

(c) the extent to which this programme can be replicated in other similar institutes;

(d) whether other national institutes have also agreed to hold such camps; and

(e) if so, details of steps proposed in this regard to help the handicapped people?

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

(b) and (c) Under the 'Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (AIDP) Scheme', financial assistance is given to National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH), Kolkata to hold outreach camps. The amount released to NIOH, for this purpose, during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crore)		
2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1.65	3.00	1.88

(d) and (e) The National/Apex Institutes, District Rehabilitation Centres, Composite Regional Centres, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India Limited (ALIMCO) and over 180 NGOs are being released grant in aid to provide aids and appliances to persons with disabilities through institutional facilities and composite camps organized in a planned manner all over the country.

Opening of Army Colleges/Institutes/Schools

2514. SHRI AMIR ALAM:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Army Colleges, Institutes and Schools existed in country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more Army Colleges, Institutes and Schools in the country;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) List of Army Colleges, Institutes of Schools as existing in the country, State-wise, is enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) At present there is no proposal to open additional Army Colleges, Institutes or Schools in the country.

(d) The training needs of the Army are adequately being met by the presently existing training establishments.

Statement

List of Army Colleges, Institutes or Schools

Sr.No.	State	Name of Establishment	City
1	2	3	4

Category 'A' Establishments

(Catering mainly to officers)

1.	Andhra Pradesh	College of Defence Management	Secunderabad
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering.	Secunderabad
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Simulator Development Division CO/MCEME.	Trimulgherry
4.	Gujarat	Electrical and Mechanical Engineering School	Baroda
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Military School	Chail
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	High Altitude Warfare School	Gulmarg
7.	Jharkhand	Junior Leader's Academy	Ramgarh
8.	Karnataka	Junior Leaders Wing, Inf. School	Belgaum
9.	Karnataka	Army Service Corps Centre and School	Bangalore
10.	Karnataka	Corps of Military Police Centre and School	Bangalore
11.	Karnataka	Military School	Belgaum
12.	Karnataka	Military School	Bangalore

1	2	3	4
13.	Maharashtra	National Defence Academy	Khadakwasla
14.	Maharashtra	Armoured Corps Centre & School	Ahmednagar
15.	Maharashtra	School of Artillery	Devlali
16.	Maharashtra	College of Military Engineering	Pune
17.	Maharashtra	Armed Forces Medical College	Pune
18.	Maharashtra	Military Intelligence Training School and Depot	Pune
19.	Maharashtra	Army School of Physical Training	Pune
20.	Maharashtra	Institute of National Integration C/O CME	Pune
21.	Maharashtra	Institute of Military Law	Kamptee
22.	Maharashtra	Combat Army Aviators Training School	Nasik
23.	Maharashtra	Army Sports Institute	Pune
24.	Madhya Pradesh	Army War College	Mhow
25.	Madhya Pradesh	Military College of Telecommunication Engineering	Mhow
26.	Madhya Pradesh	Infantry School	Mhow
27.	Madhya Pradesh	College of Materials Management	Jabalpur
28.	Madhya Pradesh	Army Education Corps Training College and Centre	Panchmarhi
29.	Mizoram	Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School	Variengate
30.	Orissa	Army Air Defence College	Gopalpur
31.	Rajasthan	Military School	Ajmer
32.	Rajasthan	Military School	Dholpur
33.	Tamil Nadu	Defence Services Staff College	Wellington
34.	Tamil Nadu	Officers Training Academy	Chennai
35.	Uttaranchal	Indian Military Academy	Dehradun
36.	Uttaranchal	Rashtriya Indian Military College	Dehradun
37.	Uttaranchal	Remount Training School and Depot	Hempur
38.	Uttar Pradesh	Junior Leader's Academy	Bareilly
39.	Uttar Pradesh	Army Medical Corps Centre & School	Lucknow
40.	Uttar Pradesh	Remount Veterinary Corps Centre and School	Meerut Cantt

1	2	3	4
41.	Uttar Pradesh	Army Air Transport Support School	Agra
42.	Uttar Pradesh	Remount Training School and Depot	Saharanpur
Category 'B' Establishments (Catering mainly to other ranks)			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Artillery Training Centre	Hyderabad
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Army Ordnance Corps Centre	Secunderabad
3.	Andhra Pradesh	1 Electrical and Mechanical Engineer Centre	Secunderabad
4.	Bihar	Bihar Regimental Centre	Danapur
5.	Bihar	Army Service Corps Centre (North)	Gaya
6.	Delhi	Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre	Delhi Cantt
7.	Goa	2 Signal Training Centre	Panaji
8.	Himachal Pradesh	14 Gorkha Training Centre	Sabathu
9.	Himachal Pradesh	42 Special Forces Training School	Nahan
10.	Jharkhand	Punjab Regimental Centre	Ramgarh
11.	Jharkhand	Sikh Regimental Centre	Ramgarh
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre	Srinagar
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	Headquarters Ladakh Scouts	Leh
14.	Karnataka	Madras Engineer Group and Centre	Bangalore
15.	Karnataka	Parachute Regimental Centre	Bangalore
16.	Karnataka	Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre	Belgaum
17.	Karnataka	Army Service Corps Centre (South)	Bangalore
18.	Karnataka	Pioneer Corps Centre	Bangalore
19.	Kerala	Defence Security Corps Centre	Cannanore
20.	Maharashtra	Air Defence Arty. Centre	Nasik
21.	Maharashtra	Mechanised Infantry Regimental Centre.	Ahmednagar
22.	Maharashtra	Artillery Training Centre	Nasik
23.	Maharashtra	Bombay Engineer Group and Centre	Kirkee

1	2	3	4
24.	Maharashtra	Guards Training Centre	Kamptee
25.	Maharashtra	Air Defence Arty. Centre	Nasik
26.	Madhya Pradesh	1 Signal Training Centre	Jabalpur
27.	Madhya Pradesh	Grenadiers Regimental Centre	Jabalpur
28.	Madhya Pradesh	Jammu & Kashmir Rifles Regimental Centre	Jabalpur
29.	Madhya Pradesh	Mahar Regimental Centre	Saugar
30.	Madhya Pradesh	3 Electrical and Mechanical Engineer Centre	Bhopal
31.	Madhya Pradesh	Army Postal Service Centre	Kamptee
32.	Meghalaya	Assam Regimental Centre	Shillong
33.	Tamil Nadu	Madras Regimental Centre	Wellington
34.	Uttaranchal	Kumaon Regimental Centre	Ranikhet
35.	Uttaranchal	Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre	Lansdowne
36.	Uttar Pradesh	Bengal Engineer Group and Centre	Roorkee
37.	Uttar Pradesh	Jat Regimental Centre	Bareilly
38.	Uttar Pradesh	Rajput Regimental Centre	Fatehgarh
39.	Uttar Pradesh	Dogra Regimental Centre	Faizabad
40.	Uttar Pradesh	Sikh Light Regimental Centre	Fatehgarh
41.	Uttar Pradesh	39 Gorkha Training Centre	Varanasi
42.	Uttar Pradesh	11 Gorkha Rifles Regimental Centre	Lucknow

[English]

Self Lighting Train Coaches by Konkan Railways

2515. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railways has recently introduced self-lighting train coaches in their division;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to put these coaches in all the railway division across the country

particularly in the South Central Railway in order to make rail travel hazard-free?

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

(b) Lights have been provided on both the sides of coach at foot board level, which automatically light up as soon as the train comes to a halt at a station and automatically switch off when the train leaves the platform.

(c) Adoption of the said system on other Railways is not yet contemplated.

Clearance to Hydro Power Projects of Kerala

2516. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hydro-power projects submitted by the Government of Kerala are pending with the Union Government for clearance;

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

(c) the hydro-power projects cleared by the Government during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) There is no Hydro-electric Project in Kerala pending clearance from Central Electricity Authority/Ministry of Power.

However, with regard to environment clearance, the Puyankutty Hydro-electric project was rejected in January, 1991 as the Project was located in the prime forest area of the Western Ghats. The Project was reviewed by Ministry of Environment & Forests again in 1996 and was rejected by them on the ground of "adverse ecological impact."

The Athirapally Hydro-electric Project was accorded Environment & Forest clearance in 1998 and 1999 respectively. However, the environmental clearance was subsequently suspended on 19.11.2001 as the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala had directed that a Public Hearing should be conducted.

The Mankulam Hydro-electric Project (40 MW) is being considered for forest clearance.

The Detailed Project Report of the Athirapally Hydro Electric Project as returned by the Central Electricity Authority to the Kerala Electricity Board in June, 2002 as essential inputs/details were not tied up. The Government of Kerala has to resubmit the proposal after obtaining the comments of the Central Water Commission.

A total of nine Hydro-electric Project with combined installed capacity of 906 MW have been returned to the

project authorities in Kerala for re-submission due to various reasons like inter-State aspects and location of projects in the Cauvery basin.

The Kuttiyadi Additional Extension (Augmentation) Project (2x50 MW) is programmed for capacity addition in X Plan and is scheduled to be completed in 2006-07.

Details of Hydroelectric schemes along with their installed capacity cleared by the Central Electricity Authority in the last two years and during the current year are given below:

Year	No. of Schemes	Installed Capacity (MW)
2001-02	2	360
2002-03	8	4362
2003-04 (Upto November, 2003)	4	2581

[*Translation*]

Losses Incurred by Oil Companies

2517. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

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

(a) the details of loss incurred or profit earned by the Public Sector Oil Companies during the last three years;

(b) whether the cause of losses in some oil PSUs have been ascertained; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government to check the loss in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The profit earned or the loss incurred by public sector oil companies under this Ministry during the last three years was as under:

(Rs. crore)

Name of PSUs	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	2720.33	2884.66	6114.89
Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	833.00	850.00	1250.00
Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	1088.00	788.00	1537.00

1	2	3	4
Oil & Natural Gas Corp. Ltd.	5229.00	6198.00	10529.00
Oil Indian Ltd.	467.36	525.22	916.73
GAIL (India) Ltd.	1126.17	1185.84	1639.11
Kochi Refineries Ltd.	109.46	68.77	456.00
Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.	-57.44	-198.61	178.45
Engineers India Ltd.	123.85	24.71	64.16
Chennai Petroleum Corp. Ltd.	122.43	63.71	302.89
IBP Co. Ltd.	54.22	195.79	87.75
Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.	21.60	122.98	174.63
Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	6.01	8.00	16.49
Biecco Lawrie Ltd.	-8.67	-10.89	-9.20

2. Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL) and Biecco Lawrie Ltd. have reported loss during the last three years.

- (a) Reasons for loss reported by BRPL were, *inter-alia*, lower crude oil availability and lower refinery margins. Steps taken to improve BRPL's performance include, *inter-alia*, grant of 50% excise duty exemption and allocation of Ravva crude.
- (b) Reasons for loss reported by Biecco Lawrie were, *inter-alia*, lack of demand for electrical equipments, and loss in parallel marketing of SKO. OI DB has extended interest free financial assistance of Rs. 18.5 crore to the Company.

Power Projects Constructed by Tehri Hydro Development Corporation

2518. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power project under construction by the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) would go on stream by March next year;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any water level for the dam has been fixed at Tehri;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Two units of 250 MW each of Tehri Dam & HPP Stage-I (1000 MW) are planned to be commissioned in 2003-04 and the balance two units in 2004-05.

(c) to (e) Water levels of Tehri Dam & HPP will be as under:

Dam Top	—	EL 839.5m
Full Reservoir Level (FRL)	—	EL 83.0m
Minimum Draw Down Level (MDDL)	—	EL 740.0m

[English]

MoU between Railway and Production Units

2519. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Ministry of Railways with the six production units under the Ministry and also approved it, in principle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar step earlier was opposed by the GM/CLW along with other unions and given reply to the question circulated to them by the Railway Board;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government on those replies;

(e) whether most of trade unions have opposed this move as it will curb the activities of the PSU and detach them from Indian Railways as non-core sector; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government and reason for not filling up vacant post which are created in last three years due to retirement of employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Not yet. A draft Memorandum of Understanding for granting more autonomy to Production Units for marketing to Non Railway Customers and exports has been prepared and circulated to all Production units.

(c) and (d) The replies of all the Production Units including CLW (Chittaranjan Locomotive Works) has been received and the suggestions made by them have been examined.

(e) The matter was also discussed with Staff Council, CLW, which is the recognized labour representative body of CLW and their apprehensions were addressed for satisfactory conclusion that the Memorandum does not seek to detach the Production Units from Indian Railways. No other Staff Council of other Five Production Units have expressed their opposition.

(f) The vacancies are filled up as and when the need arises depending on the workload.

[Translation]

Commission Agents

2520. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some persons have been appointed as commission agents on 15% commission by removing

some local commission agents belonging to Schedule Caste families who were getting only 9% as commission on tickets sold particularly at Nangal Railway Station;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the losses of amount incurred so far and to be incurred on these accounts; and

(d) the time by which the commission agents who were in receipt 9% as commission would be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (d) Commission agents were appointed at Naya Nangal Station, at rate of commissions prevailing at the time of appointment and subject to extant instructions.

[English]

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works

2521. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of orders for manufacturing Railway Engines given to the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) during the period of 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) whether as per order from Railway Ministry, C.L.W. was able to manufacture Railway Engines;

(c) whether the Ministry has been importing Engines from outside of the country and the number of Engine imported during the period of 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(d) whether the order for manufacturing of Railway Engines in Chittaranjan Locomotives has been declined; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) The Target and Actual for manufacturing of the Railway Engines at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) during 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 is as under:

1999-00		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
108	120	120	120	73	82	69	69

(c) No, Sir. We have not imported engines during these periods.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Production targets for the production Units are decided on the basis of requirement of rolling stock to meet the requirements of replacement, additional traffic and availability of funds. The target for CLW is decided on the above criteria.

AIR Service in Trains

2522. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 626 dated July 24, 2003 regarding, "AIR service in trains" and to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati's proposal to introduce Live Radio Service on board the trains of Indian Railways via World Space Satellite have been worked out;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that a proposal to introduce live Radio Service on board the trains of Indian Railways had been worked out and a joint experiment has already been conducted to test the quality of reception. The Railways have indicated their desire to broadcast initially instrumental music only.

(c) The process of consultation has not yet concluded.

Circular Trains through South India

2523. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received for running a circular train through South India to boost tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon to connect important South Indian Tourist destinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) The issue of introducing a tourist train covering

the South Indian State capitals was raised in a conference of the South Indian Tourism Ministers held on 5th June, 2003 at Hyderabad. Thereafter, a meeting of the South Indian Tourism Ministers and the South Indian State Tourism Departments with the Railway officials was scheduled to be held in Hyderabad in September 2003. However, the meeting did not take place and there has been no further development in this regard.

Irregularities in allotment of Retail Outlets

2524. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two Judge Committee is looking into the irregularities of allotment of Retail Outlets (RO)/LPG distributorships;

(b) if so, the criteria followed for referring cases to this Committee and the number of cases referred to this Committee;

(c) whether more complaints about irregularities in selection of retail outlets distributorships have been received, for reference to this Committee and the action taken thereon;

(d) the time by which the report of this Committee is likely to be submitted; and

(e) the expenses incurred by the Government/public sector oil companies on this Committee so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The Supreme Court of India vide its judgement, dated 20.12.2002, appointed a Two-Judge Committee, comprising a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India and a retired judge of the High Court of Delhi to examine the cases of selection of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships, which were reported in the media (The Indian Express) during July-August, 2002. The total number of such cases referred by the Supreme Court of India to the said Committee is 414. The Committee is likely to submit its report to the Supreme Court of India within or around the first quarter of the year 2004.

(e) Apart from the engagement of the services of an advocate and a stenographer for assisting the judges, all other secretarial/infrastructural facilities are provided to the Two-Judge Committee by the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). While each of the two judges is

being paid at the rate of Rs. 10,000/- per sitting, the advocate and the stenographer are being paid at the rate of Rs. 25,000/- and Rs. 3,000/- respectively per month. The expenditure incurred on this Committee is being borne by the OMCs.

Juvenile Reforms Homes and Mahila Niketans

2525. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 6608 dated May 8, 2003 regarding Juvenile Reforms Homes and state:

(a) whether the said information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the said information is likely to be collected by the Government; and

(d) the assistance provided by the Government to State Governments or promoters of these homes and

Niketans during the last three years, till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) to (c) Complete information regarding number of Homes for juveniles/children, and Mahila Niketans is still awaited from several States/UTs, who are being constantly remanded. The information will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as received.

(d) Under the scheme, "A Programme for Juvenile Justice", the Government of India provides financial assistance to the extent of 50% of the approved budget, to State Governments and UT Administrations for establishment and maintenance of homes for juveniles in conflict with law, and children in need of care and protection. The assistance provided to State Governments/ UT Administrations under the scheme during the last three years and current year, till date, State/UT-wise, is given in the statement enclosed.

The information relating to Mahila Niketans is being sought and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

State/UT-wise release of grant-in-aid released during the last three years and current year (as on 16.12.2003) under the scheme, A Programme for Juvenile Justice.

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (as on 16.12.2003)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	78.76	112.13	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	-	-	-	-
4.	Bihar	-	30.08	30.31	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	23.56	54.18
6.	Goa	7.33	4.04	4.12	5.88
7.	Gujarat	35.98	47.50	47.59	-
8.	Haryana	25.06	3.09	2.47	23.79
9.	Himachal Pradesh	24.56	-	3.99	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-	-
11.	Jharkhand	-	-	23.84	-
12.	Karnataka	87.00	49.44	51.76	46.65
13.	Kerala	21.30	25.28	12.69	20.34
14.	Madhya Pradesh	159.27	113.58	110.81	106.86
15.	Maharashtra	251.16	710.77	509.15	742.75
16.	Manipur	5.35	-	-	-
17.	Meghalaya	5.62	5.89	7.00	9.13
18.	Mizoram	4.26	8.99	15.91	17.47
19.	Nagaland	6.67	3.22	4.56	4.56
20.	Orissa	-	-	0.42	4.02
21.	Punjab	24.06	13.17	23.04	30.56
22.	Rajasthan	8.00	12.17	9.17	16.18
23.	Sikkim	1.70	1.70	2.03	2.33
24.	Tamil Nadu	118.21	190.51	113.60	-
25.	Tripura	-	-	-	0.04
26.	Uttar Pradesh	184.45	64.95	189.11	127.35
27.	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-
28.	West Bengal	80.00	73.49	83.65	80.84
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-
30.	Chandigarh	3.10	-	-	-
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-
32.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-
33.	Delhi	-	82.03	52.09	69.58
34.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-
35.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-
Total		053.10	1518.86	1433.00	1363.51

Acquisition of Land for Haridaspur-Paradeep Rail Line

2526. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to acquire land for the proposed Haridaspur-Paradeep Line in Orissa;

(b) if so, the total land proposed to be acquired for that line;

(c) the compensation paid to the people whose land is being acquired; and

(d) the time by which the land acquisition work would be completed?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Land papers for 49 out of 86 villages have been submitted to the State Government.

(b) and (c) 1430 acres of land is proposed to be acquired. An amount of Rs. 7.82 crore has so far been paid to the State Government for land acquisition.

(d) The land acquisition is undertaken by the State Government and the matter is constantly being pursued. The actual time of complete land acquisition would depend upon the action taken by the State Government as also the availability of resources.

New Fuel Policy

2527. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI RAMJIWAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated a New Fuel Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) its likely impact on the oil refineries in the country; and

(d) the reaction of the State Governments with regard to new Fuel Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Auto Fuel Policy, lays down a clear cut road map for changes in fuel quality and vehicular technology to attain a given level of emission, besides prescribing ways and means to reduce pollution from in-use vehicles.

(c) The oil refineries are implementing various quality improvement projects to meet the quality specifications by the appointed date.

(d) Nothing specific has been heard from the State Governments on the Auto Fuel Policy as yet.

Allocation of Crude Oil

2528. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether high level meeting has been convened by petroleum secretary for allocation of crude oil for the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details of the decisions taken in the matter;

(c) whether ONGC have been directed not to sell crude oil to private refiners; and

(d) if so, the reasons for taking such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was decided that the crude oil produced in the North-east and PSC crude oil would continue to be allocated on the existing pattern. For other crudes of ONGC, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas would decided allocation amongst the PSU refineries taking into consideration *inter-alia* the factors like requirement of refineries on technical considerations, past allocation etc.

(c) and (d) There is sizable gap between the domestic production of crude oil and the requirement of domestic refineries. During the APM period, many PSU refineries came up taking into consideration domestic crude oil availability. Taking various factories into consideration, it

was decided that the system of allocating domestic crude amongst PSU refineries would need to continue for the time being.

Production of Defence Equipment by Private Sector

2529. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as many as 13 Letters of Intent have been issued to the private sector for production of defence equipment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had decided to meet 70 per cent of the total defence requirement indigenously by 2005;

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

(e) whether it is a fact that no company had availed the offer of the Government allowing 26 per cent of Foreign Direct Investment for commencing manufacturing defence related products; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), in consultation with the Ministry of Defence have so far issued 15 Letters of Intent for manufacture of various types of defence equipment, which include Armoured & Combat Vehicles, Radars, Electronic Warfare equipment, Warships, Submarine, Avionics, Military aircraft, Safety & Ballistic products, armaments and ammunition etc.

(c) and (d) The Government aims to achieve indigenous content in Defence systems to the extent of 70 percent by 2005. To achieve this, the Government has allowed private sector participation in production of Defence items upto 100% with Foreign Direct Investment permissible upto 26%, both subject to licensing.

(e) and (f) Till date, no proposal of Foreign Direct Investment for manufacturing defence related products has been received. It is entirely a decision of the individual entrepreneur depending on his commercial perception, to seek FDI.

Artificial Limbs

2530. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handicapped ex-servicemen participating in athletics are not able to compete with their foreign counterpart due to heavy weight limbs provided by the artificial limbs centre;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to produce ultra modern limbs of low weight;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ex-servicemen are not happy with the technology of limbs provided to them as compared to the new technology of limbs available in the market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Handicapped ex-servicemen have been participating in sports activities and their performance has been creditable. The Artificial Limbs Centre in Pune is a reputed organization that provides artificial limbs to ex-servicemen and others. The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) source their requirements through this center. The quality of this center has been appreciated even abroad and requests from several foreign nations are received for limb figments for their soldiers as also civilians. In addition, continuous research and development efforts are undertaken through various project to upgrade the quality of figments.

2. Artificial limbs given to ex-servicemen are of international quality. These have helped them perform exceptionally well in different competitions. Further, ultra modern limbs available with the Artificial Limbs Center, Pune are provided for the ex-servicemen. If these are not available, the items are procured from the market on need basis. There is, however, marginal difference in weight between different below knee limbs available in market and those sourced from the Artificial Limbs Center, Pune.

Passenger Train Service on Pipavav-Surendranagar B.G. Rail Line

2531. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of Broad Gauge Line from Pipavav Port to Surendranagar has been completed;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to start passenger train service on the said rail line;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The work of the broad gauge line from Pipavav Port to Surendranagar has been completed.

(b) to (d) The freight trains on this section have commenced and passenger trains will commence after completion of some residual works required for getting the section certified fit for passenger operations.

[*Translation*]

CERC for Transmission of Power

2532. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has given free hand to private sector power companies for transmission of power and that the Reliance Energy and Tata Power Company would be most benefited;

(b) if so, whether these companies have made efforts to double their power generation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether due care has been taken by the Government that due to this power generation and supply companies of public sector may not be affected; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Transmission of electricity is a licensed activity as per the electricity Act, 2003. The Appropriate Commission has been empowered to grant licence for the purpose. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has the powers to grant licence for inter-State transmission and the State Electricity Regulatory Commission for intra-

State transmission. Under these power CERC has framed Procedure, Terms & Conditions for grant of transmission licence Regulations prescribing the details of requirement for grant for transmission licence. So far, licence for inter-state transmission has been granted by CERC to only on entity viz., M/s. Powerlinks Transmission Ltd., which is a Joint Venture of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. and Tata Power Company Ltd. No other application for a transmission licence has been received by CERC.

The Electricity Act, 2003 is a progressive legislation that provides for measures conducive to development of electricity industry, promoting competition 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. The new law creates a liberal framework for development of the power sector and reduces entry barriers in different segments of the power supply industry.

The Electricity Act, 2003 has created a positive climate and generated fresh investors' interest in the power sector.

(d) and (e) The Central Electricity Authority has estimated capacity addition to the tune of one lakh megawatt by 2012. In the 10th Plan public sector investment in generation has been stepped up and the outlay for Ministry of Power has gone up to Rs. 1,43,399 crore from Rs. 45,591 Crore in 9th Plan. Of the 41,00 MW of fresh capacity addition in the 10th Plan, 33,989 MW is envisaged in the public sector.

[*English*]

Issue of Ticket on Trains

2533. SHRI A. BRAHMANIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has abandoned the system of issue of tickets to passengers already travelling in trains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways is reconsidering to allow train ticket examiner to issue tickets to passengers while on the trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the difficulty in giving train passengers an opportunity to extend their journeys without paying fresh ticket charges; and

(f) the steps proposed in this regard?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) provisions already exist to issue Excess Fare Tickets in the trains by Ticket Checking Staff.

(e) and (f) Fare for extended journey is charged treating the extended journey as a fresh journey.

Dividend Paid by Oil PSUs

2534. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil Public Sector Undertakings have paid an interim dividend for the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of interim dividend paid by each Oil Public Sector Undertaking to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). Except IBP Co. Ltd. (IBP), no other oil public sector undertaking has paid interim dividend for the year 2003-04. IBP has paid interim dividend @ 100% on its equity share capital. The IBP has paid an interim dividend of Rs. 5.75 crore to the Govt.

Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd., a subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation, has declared interim dividend of 27% on the paid up share capital for the year 2003-04.

Delay in Development of Weapons/Equipments

2535. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in developing the battle tanks, missiles, light combat aircraft and other systems by the DRDO;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and number of years that have taken place in respect of each of these items;

(c) whether any of these items is ready at present to induct in the armed forces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There have been certain delays in major state-of-art systems, (costing Rs. 100 crore and above), undertaken by DRDO. These systems are: Main Battle Tank (MBT) 'Arjun', Guided Missiles, Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas', Kaveri engine for Tejas, Integrated electronic Warfare (EW) system for Army Samyukta and EW systems for Navy Sangraha.

(b) The time taken for indigenous development of these complex systems has been about 20 years for MBT Arjun, LCA Tejas and some of the missiles of IGMDP whereas, for other systems it is about 10 years. The main reasons for delays are listed below:

- Technological complexities and other problems related to technological development.
- Insufficient industrial infrastructure within the country.
- Non-availability of materials, indigenous components and devices. Technology sanctions and embargoes imposed on our R&D establishments and industries.
- Upgradation of qualitative requirements and scope of the projects mid-stream by user Services.
- Long and extended user trials over several years.

(c) and (d) From the projects amongst IGMDP, Prithvi missile for Army is under regular production and it has been inducted into Service. Development work on Prithvi for Air Force has been completed. Naval version Dhanush has been accepted for induction by Navy. Agni class of missiles are in production and induction phase. BrahMos, a joint development missile system, has been accepted for induction by Navy. Samyukta (com segment) has been successfully evaluated by Army. Sub-systems of Sangraha have been inducted by user Services. The other major systems like Tejas, Kaveri engine for Tejas, Trishul, Akash and Nag missiles are in advanced stages of evaluation.

Reservation to Girls in NCC

2536. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Cadet Corps proposes to increase reservation for girls to 33 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether girl cadets get full opportunity to take armed training;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether specialised flying and boating training be imparted to girls cadets; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be imparted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is at present no policy of reservation for girl cadets in the National Cadet Corps (NCC). However, efforts are being made by the NCC to encourage the enrolment of girl cadets. At present girl cadets constitute about 15.9% of the enrolled strength of NCC cadets. Efforts are being made by NCC Directorate to increase the strength of girl cadets further by encouraging composite Units of girls and boys within the existing overall sanctioned strength of cadets.

(c) The girl cadets are provided with every opportunity to undertake armed training.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) and (f) Specialised flying and boating training is already being imparted to the girl cadets. Girl cadets also take an active part in all other adventure-training activities conducted by NCC.

[*Translation*]

Orders for Procurement of Indigenous Defence Equipments

2537. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether orders are not being received from the three wings of armed forces for procurement of

indigenously manufactured advanced defence arms and ammunitions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of orders given by the Armed Forces for procurement of indigenous arms and ammunitions during the last three years, so far;

(d) the number of arms and ammunitions being manufactured in the country for which armed forces have placed the orders to foreign countries;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken by the Government to promote indigenous arms and ammunitions;

(f) whether the quality of indigenous arms and ammunitions are inferior to that of foreign arms and ammunitions; and

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

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

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

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

(d) Nil.

(e) All the three Services have taken up indigenisation efforts for development of advanced arms and ammunitions and their subsequent production indigenously.

(f) No, Sir,

(g) Does not arise in view of answer to (f) above.

[*English*]

DD and AIR in North East

2538. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the package for strengthening Doordarshan and All India Radio infrastructure in the North East which has been approved for implementation during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of stations which have been funded by this package, State-wise;

(c) the amount sanctioned and the amount disbursed towards strengthening of infrastructure, State-wise?

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

SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Government has approved, in principle, the implementation of a special package for expansion & improvement of services of Doordarshan and All India Radio in the North East Region and Island Territories. The details of schemes already approved and under implementation is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Place	Project	Approved Cost	Expenditure till November, 2003
<i>All India Radio</i>				
1.	Guwahati	Upgradation of CES	190.00 lakhs	102.00 lakhs
2.	Shillong	Upgradation of CES	190.00 lakhs	102.00 lakhs
3.	Itanagar	Upgradation of CES 10 KW FM Tr. & Studio	190.00 lakhs 520.00 lakhs	101.00 lakhs 185.91 lakhs
4.	Kohima	10 KW FM Tr. Studio & S/Qrs.	540.00 lakhs	12.00 lakhs
5.	Port Blair	10 KW FM Tr. Studio & S/Qrs.	520.00 lakhs	174.00 lakhs
<i>Doordarshan</i>				
1.		Cable Headends in 160 villages (20 in each of eight NE states)	715 lakhs	712 lakhs
2.		Upgradation of 5 HPTs (1KW to 10 KW) at Shillong, Kohima, Imphal, Aizwl & Itanagar	2270 lakhs	992 lakhs
3.		Satellite earth stations at Aizwal and Shillong	1502 lakhs	787 lakhs
4.		Satellite videophones	165 lakhs	181 lakhs

Rail Projects in Orissa

2539. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of various new/on-going/pending rail projects and surveys in Orissa, project-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred on each of the project;

(c) whether some projects are lagging behind schedule;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government has received complaints regarding substandard and low grade materials are being used in some rail projects in Orissa;

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

(g) the steps taken by the Government for expeditiously completion of rail projects in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) and (b) The project-wise progress, expenditure incurred up to 31/03/2003 and budget allocation during 2003-04 for various on-going New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, and Railway Electrification works in Orissa and also the status of various ongoing survey works in the State are given as under:

S. No.	Name of the Project	Present Status	Expenditure incurred up to 31/03/2003 (Rs. in crores)	Budget allocation during 2003-04 (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
<i>New Lines</i>				
1.	Daitari-Banspani (155 Km)	The line from Banspani to Joruli (11 Km) has been completed. On the rest of the section, earthwork, bridgework, and other ancillary works are in progress. The section from Joruli to Keonjhar (48 Km) is fast nearing completion. The entire project is targeted for completion during 2004-05.	367.10	75.00
2.	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh (56 Km)	Land has been acquired partially. In phase-I, work has been taken up from Lanjigarh to Bhawanipatna (31 Km), where earthwork and bridgework are in progress.	17.55	5.00
3.	Khurda Road-Bolangir (289 Km)	Final Location Survey has been completed partially. Land has been acquired partially. Work is in progress on a length of 2.5 Km from Khurda Road end, where the land is available with the Railway.	17.86	15.00
4.	Haridaspur-Paradeep (82 Km)	Final Location Survey and soil investigation of major bridges have been completed. Land has been acquired partially. The project is being implemented under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY).	19.74	20.00
5.	Angul-Sukinda Road (98.7 Km)	Final Location Survey and soil investigation for all major bridges have been completed.	0.64	2.00
<i>Gauge Conversion</i>				
1.	Rupsa-Bangriposi (89 Km)	In phase-I, gauge conversion of Rupsa-Baripada (52 Km) section is planned, where earthwork and bridgework are in progress.	12.30	10.00
2.	Naupada-Gunupur (90 Km)	Land acquisition is in progress. Contracts for earthwork and bridges for 25 Km have been awarded and the work is in progress.	3.27	15.00

1	2	3	4	5
<i>Doubling</i>				
1.	Rajathgarh-Nergundi (28 Km)	Section from Rajathgarh to Salegaon has been completed. The balance section from Salegaon to Nergundi (6 Km) is targeted for completion during 2003-04.	80.65	1.00
2.	Raghunathpur-Rahama (28.4 Km)	The project has been completed & commissioned.	67.87	0.01
3.	Nergundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur (43 Km)	Kapilas Road-Nergundi-Birupa Cabin section has been completed. Earthwork and minor bridges are in progress on Nergundi Kendrapara Road and Nergundi-Cuttack sections.	90.60	15.00
4.	Rahama-Paradeep (23 Km)	Overall progress of work is 85% and the project is targeted for completion in 2003-04.	40.60	15.00
5.	2nd Bridges on Mahanadi & Birupa (3 Km)	Overall progress of work is 48% on the 2nd bridge on river Birupa. The 2nd bridge on river Mahandi is being implemented under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY), for which tenders have been processed.	11.00	20.00
6.	Lanjigarh-Titlagarh (47 Km)	Kesinga-Norla Road (23 Km) and Norla Road - Lanjigarh (11 Km) sections are targeted for completion during 2003-04. Earthwork and bridgework are in progress on rest of the section.	60.10	16.00
7.	Rajathgarh-Barang (20 Km)	Final Location Survey and geo-technical investigation of all major bridges have been completed. Land acquisition is in progress. The project is being implemented under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY).	1.24	10.00
8.	Khurda Road-Puri (Phase-I) (15.3 Km)	Earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress. Work is in progress for station buildings at Haripur, Motari and Delang.	15.84	5.00
9.	Sambalpur-Rengali (22.7 Km)	Final Location Survey has been completed. Estimate is under process.	0.15	2.00
10.	Jharsuguda Bypass Line (8.73 Km)	Final Location Survey has been completed. Preparation of plans and estimates has been taken up.	0	2.00
11.	Cuttack-Barang (12 Km)	New work included in the Budget 2003-04. Preparation of plans and estimates has been	0	10.00

1	2	3	4	5
		taken up. the project is being implemented under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY).		
12.	Khurda Road-Barang 3rd Line (35 Km)	New work included in the Budget 2003-04. Preparation of plans and estimates has been taken up. The project is being implemented under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY).	0	10.00
<i>Railway Electrification</i>				
1.	Kharagpur/Nimpura-Bhubaneswar including branch line of Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep (540 Route Km)	The work is now being implemented under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY) and is targeted for completion during 2004-05.	232.82	40.00
2.	Bhubaneswar-Kottavalasa including Khurda Road-Puri (470 Route Km)	The work is targeted of completion during 2004-05.	276.49	15.00

The various ongoing surveys in Orissa are as under:

1. Jeypore-Malkangiri New Line.
2. Strengthening of Suburban Transport System between Cuttack and Bhubaneswar.
3. Titlagarh-Jharsuguda Doubling.
4. Titlagarh-Raipur Doubling on R-V Line.
5. Chakradharpur-Bondamunda 3rd Line.

In addition, the surveys for following New Lines have been completed, but the projects could not be considered for being taken up in view of acute constraint of resources:

1. Talcher-Gopalpur New Line.
2. Phulbani-Berhampur New Line.
3. Baragarh-Nawpada Road New Line.
4. Jeypore-Nawarangpur New Line.
5. Raipur-Jharsuguda New Line via Khartapalan, Baloda Bazar, Batgaon and Sarangarh.

As regards Talcher-Bimlagarh New Line, a proposal has been sent to the Planning Commission for according 'in-principle' approval.

The survey for Khurda Road-Puri Doubling has also been completed.

(c), (d) and (g) 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.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A case involving supply of poor quality of ballast by the contractor was investigated by CBI in the year 2000. Disciplinary proceedings against the two railway officials, who were found responsible, have been initiated.

Acquisition of Land for Panihar-Mohan and Mohana-Khujari Project

2540. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to material modification and delays in acquisition of land for Panihar-Mohana and Mohana-Khujari there had been excess over estimates due to costing and time overrun;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not acquiring the land on time; and

(d) the steps taken to make the authorities accountable and responsible for dereliction in the efficient performance of their duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) The estimated cost of construction of rail line between Shivpuri-Gwalior (124.55 km) as per final location survey was Rs. 106.187 crore. Panihar-Mohana (38 km) and Mohana-Khajuri (45.8 km) falls on Shivpuri-Gwalior section. The work progressed as per availability of resources and the actual expenditure was Rs. 148.02 crore on this stretch. The increase in cost includes escalation during the intervening period and also the material modification costing Rs. 4.18 crore due to upgradation of signalling standards.

(c) and (d) The land acquisition process had been timely initiated. There is no delay in acquisition of land on Railway's account. However, there had been delay in clearance of forest land.

Failure of Locomotives on line

2541. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to improper maintenance of engines there has been failure of locomotives on line;

(b) if so, the number of locomotives failed in each of the last three years and were the failures enquired into; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure that no locomotive put on line without satisfying its being in perfect order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indian Railways have a well established system of preventive maintenance to ensure reliable performance of locomotives. However, some locomotive failures do take place for a variety of reasons such as material failure, bad workmanship, mishandling by crew, quality of manufacture and inadequacies of design etc. Locomotive failures in terms of number of cases per month for the last 3 years are given below:

Year	No. of cases/100 loco/month		%improvement over last year	
	Diesel	Electric	Diesel	Electric
2000-01	14.4	15.6	—	—
2001-02	12.6	12.7	12.5	18.6
2002-03	11.5	12.4	8.7	2.4

(c) Indian Railways have a comprehensive preventive schedule for the maintenance of locomotives in sheds and shops. In addition, every failure is properly investigated and appropriate corrective action taken.

[Translation]

Agreement with France for Development of Weapon System

2542. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed an agreement with France for production of weapon system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to set up a manufacturing unit to manufacture Mirage-2000 5s aircraft under production licence; 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) There is a proposal to purchase and set up indigenous manufacturing capacity for Mirage 2000 Mk II Aircraft. However, no decision has been taken by the Government in this regard.

[English]

Build Own Operate Transfer Model

2543. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Power has proposed a build own operate transfer model on the lines of the National Highway Project and build lease operate transfer mechanism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stage at which the proposal stand at present;

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which it is likely to helpful to achieve the goal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) A proposal for private sector participation in the power sector on "Build, Own, Operate & Transfer" (BOOT)/Build, Lease, Operate & Transfer" (BLOT) model has been mooted by the Ministry of Power. The proposal is at a preliminary stage and no decision has been taken. A final decision can only be taken after due inter-ministerial consultations and considerations.

Foreign Exchange Earnings/Outgo of ONGC

2544. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign exchange earned and spent by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) during the last three years; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to check outgo of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) During the last three years, i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., (ONGC) had foreign exchange earnings of Rs. 151.90 crores, Rs. 106.55 crores and Rs. 159.20 crores respectively. During the corresponding periods, ONGC had spent Rs. 5369.87 crores, Rs. 3488.86 crores and Rs. 5572.85 crores respectively by way of foreign exchange outgo.

(b) A number of measures have been taken by ONGC to reduce foreign exchange outgo for its operations. These, inter alia, include pre-payment of loans, reduction in foreign currency loans, prudent financial management, purchase preference to Indian Public Sector

Undertakings, preferences to Indian Flag Vessels and various research and development activities to abridge critical gaps in technology.

Procedure for awarding Advertising Campaign

2545. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether at present there is no standard procedure for awarding advertising campaign;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is considering to make public service advertisements a transparent procedure; and

(d) if so, the salient feature thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Advertising campaigns are launched as per the requirements of the client Ministries/Departments in accordance with the guidelines as laid down in the Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with DAVP in respect of advertisements in print media and Guidelines for Empanelment of Audio-Video Producers with DAVP in respect of production and broadcast/telecast of audio-visual programmes/ advertisements. These guidelines are also available on DAVP's website-www.davp.nic.in.

Investors for Rail Projects

2546. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited is attracting investors for railways development programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof of the thrust areas;

(c) the details of projects and schemes identified for private investment in this regard; and

(d) the details of companies/private investors who have shown interest in these projects?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) is implementing projects identified for Golden Quadrilateral and Port Connectivity strengthening under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY). Investment through equity route, in project specific Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) route and issue of Bonds is envisaged.

(c) and (d) Gandhidham-Palanpur Gauge Conversion and Hassan-Mangalore Gauge Conversion projects have so far been identified for private investment through equity route. Four stakeholders have shown interest in equity participation for these two projects. Other projects for private participation will also be identified further.

E-Tendering

2547. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement e-Tendering of Railways works;

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

(c) whether any committee set up by Railway Board in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railway Board has given permission to East Central Railway for processing 5 tenders through

e-tendering system on experimental basis. This is to ensure fair and transparent tendering process using modern technology.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A committee of Northern Railway officers was set up to look into various aspects of e-tendering system for exploring the possibility of its application both for works and store supply tenders. Based on the recommendations, Ministry of Railways has asked Northern Railway to implement the system on larger scale for its proper evaluation.

Manufacturing of Coaches

2548. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has placed orders to Jessop and Company Limited, Kolkata to produce 54 coaches and 324 BOXN HS/BRNA wagons during 2003 with a commitment for another 81 odd coaches next fiscal;

(b) if so, whether M/s Jessop and Company Limited which was manufacturing three-four coaches in a month is able to produce such bulky orders, after the disinvestment, as per the schedule;

(c) if so, the details of delivery of wagons and coaches per month to Railway by Jeessop; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to get timely delivery of coaches and wagons from M/s Jessop and Company Limited?

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

(a) and (b) Orders for manufacture and supply of only 36 ACEMU coaches and 324 BOXN HS/BRNA wagons were placed on M/s Jessop and Company Limited, Kolkata for 2003-04, prior to disinvestment. There is no commitment for placement of order for another 81 coaches.

(c) Production of wagons and ACEMU coaches by the company in 2003-04 is as under:

Month	April'03	May'03	June'03	July'03	Aug.'03	Sept.'03	Oct.'03	Nov.'03
Wagons	30*	32*	Nil	Nil	Nil	22	08	10
Coaches	Nil	01*	06*	01*	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

*Production against old order.

(d) The firm has been impressed upon to expedite the manufacture and supply of coaches and wagons.

Recruitment of Additional Workers

2549. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a part of the safety measures taken by the Railways it propose to recruit 70,000-75,000 additional workers shortly;

(b) if so, the category of employees to be recruited and by what time the process is likely to be completed;

(c) whether the Railways had earlier decided to down size the staff strength from 15.1 lacs to 12 lacs by 2010;

(d) whether in view of the position at (a) above the Government propose to review its policy of down sizing the employees strength; and

(e) if so, the policy of the Railways with regard to the down sizing vis-a-vis the fresh recruitments to be made?

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

(a) and (b) At present Railways propose to recruit around 20,000 Group 'D' personnel. The process of recruitment was scheduled to be completed by February' 2004. However, in view of the recent incidents in Assam, Bihar and Mumbai, the process may be completed by mid 2004.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Indian Railways have planned to rightsize staff strength in the organization by controlling fresh recruitment against vacancies caused by natural attrition. Railways being a dynamic organization whose network, services are constantly increasing categories related to safety/operations/security require to be filled up/augmented on a regular basis. To maintain reliable services, Railways have decided to strengthen their staff in these categories as per requirements. The process of rightsizing will however continue for the categories other than those which fall under safety, security & operational needs. Staff identified as surplus in such other categories will be suitably redeployed after retraining them and ensuring that they comply with the medical category required for the category where they will be redeployed.

[*Translation*]

NCES Projects in Rajasthan

2550. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Projects relating to Non-Conventional Energy Sources being implemented in Rajasthan;

(b) the funds allocated for implementation of these projects;

(c) the quantum of electricity being generated in the State through those projects; and

(d) the names of such projects proposed to be set up in Rajasthan in order to meet the shortage of electricity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Various projects/programmes based on wind, solar, small hydro and biomass for harnessing energy are being implemented throughout the country, including Rajasthan.

(b) A total amount of Rs. 7.84 crore has been released under these projects/programmes during 2002-03 to Rajasthan.

(c) About 93 million units of electricity have been generated through the renewable power projects during 2002-03 in Rajasthan.

(d) An Integrated Solar Combined Cycle Power Project of 140 MW capacity of which 35 MW is through solar thermal energy is proposed to be set up at Mathania near Jodhpur in Rajasthan depending upon its techno-economic feasibility.

[*English*]

Power Crisis in Assam

2551. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam though facing a serious power crisis, is not likely to get any benefit from the Lower Subansiri Hydro Electric Project of the National

Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), despite its location in Assam;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the electricity to be generated thereby is to be shared amongst different States; and

(d) if so, the steps taken and being taken to secure its due share to Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The Subansiri Lower Hydro-electric Project (2000 MW) is being implemented by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) in the Central Sector in Arunachal Pradesh. The left bank of the dam will be in the State of Assam and the right bank of the dam and power house will be in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. The project is scheduled to be completed by September, 2010.

Before commissioning of the project, the power from the project would be allocated to the beneficiary States including Assam, in accordance with their entitlement under the Central Sector Power Sharing formula at the tariff to be fixed by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission for which NHPC has to enter into legally binding arrangements with all the beneficiary States for purchase of power. While Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Orissa, Sikkim and Damodar Valley Corporation have already signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with NHPC for power of the project, Government of Assam and other North Eastern States are yet to sign the same.

FM Radio Station at Konni in Kerala

2552. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided for opening an FM Radio Station at Konni in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the type of the FM station is coming at Konni;

(c) the facilities proposed to be provided; and

(d) the total amount of money estimated for this purpose?

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

SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) A 5 KW FM Transmitter, with field production facility and staff quarters, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 4.0 crores has been proposed for Konni in the 10th Five Year Plan.

Retail Outlets of IOCL in Delhi

2553. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of any irregularities/contradictions in finalization of various IOCL tenders invited by Delhi State Office regarding Retail Outlets of IOCL in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against officers involved in violation of terms and conditions of tender while finalizing it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) References were received, bringing out the issue of certain irregularities/shortcomings in the public tender invited by the Delhi State Office of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) for finalization of rate contract for carrying out special works at the retail outlets (petrol pumps). The matter was examined by IOC and it was found that the issues raised, regarding clarity in specifications, were of minor nature and could have been generally clarified to the bidders during the techno-commercial bid evaluation. It was also observed that there was no shortcoming in the schedule of rates of the tender. Also, while finalizing the tenders, no violation of terms and conditions of tenders has been observed with regard to the tenders issued by the company's Delhi State Office.

Renewal of Registration in Disability Area

2554. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to keep a check on the quality of education in the disability sector in the country, the Rehabilitation Council of India has announced that it has made it mandatory for all registered professionals/personnel working in the disability area to review their registration and apply for re-certification after every seven years;

(b) if so, the new guidelines issued in this regard;

(c) the extent to which this will help in upgrading education in disability sector;

(d) the number of special education teachers and other professionals trained and registered with the Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main features of the guidelines made by the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) for re-evaluation of registration are as under:

(i) The registration of all Rehabilitation Professionals/Personnel except those who have been registered on the basis of Bridge Course and DPEP Foundation course will be considered for re-evaluation after seven years; and

(ii) Every individual registered in the Central Rehabilitation Register is required to attend at least two programmes approved by the RCI under Continuous Rehabilitation Education (CRE) Programme/Refresher Programme/Seminar/Workshop in the field of rehabilitation, to qualify for re-evaluation of registration.

(c) It is expected that the CRE will help professionals/personnel in updating their knowledge and keeping abreast of new developments, innovations and inventions that are

taking place in the field of disability. This will ensure that a high degree of professionalism is maintained by the persons registered to work in the different areas of rehabilitation.

(d) The number of special education teachers and other professionals/personnel registered as on 30.11.2003 is as under:

Special Teachers	—	10,060
Others	—	13,632.

Contracts for Catering

2555. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of trains with Pantry Car facilities and the details of catering contractors awarded contract for supply of food in this long distance trains including trains playing in and out of Tamil Nadu during the last three years, till date; and

(b) the tenure and amount for which these contracts have been awarded to various catering contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) A list of trains of all Indian Railways, which covers Tamil Nadu also, with pantry car facilities is given in the statement. The details of individual contracts and the contractors are voluminous and are not maintained in the Ministry.

Statement

Rajdhani Trains Running with Pantry CARS

S.No.	Primary Maintenance with	Train No.	Train Name
1	2	3	4
1.	E.R.	2305/2306	New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Exp. Via Patna
2.	E.R.	2309/2310	New Delhi-Patna Rajdhani Exp.
3.	E.R.	2313/2314	New Delhi-Sealdah Rajdhani Exp.
4.	E.R.	2301/2302	New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Exp.-Via Gaya
5.	N.R.	2421/2422	New Delhi-Bhubneshwar Rajdhani Exp.
6.	N.R.	2429/2430	New Delhi-Bangalore Rajdhani (2 rakes By SR & 2 By NR)

1	2	3	4
7.	N.R.	2423/2424	Dibrugarh Town/Guwahati-New Delhi Rajdhani Exp.
8.	N.R.	2435/2436	Dibrugarh Town/Guwahati-New Delhi Rajdhani Exp.
9.	N.R.	2437/2438	Secunderabad-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Exp.
10.	N.R.	2439/2440	New Delhi-Ranchi Rajdhani Exp.
11.	N.R.	2441/2442	Bilaspur-New Delhi Rajdhani Exp.
12.	N.R.	2443/2444	Bhubneshwar-New Delhi Rajdhani Exp.
13.	S.R.	2425/2426	New Delhi-Jammu Tawi Rajdhani Exp. (Weekly)
14.	S.R.	2431/2432	Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Exp.
15.	S.R.	2433/2434	Nizamuddin-Chennai Rajdhani Exp.
16.	W.R.	2957/2958	Ahmedabad-New Delhi Rajdhani Exp.
17.	W.R.	2951/2952	New Delhi-Mumbai Central Rajdhani Exp.
18.	W.R.	2953/2954	New Delhi-Mumbai Central A.K. Rajdhani Exp.

Abbreviation: CR-Central Railway; ER-Eastern Railway; NR-Northern Railway

NE—North Eastern Railway; NF-Northeast Frontier Railway;

SR—Southern Railway; SC—South Central Railway;

SE—South Eastern Railway; WR—Western Railway;

KRC—Konkan Railway Corporation.

Mail/Express Trains Running with Pantry Cars

S. No.	Primary Maintenance with	Train No.	Name of Train
1	2	3	4
1.	KRC	0103/0104	Mumbai-Madgoan Mandovi Exp.
2.	KRC	0111/0112	Mumbai-Madgoan Konkan Kanya Exp.
3.	C.R.	1007/1008	Mumbai-Pune Deccan Exp.
4.	C.R.	1009/1010	Mumbai-Pune Sinhagad Exp.
5.	C.R.	1015/1016	Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-GKP Kushinagar Exp.
6.	C.R.	1019/1020	Mumbai-Bhubaneshwar Konark Exp.
7.	C.R.	1021/1022	Mumbai-Pune Indrayani Exp.
8.	C.R.	1025/1026	Mumbai-Pune Pragati Exp.
9.	C.R.	1031/1032	Pune-Varanasi Exp.
10.	C.R.	1033/1034	Pune-Darbhanga Exp.

1	2	3	4
11.	C.R.	1063/1064	Dadar-Chennai Exp.
12.	C.R.	1077/1078	Pune-Jammu Tawi Jhelum Exp.
13.	C.R.	1081/1082	Mumbai-Kanyakumari Exp.
14.	C.R.	1401/1402	Mumbai-Manmad Panchavati Exp.
15.	E.R.	3005/3006	Howrah-Amritsar Exp.
16.	E.R.	3029/3030	Howrah-Dhanbad Coalfield Exp.
17.	E.R.	3073/3074	Howrah-Jammu Tawi Himgiri Exp.
18.	E.R.	3151/3152	Sealdah-Jammu Tawi Exp.
19.	E.R.	3201/3202	Rajendra Nagar-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Exp.
20.	E.R.	3317/3318	Howrah-Dhanbad Black Diamond Exp.
21.	E.R.	3351/3352	Dhanbad/Tata Nagar-Alleppey Exp.
22.	N.R.	4055/4056	Delhi-Dibrugarh Town Brahmaputra Mail
23.	N.R.	4083/4084	Delhi-New Jalpaiguri/Katihar Mahananda Exp.
24.	N.R.	4257/4258	New Delhi-Varanasi Kashi-Vishwanath Exp.
25.	N.R.	4659/4660	New Delhi-Amritsar Exp.
26.	N.R.	4681/4682	New Delhi-Jalandhar Exp.
27.	N.E.	5011/5012	Gorakhpur-Trivandrum Raptisagar Exp. (Tri weekly)
28.	N.E.	5045/5046	Gorakhpur-Okha Exp. (weekly)
29.	N.E.	5063/5064	Gorakhpur-Bandra Awadh Exp. (4 Days)
30.	N.E.	5087/5088	Gorakhpur-Jammu Tawi Amarnath Exp. (Weekly)
31.	N.E.	5089/5090	Secundrabad-Gorakhpur Exp. (weekly)
32.	N.E.	5091/5092	Bangalore-Gorakhpur Express (weekly)
33.	N.E.	5097/5098	Barauni-Jammu Tawi Exp. (weekly)
34.	N.E.	5205/5206	Muzafarpur-New Delhi Lichhavi Exp.
35.	N.E.	5217/5218	Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Muzafarpur Exp. (4 Days)
36.	N.E.	5219/5220	Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-Darbhanga Exp. (3 Days)
37.	N.E.	5221/5222	Emakulam-Barani Express
38.	N.E.	5263/5264	Muzafarpur-Bandra Awadh Exp. (Tri Week)
39.	N.F.	5604/5603	Guwahati-Tinsukia Lido Intercity Exp.
40.	N.F.	5609/5610	Guwahati-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Awadh Assam Exp.
41.	N.F.	5621/5622	Guwahati-New Delhi North East Exp.

1	2	3	4
42.	N.F.	5623/0624	Ernakulam-Guwahati Exp.
43.	N.F.	5625/5626	Bangalore-Guwahati Exp.
44.	N.F.	5627/5628	Trivandrum-Guwahati Exp.
45.	N.F.	5629/5630	Guwahati-Chennai Exp.
46.	N.F.	5631/5632	Guwahati-Jodhpur/Bikaner Exp.
47.	N.F.	5645/5646	Guwahati-Dadar Exp.
48.	N.F.	5647/5648	Guwahati-Dadar Exp. (Via Malda Town)
49.	N.F.	5651/5652	Guwahati-Jammu Tawi Lohit Exp.
50.	N.F.	5653/5654	Guwahati-Jammu Tawi Exp. (Weekly)
51.	N.F.	5657/5658	Sealdah-Guwahati Kanchanjunga Exp.
52.	N.F.	5959/5960	Howrah-Dibrugarh Town Kamrup Exp.
53.	S.R.	6009/6010	Chennai-Mumbai Mail
54.	S.R.	6011/6012	Chennai-Mumbai Exp.
55.	S.R.	6023/6024	Chennai-Bangalore Exp.
56.	S.R.	6039/6040	Chennai-Varanasi Ganga Kaveri Exp.
57.	S.R.	6045/6046	Ahmedabad-Chennai Navjeevan Express
58.	S.R.	6127/6128	Chennai Egmore-Guruvayur Express
59.	S.R.	6217/6218	Mysore-Nizamuddin Swarna Jayanti Exp.
60.	S.R.	6301/6302	Shoranur-Trivandrum Venad Exp.
61.	S.R.	6303/6304	Ernakulam-Trivandrum Vanchinad Exp.
62.	S.R.	6309/6310	Ernakulam-Patna/Rajendranagar Exp. (weekly)
63.	S.R.	6317/6318	Kanyakumari-Jammu Tawi Himsagar Exp.
64.	S.R.	6323/6324	Trivandrum-Howrah Exp. (Bi Weekly)
65.	S.R.	6325/6326	Indore-Trivandrum Ahilya Nagri Exp. (Weekly)
66.	S.R.	6327/6328	Trivandrum-Bilaspur Exp. (Bi-weekly)
67.	S.R.	6331/6332	Trivandrum-Mumbai Exp. (Weekly)
68.	S.R.	6333/6334	Trivandrum-Hapa Exp. (Weekly)
69.	S.R.	6635/6636	Gandhidham-Nagercoil Exp. (Weekly)
70.	S.R.	6337/6338	Ernakulam-Okha Exp. (Bi-weekly)
71.	S.R.	6339/6340	Nagercoil-Mumbai Exp.
72.	S.R.	6341/6342	Trivandrum-Ernakulam Intercity Exp.

1	2	3	4
73.	S.R.	6345/6346	Lokmnya Tilak Terminus-Trivandrum Netravati Exp
74.	S.R.	6349/6350	Trivandrum-Mangalore Parasuram Exp.
75.	S.R.	6351/6352	Tirupati-Nagercoil Exp.
76.	S.R.	6353/6354	Mumbai-Tirupati Exp.
77.	S.R.	6355/6346	Kanyakumari-Howrah Exp.
78.	S.R.	6501/6502	Ahmedabad-Bangalore Exp.
79.	S.R.	6505/6506	Bangalore-Gandhidham Exp.
80.	S.R.	6507/6508	Bangalore-Jodhpur Exp.
81.	S.R.	6509/6510	Ajmer-Bangalore Exp.
82.	S.R.	6595/6596	Yesvantpur-Rajendernagar Sangamitra Exp.
83.	S.R.	6687/6688	Mangalore-Jammu Tawi Navyug Exp.
84.	S.R.	6803/6804	Howrah-Tiruchchi Exp.
85.	S.C.	7017/7018	Secunderabad-Rajkot Exp.
86.	S.C.	7021/7022	Nizammuddin-Hyderabad Dakshin Exp.
87.	S.C.	7029/7030	Ernakulam-Hyderabad Sabari Exp.
88.	S.C.	7685/7686	Kacheguda-Bangalore Exp.
89.	S.C.	7617/7618	Mumbai-Nanded Tapovan Exp.
90.	S.E.	8003/8004	Howrah-Yesvanpur Exp.
91.	S.E.	8033/8034	Ahmedabad-Howrah Express
92.	S.E.	8101/8102	Tata/Hatia-Jammu Tawi Muri Exp,
93.	S.E.	8113/8114	Howrah-Tata Nagar Steel Exp.
94.	S.E.	8237/8238	Bilaspur-Amritsar Chhattisgarh Exp.
95.	S.E.	8111/8112	Howrah-Sambalpur Ispat Exp.
96.	S.E.	8401/8402	Puri-Okha Exp.
97.	S.E.	8403/8404	Puri-Ahmedabad Exp.
98.	S.E.	8405/8406	Puri-Ahmedabad Exp.
99.	S.E.	8407/8408	Bhubaneshwar-Nizammuddin Hirakud Exp.
100.	S.E.	8475/8476	Puri-New Delhi Neelachal Exp.
101.	S.E.	8477/8478	Nizammuddin-Puri Kalinga Utkal Exp.
102.	S.E.	8603/8604	Hatia-Delhi Swama Jayanthi Exp.
103.	S.E.	8605/8606	Hati-Delhi Jharkhand Swama Jay. Exp.

1	2	3	4
104.	W.R.	9007/9008	Bandra Terminus-Jaipur Aravali Exp.
105.	W.R.	9011/9012	Mumbai Central-Ahemadabad Gujarat Exp.
106.	W.R.	9021/9022	Mumbai Central-Surat Flying Ranee Exp.
107.	W.R.	9045/9046	Surat-Varanasi Tapti Ganga Exp.
108.	W.R.	9047/9048	Surat-Bhagalpur Tapti Ganga Exp.
109.	W.R.	9367/9368	Indore-Jammu Tawi Malwa Exp.
110.	W.R.	9769/9770	Jaipur-Puma Exp.
111.	W.R.	9775/9776	Jaipur-Bangalore Exp.

List of Superfast Trains having Pantry Cars

S.No.	Primary Maintenance with	Train No.	Train
1	2	3	4
1.	C.R.	2101/2102	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Howrah Janeshwari Exp.
2.	C.R.	2103/2104	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Nagpur Samarasta Exp.
3.	C.R.	2123/2124	Mumbai-Puri Deccan Queen Exp.
4.	C.R.	2129/2130	Pune-Howrah Azad Hind Exp.
5.	C.R.	2131/2132	Pune-Nagpur Express
6.	C.R.	2133/2134	Mumbai-Lucknow Exp.
7.	C.R.	2137/2138	Mumbai-Firozpur Punjab Mail
8.	C.R.	2141/2142	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Varanasi Exp.
9.	C.R.	2165/2166	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Varanasi Exp.
10.	E.R.	2303/2304	New Delhi-Howrah Poorva Exp.-Via Patna
11.	E.R.	2307/2308	Howrah-Jodhpur/Bikaner Exp.
12.	E.R.	2311/2312	Howrah-Kalka Mail
13.	E.R.	2321/2322	Howrah-Mumbai Mail
14.	E.R.	2381/2382	Howrah-New Delhi Poorva Exp.-Via Gaya
15.	E.R.	2391/2392	New Delhi-Patna Magadh Exp.
16.	E.R.	2393/2394	Patna-New Delhi Sampooma Kranti Exp.
17.	E.R.	2401/2402	New Delhi-Patna Shramjivi Exp.
18.	N.R.	2419/2420	New Delhi-Lucknow Gomti Exp.

1	2	3	4
19.	N.R.	2471/2472	Mumbai Central-Jammu Tawi Swaraj Exp.
20.	N.R.	2473/2474	Ahemadabad-Jammu Tawi Sarvodaya Exp.
21.	N.R.	2475/2476	Hapa-Jammu Tawi Exp.
22.	N.R.	2477/2478	Jamnagar-Jammu Tawi Exp.
23.	N.E.	2553/2554	Barauni-New Delhi Vaishali Exp.
24.	N.E.	2557/2558	Delhi-Muzafarpur Sapt Kranti Exp.
25.	N.E.	2559/2560	New Delhi-Varanasi Shiv Ganga Exp.
26.	S.R.	2605/2606	Chennai Egmore-Tiruchchi Pallavan Exp.
27.	S.R.	2607/2608	Chennai-Bangalore Lalbagh Exp.
28.	S.R.	2615/2616	Chennai-New Delhi Grand Trunk Exp.
29.	S.R.	2617/2618	Erakulam-Nizamuddin Mangala Lakshadweep Exp.
30.	S.R.	2621/2622	Chennai-New Delhi Tamil Nadu Exp.
31.	S.R.	2625/2626	Trivandrum-New Delhi Kerala Exp.
32.	S.R.	2627/2628	Bangalore-New Delhi Kamataka Exp.
33.	S.R.	2635/2636	Chennai-Madhurai Vaigai Exp.
34.	S.R.	2639/2640	Chennai-Bangalore Brindavan Exp.
35.	S.R.	2641/2642	Nizamuddin-Kanyakumari Thirukkural Exp.
36.	S.R.	2643/2644	Trivandrum-Nizamuddin Exp. (Weekly)
37.	S.R.	2675/2676	Coimbatore-Chennai Kovai Exp.
38.	S.R.	2677/2678	Bangalore-Coimbatore Intercity Exp.
39.	S.R.	2679/2680	Chennai-Coimbatore Intercity Exp.
40.	S.C.	2703/2704	Secundrabad-Howrah Faluknuma Exp.
41.	S.C.	2711/2712	Vijayawada-Chennai Pinakini Exp.
42.	S.C.	2713/2714	Secundrabad-Vijayawada Satvahana Exp.
43.	S.C.	2715/2716	Nanded-Amritsar Sachkhand Exp.
44.	S.C.	2717/1718	Vishakhapatnam-Vijayawada Ratnachal Exp.
45.	S.C.	2723/2724	Hyderabad-New Delhi A.P. Exp.
46.	S.C.	2779/2780	Nizamuddin-Vasco De Gama Goa Exp.
47.	S.E.	2801/2802	Nizamuddin-Puri Purshottam Exp.
48.	S.E.	2803/2804	Vishakhapatnam-Nizamuddin Swarna Jayanti Exp.
49.	S.E.	2807/2808	Vishakhapatnam-Nizamuddin Samata Exp.

1	2	3	4
50.	S.E.	2809/2810	Mumbai-Howrah Mail
51.	S.E.	2815/2816	Pur-New Delhi Exp.
52.	S.E.	2821/2822	Bhubaneshwar-Howrah Dhauli Exp.
53.	S.E.	2841/2842	Howrah-Chennai Coromandal Exp.
54.	S.E.	2859/2860	Mumbai-Howrah Gitanjali Exp.
55.	W.R.	2903/2904	Mumbai Central-Amritsar Golden Temple Mail
56.	W.R.	2925/2926	Bandra-Amritsar/Kalka Paschim Exp.
57.	W.R.	2933/2934	Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad Kamavati Exp.
58.	W.R.	2955/2956	Mumbai Central-Jaipur Exp.
59.	W.R.	2967/2968	Jaipur-Chennai Exp.
60.	W.R.	2979/2980	Bandra-Jaipur Express.
<i>Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi Trains with Mini Pantry</i>			
1.	C.R.	2001/2002	New Delhi-Bhopal Shatabdi Exp.
2.	C.R.	2027/2028	Mumbai-Pune Shatabdi Exp.
3.	E.R.	2019/2020	Howrah-Ranchi Shatabdi Exp.
4.	E.R.	2023/2024	Patna-Howrah Shatabdi Exp.
5.	N.R.	241/242	Kalka-Shimla Shivalik Exp.
6.	N.R.	2003/2004	Lucknow-New Delhi Shatabdi Exp. (6 days)
7.	N.R.	2005/2006	New Delhi-Kalka Shatabdi Exp. (6 days)
8.	N.R.	2011/2012	New Delhi-Chandigarh Shatabdi Exp.
9.	N.R.	2013/2014	New Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Exp.
10.	N.R.	2015/2016	New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Exp.
11.	N.R.	2017/2018	New Delhi-Dehradun Shatabdi Exp.
12.	N.R.	2029/2030	Amritsar-New Delhi Shatabdi Exp.
13.	N.R.	2031/2032	Amritsar-New Delhi Shatabdi Exp. (Reverse)
14.	N.R.	2035/2036	Lucknow-New Delhi Shatabdi Exp. (Weekly)
15.	N.R.	2037/2038	New Delhi-Kalka Shatabdi Exp. (Weekly)
16.	S.R.	2007/2008	Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Exp.
17.	W.R.	2009/2010	Mumbai Central-Ahmedabad Shatabdi Exp.
18.	C.R.	2051/2052	Madgaon-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Jan Shatabdi
19.	C.R.	2061/2062	Habibganj-Jabalpur Jan Shatabdi

1	2	3	4
20.	E.R.	2065/2066	Howrah-Malda Town Jan Shatabdi
21.	N.R.	2053/2054	Varanasi-Lucknow Jan Shatabdi
22.	N.R.	2055/2056	New Delhi-Dehradun Jan Shatabdi
23.	N.R.	2057/2058	New Delhi-Chandigarh Jan Shatabdi
24.	N.F.	2063/2064	Patna-Katihar Jan Shatabdi
25.	N.F.	2067/2068	Guwahati-Dinapur Jan Shatabdi
26.	S.R.	2075/2076	Ernakulam-Trivandrum Jan Shatabdi
27.	S.R.	2077/2078	Chennai-Vijayawada Jan Shatabdi
28.	S.R.	2079/2080	Bangalore-Hubli Jan Shatabdi
29.	S.R.	2083/2084	Thanjavur-Coimbatore Jan Shatabdi
30.	S.E.	2021/2022	Tata Nagar-Howrah Jan Shatabdi
31.	S.E.	2069/2070	Tata Nagar-Ranchi Jan Shatabdi
32.	S.E.	2073/2074	Howrah-Bhubaneshwar Jan Shatabdi
33.	W.R.	2059/2060	Kota-Nizammuddin Jan Shatabdi
34.	W.R.	2081/2082	Ahmedabad-New Bhuj Jan Shatabdi

Dubbing of Indian Films

2556. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) propose to dub certain good Indian films in foreign languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons for not exploring the high potential for Indian films globally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) National Film Development Corporation has been sub-titling Indian films in various foreign languages for the foreign markets. the next step envisaged by NFDC would be consider release of dubbed versions of Indian films, especially in those countries where the Indian Diaspora is large in number. At present dubbing is usually done in private studios by owners of films software.

(c) In order to promote the export of Indian films, several initiatives have been taken up by the Government:

- 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 where under "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 upto 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.

- During June 2001, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting led a 35-member delegation from the Indian Entertainment Industry to USA and Japan to show case internationally the achievements and potential of the Indian Entertainment Industry and to explore fresh avenues for business development.
- A large delegation of Indian Film Exporters led by National Film Development Corporation Ltd. participated 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, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has set aside a budget to participate in film markets in India and abroad.
- The Directorate of Film Festivals through the Cultural Exchange Programmes and participation in various film festivals plays an important role in increasing the visibility of Indian films abroad. The increased visibility translates into greater demand for Indian films and promotes export earnings.
- 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 a strategy to facilitate the flow of venture capital into the sector.

Approval to NTPC

2557. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has given its approval to National Thermal Power Corporation for the

latter's proposed Initial Public Offering, both in the domestic as well as overseas market;

(b) if so, whether in a communication, the Ministry has asked to NTPC to go ahead with the various processes and not await the formal nod for the IPO;

(c) whether after this communication, the NTPC has started implementing this proposal;

(d) if so, whether it will be beneficial; and

(e) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) In order to meet the fund requirements for its capacity addition programme, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is contemplating a proposal to augment its share capital base by way of Initial Public Offering (IPO). Further action/decision depends upon the views/comments of all concerned divisions/departments in this regard.

Closure of Power Plants

2558. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power plants closed in Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC); and

(b) the action taken by the Government to generate appointment and re-opening of closed power plants and its units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) One. Due to non-fulfilment of pollution norms.

(b) Action taken by DVC for re-opening of Units 1, 2 & 3 of Bokaro Thermal Power Station 'A' Plant are as under:

(i) Residual life assessment studies have been completed through reputed agencies;

(ii) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have been engaged as a Consultant. Based on study report, NTPC have submitted the Techno-Economic feasibility reports for R&M.

(iii) DVC has approached Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB)/Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for their consent to run the units. Approval is awaited.

- (iv) DVC intends to place order for Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs) and its associated system base on the technical specification/bid document of NTPC on receipt of clearance from Pollution Control Board.
- (v) Sufficient manpower is available to run the plant.

Promotion Policy

2559. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways 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 RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The instructions of Department of Personnel and Training contained in their OM dated 21.1.2002 were adopted for application to Railway employees by Ministry of Railways in their letter No. E (NG)/97/SR 6/3 (Vol.III) dated 8.3.2003. These instructions have been made effective from 17.6.1995 i.e., the date on which Article 16(4A) was included in the Constitution. These instructions *inter alia* provide that employees belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Tribe communities on their promotion by virtue of rule of reservation shall be entitled to consequential seniority also. These instructions negated the effect of the Department of Personnel and Training's O.M. dated 30.1.1997 adopted by the Ministry of Railways in their letter dated 28.02.97 and 15.05.98. These earlier instructions stipulated that if an employee belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe is promoted to an immediate higher post/grade against a reserved vacancy earlier than his senior General/OBC employee who is promoted later to the said higher post/grade, the General/OBC employee will regain his seniority over such earlier promoted SC/ST employee in the immediate higher post/grade.

(d) Does not arise.

Blending of Ethanol in Petrol

2560. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has put a 5 percent cap on ethanol content for blended petrol as against 20 percent prevalent in US and Brazil;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the sugar mills in the Southern States had urged the Government to increase the percentage of the blending of ethanol with petrol to tide over the over production crisis in the sugar milling industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India, in the first phase of implementation of the programme of sale of 5% ethanol blended petrol, ordered blending of 5% ethanol in 9 sugar producing States and 4 contiguous Union Territories. In the second phase of implementation, the Government desires to cover the rest of the States and Union Territories. In the third phase of implementation, the percentage of ethanol blending is to be increased to 10%, subject to technical feasibility.

(c) Representations have been received from the sugar industry to increase the percentage of blended ethanol in petrol.

(d) Same as (a) & (b) above.

Investment of NTPC in Foreign Projects

2561. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC is holding discussions to put up a 300 MW coal based project in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) if so, the details of the foreign projects NTPC is already having stakes; and

(d) the total investment made in the foreign projects by NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has received a request from Sri Lankan Government for assistance in setting up a 300 MW Power Project in Sri Lanka. They have also requested NTPC to depute a team to Sri Lanka for discussions. MOP (Ministry of Power, Government of India) has sought MEA (Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India) clearance for sending the team.

(b) and (c) At present, NTPC is not having stakes in any foreign power project.

(d) Not applicable in view of answer at (b) and (c) above.

Concession in Fares to Disabled

2562 SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has extended concession in fares to the disabled in various trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not extending this facility for travel by Jan Shatabdi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Railways grant concession to four categories of disabled persons, viz. (i) Orthopaedically Handicapped/ Paraplegic persons who cannot travel without an escort, (ii) completely Blind persons travelling alone or with an escort, (iii) Mentally Retarded persons who cannot travel without an escort are eligible for 75% concession in Second, Sleeper, First, AC Chair Car and AC 3-tier classes and 50% concession in AC 2-tier and AC First classes, and also one escort is eligible for same concession and (iv) totally Deaf and Dumb persons (both afflictions together in the same person) are eligible for 50% concession in Second, Sleeper & First classes. Concession is admissible in basic Mail/Express fares only and is granted on production of medical certificate in prescribed format.

(c) Jan Shatabdi Express trains are special group of trains.

Subsidy on Power Supply to Agriculture and Domestic Sector

2563. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to reduce the subsidy on power supplied to agricultural as well as domestic sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the State Governments for reduction of subsidy and revision of power tariff as a part of second phase of reforms in power sector;

(d) if so, the details of guidelines; and

(e) the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The Electricity Act, 2003 has come into force w.e.f 10th June, 2003. Under the provisions of this Act the tariff for supply of power to various categories of consumers is to be determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) and in doing so these Commissions are required to be guided by provisions contained in Section 61 of the Act.

Section 65 of the Act provides that if the State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State Commission under section 62, the State Government shall pay in advance and in such manner as may be specified, the amount to compensate the person affected by the grant of subsidy in the manner the State Commissioner may direct.

Zonal Security Plan

2564. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Zonal Managers of Railways have been asked to submit individual zonal security plans on the basis of the Railway Corporate Safety Plan;

(b) whether guidelines have been issued to zonal manager to reduce accidents;

(c) if so, details of such guidelines issued to zonal railways; and

(d) the progress made in regard to submission of individual zonal security plans and to reduce accidents by Zonal Managers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (d) 'Corporate Safety Plan' of Indian Railways for the period 2003-2013 has been finalized and laid on the Table of the Sabha on 19th August, 2003. This document states the objectives, strategies and targets for which the Indian Railways would be striving in the next decade.

As mentioned in the Corporate Safety Plan, each Zone and Division is required to identify safety risks and has to prepare a detailed safety action plan, dovetailed with the Indian Railway's safety objectives, to ensure that the standards of safety are improved. Administrative instructions to make out zonal and divisional safety action plans have also been issued. Action has already been initiated on the zones and divisions.

Setting up of Power Plants by Railways

2565. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway is creating Rail Bijlee Company to generate electricity;

(b) whether Railway is considering setting up thermal power plants in a joint venture with NTPC;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(d) the amount likely to be expended thereon, plant-wise; and

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

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

(c) Project Committee set up for identifying suitable site(s) for setting up of Captive Power Plant in Joint Venture with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has recommended Nabinagar (Bihar) as suitable site for

setting up of 1000 MW (4 units of 250 MW each) Power Plant. For this purpose, it is proposed to form "Bhartiya Rail Bijlee Company" in Joint Venture with NTPC.

(d) Rs. 4374 crore (app).

(e) Plant will be commissioned in 4-5 years from the date of Government approval.

Use of Digital Storage System

2566. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan's failure to ensure proper use of digital storage system;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there was wasteful expenditure of Rs. 5.40 crore on the purchase of this system besides over payment of Rs. 2.40 crore; and

(d) if so, the details along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The C&AG in Paragraph 5.1. of its Report No. 4 of 2003 (Civil) has pointed out Doordarshan's failure to ensure proper use of digital storage system that resulted in unfruitful expenditure of Rs. 5.40 crore on its purchase besides over payment of Rs. 2.40 crore.

Restarting of Rail Lines in Tamil Nadu

2567. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has received a number of requests/representations for restarting the certain railways lines which have been closed down some years ago in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so the details of representation/requests received in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) the response of the Railways on those requests/representations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) No lines in the State of Tamil Nadu have

been closed in the recent past and also no representation from the State Government has been received for restoration of Railway line in the last three years. However, representations have been received for restoration of Krishnagiri-Tirupattur and Pamban-Dhanushkodi lines which had been dismantled long back.

(c) The survey for restoration of Pamban-Dhanushkodi has been taken up to assess the need of the line. The other line has not been considered feasible in view of heavy throw forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources being faced by the Railways.

Expansion of Refineries

2568. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal for the expansion of some Oil Refineries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the scheduled time by which the expansion of each refinery is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Statement

Details of expansion plans of various refineries in the country

(Figures in million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA))

Refinery	Existing Capacity	Capacity after Expansion	Expected schedule for completion
CPCL, Chennai	6.50	9.50	December, 2004
IOCL, Panipat	6.00	12.00	April, 2005
BPCL, Mumbai	6.90	12.00	December, 2004
HPCL, Mumbai	5.50	7.90	September, 2005
HPCL, Vizag	7.50	8.3	December, 2005

Cost of Power Generation

2569. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of power generation as against the annual rate of inflation has increased considerably during the last few year;

(b) if so, whether the Government realize the need for aggressive cost control;

(c) if so, measures are being taken in this direction;

(d) whether various taxes and duties form a significant component of the cost of power;

(e) if so, the percentage of taxes and duties to fix charges in (i) power generation and (ii) power transmission;

(f) whether the Government are likely to pursue the direction of reduction in tax and duty structure; and

(g) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A number of steps have been taken to reduce the cost of power. The benefit under Mega power policy which provides for zero customs duty for import of capital equipment and deemed export benefit for domestic suppliers has, this year, been extended to all inter state projects which fulfill the basic criteria of minimum capacity of 1000 MW for thermal and 500 MW for hydel projects.

The Electricity Act, 2003 creates a liberal framework for development of the power sector and reduces the entry barrier in different segments of power supply

industry. This is expected to encourage competition and in turn efficiency improvements, resulting in cost reduction and quality supply of power to the consumers at competitive rates.

(d) and (e) The existing customs duty and excise duty structure in respect of generation and transmission is given in the statement enclosed.

(f) and (g) A Task Force on 'Power Sector Investment and Reforms' has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Member (Energy), Planning Commission. The terms of reference of the Task Force, *inter alia*, includes analyzing the existing investment both domestic and foreign, in all segment of power industry and also to suggest enabling fiscal regime for securing such investment.

Statement

Customs Duty and Excise Duty Structure

Customs Duty

(i) Generation	5% (Basic Duty) + 16% (Cenvat Duty)
(ii) Transmission.	
(a) High Voltage Transmission	5% (Basic Duty) + 16% (Cenvat Duty)
(b) Other Transmission	25% (Basic Duty) + 16%(Cenvat Duty)

Excise Duty:

Excise Duty on Generation and Transmission is 16%.

Welfare Scheme for Senior Citizens

2570. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior citizens federation has made representation to the Government recently to improve the quality of their life;

(b) if so, the details of their difficulties and demands/ requests made to the Government; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government on their demands/requests to solve their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal Ministry concerned with the welfare of senior citizens. The Ministry is receiving a number of representations from various senior citizens associations highlighting their problems as well as demands. A list of representations received is enclosed as statement-I.

(b) Details of demands/requests incorporated in these representations are as under:

1. National Old Age Pension may be enhanced from Rs. 75/- p.m. to Rs. 500/- p.m.
2. Introduction of 10% Senior Citizens Bonds to help them.
3. The Govt. should declared every 60+ persons as Senior Citizen and intimate all the concerned Ministries and State Governments to provide them necessary facilities accordingly.
4. Formulation of a new Medi-claim Insurance Scheme for the Senior Citizens to provide insurance cover during their life with a nominal premia.
5. Old Age Social & Social Income Security (OASIS) should be launched immediately.
6. Implementation of National Policy for Older Persons within the next five years with annual budgetary provision.

7. State/UT Council of older persons be formed including the representatives of Senior Citizens Associations.
8. 33.3% concession in fares of State Transport Buses and 4 Seats in the buses be reserved for Senior Citizens.
9. Identity Cards to all the Senior Citizens of 60+ free of cost/nominal charges.
10. Reservation of beds in public & Private Hospitals for Geriatric cases and Geriatric OPDs.

(c) The Government is keen to solve the problems of the Senior Citizens by giving them certain concessions/facilities. A list of such concessions/facilities being given to Senior Citizens by different ministries/Departments of the Government is enclosed as statement-II.

Statement-I

List of the Federations

1. All India Senior Citizens Association, Vasai Branch, Maharashtra.
2. The Senior Citizens Association, Usha Nagar, Bhandup (W), Mumbai.
3. Shree Nagar Citizens Association, Thane.
4. Ghadag District Senior Citizens Association, Ghadag.
5. Best Nagar Jyestha Nagarik Sangha, Goregaon (W), Mumbai.
6. All India Senior Citizens Association, Purana Bazar, Ludhiana.

Statement-II

List of Concessions and Facilities given to Older Persons by Different Ministries/Departments of the Government

Sl. No.	Name of the Ministry/Department	Facilities/Benefits given to Senior Citizens
1	2	3
1.	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	<p>(1) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal Ministry responsible for welfare of the Senior Citizens. It has announced the National Policy on Older Persons that seeks to assure older persons that their concerns are national concerns and they will not live unprotected, ignored and marginalized. The National Policy aims to strengthen their legitimate place in the society and to help older people to live the last phase of their life with purpose, dignity and peace. The National Policy on Older Persons <i>inter alia</i> visualizes support for financial security, health care and nutrition, shelter, emphasis upon education, training and information needs, provisions of appropriate concessions, rebates and discounts etc. to Senior Citizens and special attention to protect and strengthen their legal rights such as to safeguard their life and property. The National Policy on Older Persons recognises of senior citizen to a person who has attained the age of 60 years.</p> <p>(2) The Ministry has also written to all the Ministries/State Governments concerned for adopting a uniform age of 60 years for conferring the status of senior citizen to a person and for extending facilities/concessions to them (copy at Annexure I).</p> <p>(3) The Ministry is also implementing following schemes for the benefit of Senior Citizens:</p> <p>(a) The Scheme of Assistance of Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/ Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/multi-service centres for older persons. Under this Scheme, one time construction grant for old age homes/multi-service centre is provided.</p> <p>(b) An Integrated Programme for Older Persons has been formulated by revising the earlier scheme of *Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to</p>

1	2	3
		<p>the Welfare of the Aged". Under this Scheme, financial assistance upto 90% of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishing and maintaining old age homes, day care centres, mobile medicare units and to provide non-institutional services to older persons.</p>
2.	Ministry of Rural Development	<p>(1) Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, Central Assistance of Rs. 75/- p.m. is granted to destitute older persons above 65 years. This Scheme has been transferred to the State Plan w.e.f. 2002-03.</p> <p>(2) Under the Annapurna Scheme, free foodgrains (wheat or rice) upto 10 Kg. Per month are provided to destitute older persons of 65 years or above, who are otherwise eligible for old age pension but are not receiving it. However, the scheme has been transferred to the State Sectors w.e.f 2002-03.</p>
3.	Ministry of Finance	<p>1. Section 88 of Finance Act, 1992, provides income tax rebate of upto Rs. 15,000 or actual tax whichever is less to senior citizens who have attained the age of 65 years at any time during the relevant previous year. This has been revised to Rs. 20,000 in the budget for 2003-04. As a result, their income upto Rs. 1.53 lakhs will henceforth become fully exempt from income tax. Hence, effective exemption limit may hereafter be actually higher and is Rs. 1.83 lakh due to standard deduction. They can get further relief by taking advantage through tax rebate under section 88.</p> <p>2. For Senior Citizens, the deduction in respect of medical insurance premia is upto Rs. 15,000/- under Section 80D.</p> <p>3. RBI has permitted higher rates of interest on saving schemes of Senior Citizens (persons having the age of 65 years and above). Accordingly, w.e.f. 15.05.01, banks permitted 0.5 per cent higher rate of interest of fixed deposits of Senior Citizen aged between 60 to 65 years & 1% higher rate of interest to Senior Citizens above 65 years of age.</p> <p>4. LIC has launched a special pension policy called Varishta Pension Bima Yojana guaranteeing an annual return of 9% in the form of monthly pension scheme to senior citizens aged 55 years and above.</p>
4.	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	<p>Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has informed that a decision has been taken regarding reservation of two seats for senior citizens in front row of the buses of the State Road Transport Undertakings.</p>
5.	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare	<p>The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, on request from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, has issued instructions to all State Governments to provide for separate queues for older persons in hospitals for registration and clinical examination.</p>
6.	Ministry of Railways	<p>(a) Indian Railways provide 30% concession in all Mail/Express including Rajdhani xShatabadi/Jan Shatabadi trains for senior citizens aged 60 years and above.</p> <p>(b) Indian Railways also have the facility of separate counters for Senior Citizens for purchase/booking/cancellation of tickets.</p>
7.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	<p>1. Indian Airlines is providing 50 per cent Senior Citizen Discount on Normal Economy Class fare for all domestic flights to Indian senior citizens who have completed the age of 65 years in the case of male senior citizens and 63 years in the case of female senior citizens subject to certain conditions.</p>

1	2	3
		2. Jet Airways is providing 50 per cent discount on basic fare for all domestic flights in Economy Class to senior citizens having the age of 65 years (male and female).
		3. Sahara India Airlines is providing 50 per cent discount on basic fare for all domestic flights in Economy Class to senior citizens having the age of 62 years (men and women).
8.	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	Cabinet has on 5.6.2003 issued necessary guidelines to extend the coverage of the Antyodya Scheme, under which food is provided to destitute old, to cover an additional 50 lakh Below Poverty Line families including 60+ population.
9.	MCD, Delhi	MCD, Delhi, has opened a separate counter for senior citizens for submission of property tax.
10.	Miscellaneous	1. Telephone connection is given on priority to senior citizens of age 65 years and above by the Ministry of Communications. 2. On the request of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has advised Chief Justices of all High Courts in the country to accord priority to case involving older persons and ensure their expeditious disposal.

Alternate Route between Delhi and Coastal A.P. & Tamil Nadu

2571. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start an alternate fast and shorter route between Delhi and Coastal Andhra and Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether any study has been done of the potential of the Delhi-Raipur-Visakhapatnam route recently;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Survey of Pune-Nasik Rail Line

2572. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey was conducted for Pune-Nasik railway line during the years 1998-2000;

(b) if so the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the work on the said project has been started;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons for not starting the work on said project; and

(f) the time by which the work on Pune-Nasik railway line project is likely to be started?

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

(a) to (f) A survey for Pune-Nasik new rail line was completed in 2000-01. As per the survey, cost of construction of this 266 Km long line was assessed as Rs. 1044 crore. Keeping in view heavy throw forward of on-going projects and acute constraints of resources it has not been found feasible to consider the proposed line.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Caste In OBCs List

2573. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted to bring any caste under OBCs list;

(b) whether the Government has added some more castes to the OBCs list;

(c) if so, the name thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to bring some more muslim community people to OBCs list in Andhra Pradesh;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether some proposals regarding inclusion of Caste in OBCs list have been received from Rajasthan, UP and other State Governments; and

(g) if not, the details thereof and reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has formulated guidelines for consideration of request for inclusion of any caste/community in the Central list of OBCs which includes criteria covering social, educational and economic aspect of backwardness.

(b) and (c) The addition of castes/communities in the Central list of OBCs have been made from time to time through 9 Gazette Notifications issued so far. The details of these Gazette Notifications are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Quresh (Muslim Butchers)

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Details are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

**Gazette Notifications Issued for making Additions
Castes/Communities in the Central List of
Backward Classes.**

S.No.	Gazette Notifications	
	Number	Date
1.	60	11.03.1996
2.	210	11.12.1996
3.	239	17.12.1997
4.	241	27.10.1999
5.	270	06.12.1999
6.	71	04.04.2000
7.	210	21.09.2000
8.	246	06.09.2001
9.	151	20.06.2003

Statement II

The details of pending requests/case for inclusion in the Central List of OBCs

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Caste/community
1	2	3
1.	Bihar	1. Bakho 2. Kurmi 3. Soyar
2.	Chhattisgarh	Pinjara (Hindu/(Kesaria/Kosaria)
3.	Delhi	Jat
4.	Goa	Bhandari Naik
5.	Guajrat	1. Kansara 2. Chaki
6.	Maharashtra	1. Kurmi

1	2	3
7. Orissa		2. Yellam/Yelam
8. Punjab		1. Asini Patara/Aswini & Ashwini Patara
9. Rajasthan		2. Rangini Hansi as a synonym of Hansi/Tanti Yadav/Ahir
10. Uttar Pradesh		Ramgarhia as a synonym of Khati, Tarkhan
		1. Kurmi, Sainthwar
		2. Sanwat
		3. Katua
		4. Barai, Chaurasia synonyms of Tamoli

The above cases are being processed in the National Commission for Backward Classes as per the criteria laid down by the Commission for consideration of requests for inclusion in the Central list of Other Backward Classes.

[Translation]

Theft in AIR Station of Siliguri

2574. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether transmission equipments worth about 80 lakh rupees have been stolen from the Siliguri Kendra of Akashwani and due to which the broadcasting of Programme was held up in November 2003; and

(b) if so, the details of the action 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) Prasar Bharati has informed that the matter was immediately brought to the notice of local police station, SP of Jalpaiguri and DGP, West Bengal, requesting for investigation in the matter. DDG (Security) of Doordarshan had also made a visit to Siliguri and held discussions with senior police authorities and security arrangements were reviewed. Stringent precautionary measures have been suggested and are being implemented to Bharati that 90% of stolen material in the form of scrap has been recovered.

[English]

IOCL Retail Outlets in Delhi

2575. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of retail outlets of IOCL in Delhi which have been terminated since April 2001, after the implementation of MDG-2001;

(b) whether all such retail outlets were subjected to penalty in terms of MDG-2001, at least once before termination;

(c) if so, when the penalty was recovered;

(d) if not, the reasons IOCL has terminated such Retail outlets without following MDG-2001 provisions;

(e) whether Government have received any representation for reviewing of such cases; and

(f) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has terminated following Retail Outlets in the State of Delhi since implementation of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) 2001, which were found indulging in malpractices/irregularities:

(i) M/s. Shaunak, Nandnagri

- (ii) M/s. Libra Filling Station, Azadpur
- (iii) M/s. Bharat Filling Station, Palam
- (iv) M/s. Auto Services, Punjabi Bagh
- (v) M/s. Inder Service Station, R.K. Puram
- (vi) M/s. Chaman Lal C.P. Sawhney, Connaught Place.

(b) to (f) All dealerships are governed by the dealership agreement executed between IOC and Dealer. While dealership agreement provides for termination of dealership in case of violation of any of the clauses of the dealership agreement which includes malpractices/irregularities, the MDG provides for different type of penal actions depending on the type of irregularity committed. MDG also provides for termination of dealership in the first or any instance based on severity of the malpractice. Therefore, termination of any dealership can be resorted to both under dealership agreement as well as MDG.

Widening of ROB in Narendra Nagar

2576. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several representations have been made to the concerned railway authorities for widening of the Railway Over Bridge at Narendra Nagar in the Nagpur city;

(b) if so, whether the proposal for the said ROB was approved by the Government but the work on its construction is yet to be taken in hand by the Railway authorities;

(c) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has also cleared the proposal and agreed to provide their share of money for the widening of this ROB;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in taking up this work; and

(e) the steps 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) Only two representations, one from hon'ble MP Shri Vilas Muttemwar and other from hon'ble Minister of

Textile & Labour, Maharashtra, Shri Satish Chaturvedi were received during this year.

(b) and (c) State Govt. first sponsored the proposal of Road Over Bridge (ROB) in May, 1998 and after joint inspection with road authorities proposal was found feasible on deposit terms for which Road authorities also deposited Rs. 7 lakh out of Rs. 10,21,500/- towards Plan & Estimate charges. But in May 1999, by when General Arrangement Drawing had also been finalised, Maharashtra State Govt. advised of its decision for constructing ROB on Build Operate Transfer (BOT) basis. In July 1999, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation. (MSRDC), Mumbai also advised that the work will be done by them (MSRDC) on behalf of PWD/State Govt. In August, 2000 CE/PWD/Nagpur advised that the work has been deferred from City Road Development Programme. However, recently, on 5th Nov. 2003, Nagpur Municipal Corporation has advised that in pursuant of hon'ble High Court Nagpur's, order, State Govt. will complete process of consultation with Nagpur Municipal Corporation, Nagpur Improvement Trust & MSRDC expeditiously for inclusion of Railway Under Bridge (not over bridge) at Narendra Nagar in Govt's approved list of works. Final decision of State Govt. has however, not yet been received. Meanwhile Railway has also advised Nagpur Municipal Corporation to submit formal proposal for construction of under bridge on deposit terms.

(d) and (e) There is no delay on the part of Railways. Railway will take prompt action as per extant rules on receipt of formal proposal from State Govt. or Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

[*Translation*]

National Gas Grid by GAIL

2577. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) a nodal agency of the proposed national gas grid in order to streamline the distribution of gas in the country;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which it will be beneficial for the consumers; and

(d) the percentage of participation of the Government and the Gas Authority of India Limited in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Government have recently released draft policy for the development of gas pipeline network inviting comments from various stake holders. The draft policy inter-alia provides:

1. All the natural gas pipelines will be laid in accordance with the authorization granted by the regulator.
2. All trunk pipelines covering more than one State or operating at a pressure more than the notified level will be built/managed by a Company to be notified by the Government and till it is notified by GAIL.
3. Subject to prior permission of the regulator, any producer of gas will have the right to sell gas within 100 kms of well head or land fall point to consumers directly and lay the pipeline for this purpose.
4. All gas pipelines except captive transmission gas pipelines laid for exclusive use of a large consumer will be built on common carrier principle.
5. The pipelines will be used by all players on non-discriminatory basis.
6. Tariff for the transmission pipeline and/or for the distribution pipelines would be approved by the regulator.

(c) Systematic development of pipeline network will facilitate transportation of gas available from various sources to different regions in the country which will be utilized by the core sectors like Power, Fertilizer, Steel, Transport and other small consumers.

(d) Government do not contemplate any direct participation in the development of pipeline network.

[English]

Transporters engaged in Supplying LPG Cylinders in Tamil Nadu

2578. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of transport vehicles (lorries) belonging to various lorry transports of individuals or companies engaged in transporting or transit of LPG cylinders from various LPG bottling plants in and around Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the number of LPG cylinders supplied by each of the bottling plant, in the last two years, month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) engaged 1,087 trucks/transporters for the supply of LPG cylinders from various bottling plants in and around Tamil Nadu, during the last two years.

(b) OMCs have supplied about 4.93 crore cylinders in the year 2001-02 and about 5.46 crore cylinders in the year 2002-03 from various bottling plants of Tamil Nadu.

Strengthening of Rail Bridges

2579. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has cleared an ambitious Rs. 31,000 crore project to reduce the possibility of train accidents by adopting the latest technology to strengthen weak rail bridges;

(b) if so, the details of the projects that will be undertaken;

(c) the progress made so far;

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(e) the extent to which these will reduce train accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (d) The "Corporate Safety Plan" for the period 2003-2013 has been finalized and has been laid on the Table of the Sabha on 19th August, 2003. This document envisages a safety action plan involving total investment of Rs. 31,835 crore for safety related assets. These works/projects are directed towards continuous reduction in risk level, enhancement of asset reliability and induction of latest technology etc. These include works/projects for rehabilitation of railway bridges. Programme for modernization & upgradation of Bridge Inspection & Management systems has also been outlined in the Corporate Safety Plan. It has been enumerated in the

plan to take up rehabilitation/rebuilding of about 2700 bridges under Special Railway Safety Fund during the next five years. Further, rehabilitation of about 600 bridges annually, including distressed bridges, on condition basis and about 19000 bridges, on the basis of technical obsolescence, are planned to be taken up over the next 10 years through normal plan outlays. Modern methods of repair and rehabilitation requiring lesser speed restrictions are also proposed to be adopted in larger proportions.

In the current financial year, the net budgeted allocation for those bridge works, as are already sanctioned, is Rs. 302 crore. Against this, the expenditure till the end of September, 2003 is Rs. 88.03 crore.

The timeframe for completion of the works would depend on the quantum of work involved over the entire Indian Railways and availability of funds from year to year. The project-wise requirement of funds may also undergo changes based on periodic reviews. Actual fund allocation for different projects, including bridges would also depend on the *inter-se* priority of various projects and the total fund availability.

(e) The Corporate Safety Plan aims to reduce various types of accidents over the period 2003 to 2013 as follows:

- (i) Aim to reduce overall consequential train accidents per million train kilometres from 0.44 in 2002-03 to 0.17 in 2012-13.
- (ii) Targetting elimination of collisions by extensive use of Anti-Collision Device (ACD) and other measures.
- (iii) 60% reduction in derailments.
- (iv) Reduction in fire accidents and consequent fatalities by 80% by adoption of fireproof coaches and use of fire retardant materials in the existing coaches.
- (v) Containing the rising trend in level crossing accidents.

[*Translation*]

Curriculum on Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons

2580. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rehabilitation Council of India has recently taken a decision to introduce a curriculum on rehabilitation of disabled persons and to award Post Graduate Diploma for the above community based programme;

(b) if so, the details of the various educational programmes started by the Rehabilitation Council of India, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken so far to promote education for the disabled rehabilitation education in Jharkhand and Bihar; and

(d) whether any effective measures are proposed to be taken by the Government to promote disabled rehabilitation education in Jharkhand and Bihar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) The Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) has informed the Ministry that it has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Bangalore University for introducing Post Graduate Diploma and Diploma in Community Based Rehabilitation Courses through distance mode.

(b) The RCI does not offer any course on its own.

(c) to (e) The Zonal Committees have been formed by the RCI for different regions of the country for promoting rehabilitation education for persons with disabilities. The States of Jharkhand and Bihar come under the purview of Zonal Committee of Eastern Region. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is supporting human resource development programmes in the field of rehabilitation under the Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme for running two Special Schools in Jharkhand and three Vocational Training Centres and thirteen Special Schools in Bihar. One programme each in the States of Jharkhand and Bihar is also being supported for this purpose by National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secundrabad and National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun respectively.

[*English*]

Promotion Policy

2581. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS 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 PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry and the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under its administrative control have implemented the said circular, wherever applicable, with retrospective effect from 30th January, 1997.

(d) The question does not arise in view of above.

Bongaigaon Refineries and Petro-Chemicals

2582. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bongaigaon Refineries and Petro-chemicals Limited has decided to lease out its Dhaligaon facility to a private oil company for a period of five years;

(b) if so, the salient terms of the proposed lease and the agreed formula of profit sharing; and

(c) the reasons for any of the public sector oil companies not showing interest in the deal with BRPL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) With a view to re-start and operate the PSF and DMT plant, BRPL has entered into an alliance with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) under which RIL will provide technical and marketing assistance to BRPL for a period of three years. The positive contribution from the PSF business under alliance shall be shared equally between BRPL and RIL.

(c) Against the NIT (open press advertisement) for Expression of Interest, M/s. GAIL had also submitted their offer which did not meet the bid criteria. As such they could not be considered for an alliance.

Renewable Sources of Energy by NTPC

2583. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC propose to take up projects on renewable sources of energy;

(b) if so, the details of the projects;

(c) the total investment proposed to be made therein; and

(d) the time by which the proposals are likely to take off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The details of the Hydro Power projects taken up by NTPC which are expected to be commissioned during XI plan are given below:

Sl. No.	Project	Estimated Cost (Rs. Crores)	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Koldam HEPP (800 MW) on River Sutlej, located in Distt. Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh)	Rs. 4527.15 Crs. (IV/01)	Under Construction.
2.	Loharinag-Pala HEPP (520 MW) on River Bhagirathi located in Distt. Uttarkashi (Uttaranchal)	Detailed Project Report under preparation.	Memoranda of Understanding for these projects have been signed with the Government of Uttaranchal. Site Specific

1	2	3	4
3.	Tapovan-Vishnugad HEPP (360 MW) on River Alaknanda located in Distt. Chamoli (Uttaranchal)	Detailed Project Report under preparation.	Studies are being carried out. Detailed Project Reports are under preparation.
4.	Lata-Tapovan HEPP (108 MW) on River Alaknanda, located in Distt. Chamoli (Uttaranchal)	Detailed Project Report under preparation.	

Photography at Prohibited Area

2584. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether photography at the airforce technical area terminals is prohibited;

(b) if so, whether photographs of the Defence Minister at Ambala and Pune technical terminals were published in the newspapers recently;

(c) if so, whether the publication of these photographs violated the Government norms and instructions; and

(d) the steps taken, if any, to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Photography at Indian Air Force technical areas is prohibited except when it is authorized for official purposes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Improvement in Rail Coaches

2585. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES) to suggest ways to improve the external crash worthiness of rail coaches;

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

(c) the details of the assignment given to RITES to improve the quality of rail coaches;

(d) time by which the RITES is likely to respond to this Government order;

(e) whether RITES will also make some proto-type coaches and submit them for approval; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) have been entrusted the work of redesigning the coach body structure to make it crashworthy in association with Transportation Technology Centre Inc. and Applied Research Associates of United States of America. The agreement has been signed on 17.6.2003. The work is to be completed by January, 2005.

(c) The details of the assignment given under the contract are:—Analysis of strength of existing design, carry out crash simulation, develop crashworthy design, carry out crash simulation of new design, develop test rig for testing of the new design, train Indian Railway personnel in theory and concept of crashworthiness, modeling, simulation, testing, instrumentation, data acquisition and analysis and supply of hardware for the same.

(d) RITES shall complete the work within eighteen months from date of signing of agreement i.e. by January, 2005.

(e) and (f) The design will be given by RITES and the prototype coaches shall be manufactured by Railways.

Joint Venture of Tatas with Damodar Valley Corporation

2586. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has aware that Tatas propose to have partnerships with Damodar Valley Corporation in Maithon Power Limited as reported in the Economic Times dated December 3, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts in details; and

(c) if so, the share of investment to be made by both the companies and time by which the generation is expected to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Tata Power Company Limited (TPC) vide their letter dated 05.12.2003 have informed Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) that they are keen to participate in Maithon Right Bank Thermal Power Project with a majority stake of 74%.

(c) The details of share of investment etc. will be examined after receipt of the detailed proposal.

Rail Tickets on Phone Calls

2587. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has decided to provide rail tickets booking on phone including mobile phones with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC);

(b) if so, whether the Railways has decided to tie up with call centres of leading banks to accept customers requests for tickets over telephone;

(c) whether the Railways has also approached cellular operators to work out technical feasibilities for providing such facility through mobile phones;

(d) if so, the details of strategies work out by IRCTC in this regard;

(e) the procedure for using this service;

(f) the time by which the said service is likely to be commenced; and

(g) the extent to which it is likely to reduce rush at reservation counters in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOU DA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

ONGC Investment in Development of Oilfields

2588. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC proposes to invest Rs. 300 crores in the development of the D-1 marginal oil field off Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the investment and the expected returns;

(c) the assured oil reserves in this D-1 marginal oilfield off Mumbai;

(d) whether ONGC is carefully assessing its investments in such circumstances; 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) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has informed that in September 2002 its Board of Directors has approved the Development Scheme of D-1 marginal oil field at an estimated cost of about Rs. 310 crore, at an estimated IRR of 28.4% with oil price of US\$ 16 per barrel. The Scheme involves installation of one 12-slot light weight well-cum-water injection platform and drilling/completion of 12 wells in two phases.

(c) The reserves of the target layers considered for development of D-1 field are 4.57 million metric tonne (MMT), which quantity is envisaged to be produced over a period of 10 years effective from the year 2005-06.

(d) and (e) ONGC has informed that before investing in the development of any field, appropriate techno-economic studies of the proposal are carried out at the concerned work center, supplemented by studies at specialized Institutes of ONGC and/or by a multi-disciplinary Project Appraisal Group as required. Further, any project investment above Rs. 250 crore, like the one for D-1 field referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) above, is appraised by an external Financial Institution in accordance with the Navratna empowerment of ONGC.

Faulty Track

2589. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a curving track is vulnerable to the derailment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railway Board has laid down elaborate instruction in this regard to General Managers, Divisional Railway Managers to ensure that derailment do not occur due to track hazards;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the punishment has so far been awarded to GMs, DRMs and Permanent Way Inspectors (now designated as Section Engineers—Permanent Way) held responsible for derailment;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Instructions exist in the form of codes and manuals e.g. Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual etc. These are supplemented from time to time, as the need arises.

(e) Action for imposing punishments to various levels of officers and staff is taken in conformity with the responsibility as arrived at by the enquiry reports. So far, punishment has been awarded to Officers, Permanent Way Inspectors and other Permanent way staff, wherever,

they were found responsible for lapses as per norms. The General Managers (GM) and the Divisional Railway Managers (DRM) are the highest ranked officers of the Zone and the Division respectively, who are responsible for the entirety of activities carried on in their Zone/Division. The enquiry reports have not fixed personal responsibility on GM/DRM in derailment cases so far. No action has, therefore, been taken against General Managers and Divisional Railway Managers so far.

(f) and (g) As a result of accident cases, 67 nos. of Section Engineers (now designated as Section Engineers—Permanent Way) were punished in the year 2002-03.

Doubling of Khana-Sainthia Section

2590. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether doubling work of Khana-Sainthia Section has been stopped at Mahisudal village;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to select alternative route/place to accelerate laying of said double rail line;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government for expeditiously completion of said doubling project?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) No, Sir, as the work is progressing smoothly. Khana-Bolpur section has been completed and commissioned. Work is in progress on Bolpur-Ahmedpur-Sainthia section. Bolpur-Ahmedpur is targeted for completion by 31.3.2004 and Ahmedpur-Sainthia is targeted for completion in 2004-05.

Oil and Gas Exploration in Bangladesh

2591. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh Government has shown interest in allowing Indian Oil Companies for Oil and Gas exploration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and understanding reached between the two countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No proposal has been received from the Government of Bangladesh regarding participation of Indian oil companies in oil and gas exploration in that country.

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

Coaching to SCs Students

2592. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scheduled castes candidates imparted pre-examination training for civil service examination during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total amount spent on this training; and

(c) the percentage of successful candidates in said examination during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected from various State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Rehabilitation Council of India

2593. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rehabilitation Council of India has urged the Union Government to treat the council as a tool for social development and a partner in the rehabilitation process;

(b) if so, whether the RCI has submitted a memoranda to the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the RCI has requested the Government to ensure effective allocation and utilization of funds to the NGOs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and response of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Censorship Certificate for Entries in Festival

2594. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government made it mandatory for obtaining a censorship certificate for the Indian entries at the Mumbai International Film Festival, 2004;

(b) if so, whether this condition has been made applicable for the first time for sponsoring the films by Indian Documentary Film Producers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Indian Documentary Film Producers Association (IDFPA) has strongly urged upon the Government to remove this stipulation from the guidelines; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the request of IDFPA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) On consideration of the representations from Indian Documentary Producers' Association, Government has revoked decision taken earlier in the year mandating certification by Central Board of Film Certification of Indian entries in the Mumbai International Film Festival.

LPG Agencies in Tamil Nadu

2595. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of LPG Retail Agency in Tamil Nadu belonging to IOCL, HPCL and BPCL having customer strength above 15,000;

(b) the list of LPG Retail outlets in Tamil Nadu belonging to IOCL, HPCL and BPCL having customer strength less than 5,000 and economically unviable yet; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide more customers/LPG connections for the newly started LPG agencies in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) At present, 180 LPG distributors of IOCL, HPCL and BPCL in Tamil Nadu are having customer strength above 15,000.

(b) At present, 47 LPG distributors of IOCL, HPCL and BPCL are having the customer strength less than 5,000 in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(c) New LPG connections are being released by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) across the counter and as such the newly commissioned distributors are also free to enroll as many customers as possible.

Mega Power Project Status to Central Thermal Projects

2596. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Ministries of Power and Finance are opposed to the proposal for extending mega-power project status to thermal projects of 250 MW capacity;

(b) if so, whether in 1999, the Union Government had notified 18 power projects as mega projects, conferring upon them various duty and licensing benefits;

(c) whether the Centre's approval to this project is awaiting; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The mega power policy announced in 1995 has been reviewed and revised from time to time after due inter-ministerial consultations, considering the experience gained in its implementation and the needs of the power sector. The policy was first reviewed in November, 1998 and provided

for zero customs duty for import of capital equipment for 19 identified inter-state mega power projects in the Public as well as Private Sector. In addition, the income-tax holiday has been continued with the provision that the tax holiday period of 10 years can be claimed by a promoter in any block of 10 years within the first 15 years. The enabling notifications under the relevant provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962) were issued during 1999 in which 18 out of the 19 identified projects which had a capacity each of 1000 MW or more in the case of thermal projects and 500 MW or more in the case of hydro-electric projects, were exempted from payment of customs duty on the import of capital goods. One of the identified projects viz., the Chamera-II hydro electric project was not notified for the customs waiver benefits since its capacity was less than 500 MW.

In addition to the above, the Sipat Super Thermal Power Project (4x660 MW) being implemented by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in Chhattisgarh has been accorded mega power project status by the Government of India in December, 2001. The enabling notification for the Sipat project has been issued in 2002.

As per the latest amendment to the Customs Notification issued in March, 2003, the customs duty waiver has been extended to all inter-state projects which fulfill the basic criteria of minimum capacity of 1000 MW for thermal and 500 MW for hydel projects subject to certification by the Ministry of Power. Further modifications of the policy are under inter-ministerial consultations.

[Translation]

Unauthorised Encroachment

2597. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Management of the Damodar Valley Corporation has removed the houses and shops, constructed on the land owned by various Thermal Power Stations under the policy of removing encroachment, and has allotted the shops to the shopkeepers once again;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received representations/letters from various quarters and general complaints regarding removal of hundreds of shops at various places under Bokaro Thermal Power Station and Chandrapura Thermal Power Station and allotting shops to the shopkeepers once again under the aforesaid policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) As reported by DVC, Hon'ble Patna High Court in case No. CWJC No. 2290/90 (Arun Kr. Mukherjee & others—vs—State of Bihar) had directed State administration to remove encroachment and asked officer-in-charge of concerned police station to ensure that no encroachment occurs in future. Further DVC reports that accordingly encroachment was removed from various stations by State administration with the help of local DVC management during September, 1998 to November, 1998 and again in September, 2002 and that the fresh encroachment and then their removal is a continuous process.

(b) A total 160 shopkeepers (pertaining to Bokaro TPS) have been allotted shops. Out of 273 unauthorized encroachers (pertaining of Chandrapura TPS) 185 have deposited the necessary security money. Allotment in respect of 65 has been finalized.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Setting up of Petrol Pumps along National Highways

2598. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction/setting up of retail outlets along the national highways can be started only after obtaining approval;

(b) if so, whether the territory manager of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited Mathura has selected the site for setting up petrol/diesel pump in contravention of the norms at NH-93 (Agra-Aligarh);

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any departmental action has been taken by the Ministry against the BPCL officials who violated the norms set by the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has set up three retail outlets on the stretch of NH-93 (Agra-Aligarh) during the last three years, in accordance with the norms stipulated in the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Import of LNG from Iran

2599. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether under a pact signed with Iran, India is bound to pick up one producing and one semi-discovered oilfield in Iran in return for buying five million tonnes of LNG from Iran for 25 years;

(b) if so, the precise terms of the pact indicating the *modus operandi* for supply of LNG;

(c) whether Iran has sent a list of five producing and semi-discovered blocks under the pact offering to share equity with an Indian Government firm; and

(d) if so, the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) India and Iran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 27-1-03 for furthering mutual cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector. In terms of this MOU, a Joint Working Group (JWG) has been constituted. During the first meeting of this JWG, held in New Delhi/Tehran in May 2003, both sides agreed to develop a package of cooperation in the oil & gas sector which inter alia included import of 5 MMTPA (million metric tonne per annum) of LNG from Iran for 25 years, to be taken in two phases each of 2.5 MMTPA, and negotiating award of a significant sized discovered Iranian oilfield and a semi-discovered subject to technical and commercial competitiveness.

In terms of aforesaid JWG meeting, the Iranian side has forwarded a list of fields and the same are being evaluated.

Contract Engineers in EIL

2600. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:
SHRI TARA CHAND BHAGORA:

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

(a) whether hundreds of contract engineers have been sacked/terminated by Engineers India Limited (EIL);

(b) if so, reasons for the termination of these contract engineers;

(c) whether some other PSUs under the Ministry have been asked for the absorption/re-employment of these engineers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with response of each PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The contract engineers were recruited for specified period to meet the short term requirement and have been released on completion of contract period/extended period or foreclosure of contract as per terms and conditions of their appointment.

(c) and (d) On the advice of this Ministry, EIL had sent the bio-data of 297 ex-contract engineers to ten public sector undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of this Ministry and seven other concerned PSUs to consider appointment of these ex-contract engineers, provided they meet necessary qualifications. However, as per information available, none of these ex-contract engineers has yet been appointed.

[*Translation*]

Generation of Power

2601. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total generation of power from hydel, thermal and atomic sources separately from the last three Five Year Plans;

(b) the details of per megawatt generation cost for each category;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote the generation of hydroelectricity;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to generate power from the sea also like China; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Plan-wise energy generation from Thermal, Nuclear and Hydro power stations in the country for the last three Five Year Plans are as under:

	7th Plan (1985-86 to 1989-90)	8th Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97)	9th Plan (1997-98 to 2001-02)
Thermal	728301	1351874	1906679
Nuclear	25479	34782	71572
Hydro	271852	363850	386215
Total	1025632	1750506	236446

(b) Cost of generation varies from station to station. As per information available for various State Electricity Boards Power utilities for the year 2000-01, the generation cost varied from about 115 to 350 paise/kwh for coal based power stations, from 4.80 paise to 588 paise/kwh for hydro and from 162 paise to 187 paise/kwh for gas based power stations. Tariff for sale of power from various atomic power stations of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited varied from 82.36 to 295 paise/kwh.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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

(e) and (f) According to the Department of Ocean Development, Government of India, the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) is in the final stage of commissioning of a 1MW Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) Plant. When commissioned, it will be the first floating plant of this rating in the world. The plant is a demonstration plant and several data will be collected for performance evaluation. The wave energy plant based on Oscillating Water Column Principal at Vizhinjam was established in 1991. The plant has an installed capacity of 50 KW. Since the wave energy is varying at a frequency of 0.1Hz, the best average power obtained was 10KW with the peak of 80KW.

According to Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources, the West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA), West Bengal is conducting environment impact assessment study for setting up a mini tidal power project of about 3.6 MW capacity at Durgaduani in South 24-Pargana district of West Bengal.

*[English]***Transportation of Bulk Petroleum Products**

2602. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and other PSUs had conducted any study regarding minimum workable rates of transportation of bulk petroleum products;

(b) if so, the minimum workable rate per kilometer and per kilolitre;

(c) whether these rates in Haryana are much less than the above workable rates; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether less payment of workable rates of transportation in Haryana has been resulting in malpractices by the transporters; and

(e) the steps taken by the oil PSUs to remove discrepancy in the rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Departmental Estimates are worked out for transportation rates which vary for locations/States.

(c) and (d) The transportation rates have been finalised against Industry Public Tender as per the offers by the bidders. There is no specific linkage reported between transportation rates and malpractices.

(e) Since the transportation rates in Industry Public Tender have been finalised against the offer by the bidders, Oil Marketing Companies have implemented the rates accepted by the transporters.

*[Translation]***Recruitment of RTSA in Kota, Rajasthan**

2603. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has invited the applications for the recruitment to the post of Railway Travelling service Agent (RTSA) in Kota, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these agents are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) Applications were invited for appointment of Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) at Kota. Some of the applicants have filed writ petitions in Hon'ble High Court of Jaipur. The issue can be decided only after pronouncement of the judgement of the Hon'ble Court in the matter.

Survey for New Rail Lines in Bihar

2604. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether surveys have been conducted for laying new rail lines in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the total expenditure incurred thereon, project-wise;

(c) whether any funds have been allocated for these projects during 2003-04;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of the projects, project-wise; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The list of surveys conducted for laying new rail lines falling fully or partly through Bihar during the last three years and the expenditure incurred thereon project-wise is given below:

S.No.	Name of the Survey	Total expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Pratapganj-Bhimnagar-Bathanaha	5.06
2.	Sitamarhi to Jayanagar via Sonbarsai & Janakpur to Jayanagar via Madhubani.	11.14

1	2	3
3.	Supaul-Araria via Triveniganj & Raniganj	13.50
4.	Banka-Nawadah	1.96
5.	Banka-Barahat	0.68
6.	Koparia-Bihariganj via Sonbarsai-Alamnagar	4.72
7.	Dehri on Sone to Banjari	4.95
8.	Koderma-Tilaiya	5.15

Out of the above surveys, two works have been approved and work taken up, namely Banka-Barahat and Koderma-Tilaiya.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The details of the present status, budget outlay during 2003-04 and the target date for completion of these two projects are given below:

Name of the Project	Budget outlay during 2003-04 (Rs. in Crores)	Present status & target date for completion
1. Deogarh-Sultanganj including Material Modification ext. from Banka-Barahat and Banka-Bhitiah Road.	9.00	Final location survey is in progress. Earthwork, bridge works & station building at Banka are in progress. Target date for completion not yet fixed.
2. Koderma-Tilaiya	15.00	Final location survey completed. Land acquisition, earthwork and bridge works are in progress. Targeted for completion during 2005-2006.

Buildings Taken by Officers of NHPC

2605. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the buildings of Himachal Pradesh, where the offices of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. have been established and their monthly rent;

(b) whether NHPC has taken on rent any new building in Shimla after April, 2003;

(c) if so, the reason therefor and monthly rent and the basis on which the rent was fixed; and

(d) the earlier rent of the building before being taken on rent by NHPC and the name of the owner of the building?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Details of the buildings taken on rent at Shimla by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) are given below:

- (i) Guest House at Forest View Building, Forest Road, Nav Bahar Shimla at a monthly rent of Rs. 16,500/- (inclusive of Municipal Taxes).
- (ii) Building at Hira Nagar, P.O. Totu, District Shimla for office of NHPC and transit camp/field hostels at a monthly rent of Rs. 48,000/-. This building has been taken on rent after April, 2003.

(c) The above buildings were taken on rent as NHPC needed additional accommodation to cater to the needs of various projects, viz. Chamera Hydro Electric Project (Stage-I, II and III), Baira Siul Hydro Electric Project and Parbati Hydro Electric Project (Stage- II and III). The rent for these buildings was decided on the basis of suitability and on the basis of assessment made by the State Authority.

(d) As per the information collected by NHPC, the name of the owner of the building at Hira Nagar is Thakur Kaul Singh. NHPC is not aware of the rent being charged for this building from the earlier tenants.

[English]

Complaints against Territory Managers BPCL

2006. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Haryana Petroleum Dealers Association had made some complaints against the Territory Managers of BPCL particularly of Rewari;

(b) if so, the details of these complaints;

(c) whether the Government/BPCL has taken any action on the complaints;

(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) and (b) BPCL has received a complaint from Haryana Petroleum Dealers Association dt. 24.4.2003 against the Territory Manager, Rewari. In this complaint, allegations were made regarding his integrity and personal matters.

(c) to (e) The above complaint was investigated by BPCL and no substance was found in the complaint.

NTPC Business in other Countries

2607. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has set up its business in Far East and West Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details of the business started by NTPC in those countries;

(c) whether the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation has proposed the establishment similar business in those countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer at (c) above.

Provision of AC In Rail Engines

2608. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to provide A.C. in Engines for driver's comfort;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the extent to which this decision is likely to improve the passenger safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) A decision in principle has been taken to provide air-conditioner in the driver's cab of locomotives on trial basis. Air-conditioners have been provided in some of the locomotives.

(d) Air conditioning of cab will help to reduce the fatigue during long hours of driving without halt.

[English]

Opening and Expansion of Schools/Boarding Schools/ Colleges/Hostels/Technical Training Centres

2609. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry provides financial assistance to the States/UTs for opening and expansion of Schools/Boarding Schools/Colleges/Hostels/Technical Training Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of proposals received from various States/UTs including Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh in this regard and financial assistance allocated/released thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(d) the number of proposals still pending with the Union Government in this regard, particularly from Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the reasons for their pendency and the time by which the same are likely to be cleared and grants released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Under the centrally sponsored scheme of Hostels for SC Boys and Girls,

financial assistance is given to States/UTs for providing Hostel facilities to Scheduled Caste Boys and Girls studying in middle school, higher secondary school, colleges and universities. No proposal is pending under the scheme during each of the last three years and the current year. Statement showing central assistance released under the scheme during each of the last three years and the current year is enclosed as Statement-I.

Under the scheme of hostels for Other Backward Classes Boys and Girls, 50% central assistance is provided to the states and 100% to UTs for construction of hostels by States/UTs having a large OBC population but inadequate hostel facilities. These hostels are constructed for middle, secondary, college and university level students. Of the hostels to be set up under this scheme at least one third are constructed exclusively for girls. The proposals received from State Government of Andhra Pradesh during 2003-04 have been examined and funds are to be released shortly. However, the proposals received from State Governments of Tripura, Pondicherry, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Bihar are pending for want of clarification from the State Governments. State-wise details of funds released during each of the last three years and current year is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement I

Hostels for SC Boys and Girls

S.No.	State/UT	For SC Boys				For SC Girls			
		2000-01	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-04	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	462.83	42.67	Nil	Nil	505.50	505.50
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	9.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	9.00	Nil
3.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil	421.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	54.00	Nil
4.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	77.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	23.05	Nil
5.	Haryana	Nil	2.00	4.50	Nil	140.04	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	60.13	Nil	Nil	67.30	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil	24.97	Nil	Nil	Nil	38.64	Nil
8.	Jharkhand	Nil	245.80	Nil	Nil	Nil	245.80	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9.	Karnataka	495.00	563.19	274.31	406.35	148.96	207.42	651.84	319.20
10.	Kerala	Nil	4.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	45.50	79.50	Nil
11.	Madhya Pradesh	764.95	284.375	344.67	999.425	437.51	665.74	Nil	Nil
12.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	65.75	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.	Orissa	12.75	21.12	Nil	21.04	12.75	25.00	Nil	Nil
14.	Punjab	Nil	11.565	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	48.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	182.59	89.41	204.75	258.34	43.50	61.50	378.00
17.	Tripura	Nil	18.58	Nil	Nil	22.05	9.485	Nil	4.35
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	155.64	71.08	74.065	Nil	196.04	36.91	Nil
19.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	4.48	Nil	Nil	Nil	40.06	Nil
20.	Chandigarh	45.00	-	50.18	Nil	Nil	Nil	35.42	Nil
21.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	50
Total		1317.70	1548.99	1899.18	1748.30	1086.95	1438.485	1535.42	1305.05

Statement II*Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls*

S.No.	State/UT	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	188.74	210.00	Nil
3.	Bihar	Nil	149.58	Nil	Nil
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil	108.27	83.16
5.	Jharkhand	Nil	147.28	Nil	Nil
6.	Karnataka	183.23	216.99	263.77	269.02
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	50.00	Nil
8.	Manipur	46.91	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	120.04	161.87
10.	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Sikkim	Nil	20.00	20.00	20.00
12.	Tamil Nadu	259.86	157.28	283.50	Nil
13.	Tripura	10	Nil	Nil	Nil
14.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	265.13	195.47	195.47
15.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	68.95	Nil
Total		500.00	1145.00	1320.00	731.52

[English]

Welfare Measures for Rag-Pickers

2610. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide gloves, makes and rubber boots to all rag-pickers helping in waste segregation;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide with some kind of insurance cover to all rag-pickers doing civic services in disposing waste;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action proposed as a welfare measure to help the rag pickers in their civic services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, there is no such proposal.

(b) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Finance, there is no proposal to provide insurance cover to rag-pickers.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment does not have any specific scheme for the welfare of rag-pickers. However, it is implementing a scheme named, An Integrated Programme for Street Children with the objective to prevent destitution and withdrawal of children from the life on street and their placement into national mainstream. The Programme provides for shelter, nutrition, health care, education and recreational facilities to street children, and seeks to protect them against abuse and exploitation. The beneficiaries covered under the Programme may include rag-pickers.

Besides, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has undertaken an initiative called Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, in an efforts to universalize elementary education. The objectives of the initiative are, inter-alia, to ensure that all children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007, and eight years of elementary schooling by 2010. It covers the entire country with a special focus on educational needs of girls, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and children in difficult circumstances.

Visit of Diplomats to forward area

2611. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether diplomats from 19 countries stationed in New Delhi were taken to forward and confronted with militants from Pakistan and weapons used by them;

(b) whether they were taken to forward areas of Baramulla district where 15 militants who tried to infiltrate from across the border were shot dead; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Defence Attaches (DAs) from 19 countries stationed in New Delhi were taken to forward areas of Jammu & Kashmir State on 29.9.2003. While the group did not meet any apprehended terrorist, the weapons and equipment captured from terrorists were shown to them during this visit.

However, on 7.10.2003, one captured terrorist, a Pakistani national, named Mohammed Shahzad, belonging to Lashkar E Tayyeba (LET), a terrorist organisation, was produced before the DAs in New Delhi.

(b) and (c) A few selected DAs were taken in a helicopter and given an overview of the site in Baramulla District, where a major infiltration bid from across the border was foiled by the Indian troops.

National Innovation Foundation, India

2612. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Innovation Foundation, India is following the reservation guidelines for SCs/STs/OBCs, as provided in the Constitution;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of persons and their designations working in National innovation Foundation, India;

(d) whether they are employed as permanent staff or on a contractual basis;

(e) if so, the number of the permanent staff and contractual staff alongwith the details of their allowances and perquisites;

(f) whether the contractual staff are entitled to sick leave, earned leave and casual level; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) A statement is attached.

(f) and (g) The staff of National Innovation Foundation is entitled for casual, earned and sick leaves as per Government of India's rules.

Statement

Designation-wise details of Staff of National Innovation Foundation

S. No.	Name of post	No. of posts	Type of Appointment	Position	Monthly compensation (Consolidated)	Tenure
1.	Chief Innovation Officer	1	Contractual	Vacant	Rs. 36,000/- plus rent upto Rs. 6,000/-	2 years
2.	National Coordinators	5	Contractual	Filled-4 Vacant-1	Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 30,000/- plus rent upto Rs. 4,000/-	2 years
3.	Academic Fellows	3	Contractual	Filled	Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 35,000/-	2 years
4.	Researchers	3	Contractual	Filled	Rs. 8,000/- to Rs. 14,000/-	1 year
5.	Accounts Assistant	1	Contractual	Filled	Rs. 7,200/-	Six months
6.	Administrative Assistant	1	Contractual	Filled	Rs. 5,600/-	1 year
7.	DTP Operator	1	Contractual	Filled	Rs. 6,000/-	1 year
8.	Administration-cum-Finance Officer	1	Deputation	Vacant	Rs. 12,000/- Rs. 16,500/- as Basic pay	—

Cheaper Rate of Power Generation

2613. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether there are many sources in the country through which power on cheaper rates can be generated by proper management;

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

(c) whether these sources are being ignored by the Government;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in view of continuous increase in consumption/dependency of power; and

(e) the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M.

KANNAPPAN): (a) On average, non-conventional energy sources are less economical and more expensive when compared with conventional energy. However, non-conventional energy applications could prove to be more economical in remote areas, where grid electricity is not likely to reach.

(b) State-wise details of cumulative achievement under various non-conventional energy programmes as on 31.3.2003 are given the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) to (e) The Government is promoting harnessing of non-conventional energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass and small hydro in the country and provides financial and fiscal incentives for the same. A target of electrifying all remote villages, numbering around 18,000 in the country, by 2007 and providing electricity to all households in such villages by 2012 through various non-conventional energy sources has been set. Apart from this, a targeted power generation capacity addition of 3075 MW and installation of various decentralized/stand-alone systems/devices for various non-conventional energy sources has been set for the 10th Plan period. The details of targets set for the 10th Plan period are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

State-wise cumulative achievements made under various programmes as on 31.03.2003

Sl. No.	States/UT	Solar Power (kWp)	Wind Power (MW)	SHP (MW)	Biomass Power (MW)	Biomass Gasifier (kW)	Energy from Wastes (MW)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	275	92.60	155.61	160.05	15384	11.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0.00	32.10	0.00	180	-
3.	Assam	0	0.00	2.00	0.00	123	-
4.	Bihar	0	0.00	44.90	0.00	20	-
5.	Chhattisgarh			1.00	11.00	500	-
6.	Goa	0	0.00	0.05	0.00	22	-
7.	Gujarat	0	173.10	7.00	0.50	11361	2.45
8.	Haryana	0	0.00	48.30	4.00	964	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0.00	93.24	0.00	7	-
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0.00	102.24	0.00	120	-
11.	Jharkhand			4.05	0.00	0	-
12.	Karnataka	30	124.30	182.38	109.38	4499	1.00
13.	Kerala	25	2.00	69.52	0.00	725	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	339	22.60	38.96	0.00	4529	2.70
15.	Maharashtra	185	401.20	206.33	24.50	3823	1.90
16.	Manipur	0	0.00	5.45	0.00	0	-
17.	Meghalaya	0	0.00	30.71	0.00	0	-
18.	Mizoram	0	0.00	14.76	0.00	200	-
19.	Nagaland	0	0.00	20.47	0.00	0	-
20.	Orissa	0	0.00	7.30	0.00	72	-
21.	Punjab	250	0.00	107.40	22.00	700	0.75
22.	Rajasthan	50	60.70	23.85	0.00	218	-
23.	Sikkim	0	0.00	35.60	0.00	0	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	211	990.30	76.40	106.00	2653	1.98
25.	Tripura	0	0.00	16.01	0.00	1000	-
26.	Uttar Pradesh	325	0.00	21.50	46.50	2746	3.00
27.	Uttaranchal			64.60	-	0	-
28.	West Bengal	50	1.10	92.28	0.00	2965	-
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	50	0.00	5.25	0.00	167	-
30.	Chandigarh	50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	-
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	-
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	-
33.	Delhi	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	74	-
34.	Lakshadweep	650	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	-
35.	Pondicherry	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	-
36.	Others	0	1.60	0.00	0.00	318	-
Total		2490	1869.50	1509.24	483.93	53370	25.73

SHP = Small Hydro Power; U&I = Urban and Industrial Wastes Programme; MW-Mega Watt; kWp = kilowatt peak;

State-wise cumulative achievements made under various programmes as on 31.03.2003

Sl. No.	State/UT	Biogas Plants (Nos.)	IBP/CBP NBP (Nos.)	Water Pumping Wind Mills (Nos)	Aerogen. Hybrid System (kW)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	354334	132	5	16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1721	0	0	0
3.	Assam	55769	2	3	6
4.	Bihar	123963	40	42	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	8078	8	—	—
6.	Goa	3428	21	0	14.7
7.	Gujarat	359047	165	432	0
8.	Haryana	45414	59	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	44194	8	0	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2013	4	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	925	4	—	—
12.	Karnataka	365243	63	20	7.75
13.	Kerala	90823	163	79	8
14.	Madhya Pradesh	216970	120	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	667657	484	26	123.14
16.	Manipur	2026	4	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	2671	4	0	0
18.	Mizoram	3015	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	1792	7	0	0
20.	Orissa	198692	45	0	0
21.	Punjab	72279	668	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	66735	71	222	4
23.	Sikkim	4125	0	0	10

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	203808	289	52	24.5
25.	Tripura	2069	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	382784	1366	0	0
27.	Uttaranchal	2912	49	—	—
28.	West Bengal	220969	68	0	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	137	0	2	0
30.	Chandigarh	97	0	0	0
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	169	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	676	56	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	573	1	0	5
36.	Others	0	0	0	0
Total		3523108	3901	883	219.09

IBP/CBP/NBP = Institutional/Community/Night Soil based Biogas Plants;

IREP = Integrated Rural Energy Programme; Kw = Kilowatt.

State-wise cumulative achievements made under various programmes as on 31.03.2003

Sl. No.	States/UT	Solar Photovoltaic As on 31.3.2003				SPV Pumps (Nos)	Solar Cooker (Nos)
		SLS	HLS	SL	PP		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3648	1161	32152	21.656	603	11985
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	738	750	4937	7.0	0	530
3.	Assam	98	2787	541	7.5	45	80
4.	Bihar	490	679	28275	0	128	450
5.	Chhattisgarh	1237	3612	3192	0	5	37000
6.	Goa	69	51	443	1.72	15	1500

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Gujarat .	1764	2552	31603	24.9	42	70410
8.	Haryana	612	9666	32727	24.2	270	20615
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1494	11948	20697	1.5	6	27280
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	389	15317	9202	40	18	345
11.	Jharkhand	135	102	16374	0	3	280
12.	Karnataka	1009	6135	7334	18.91	337	250
13.	Kerala	1090	18679	39681	44.7	749	195
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5714	159	8564	22.4	76	141600
15.	Maharahstra	3388	721	8683	6.44	189	56635
16.	Manipur	370	650	3883	11	12	365
17.	Meghalaya	593	540	4875	42	5	1165
18.	Mizoram	315	1645	5812	0	37	110
19.	Nagaland	271	143	95	6	0	0
20.	Orissa	5665	2937	8795	36.52	4	3170
21.	Punjab	1766	2870	14995	46	1580	22050
22.	Rajasthan	6473	34864	4716	25.8	268	36600
23.	Sikkim	271	143	95	6	0	20
24.	Tamil Nadu	2272	471	12818	26	760	1355
25.	Tripura	760	2238	20805	24.57	10	80
26.	Uttar Pradesh	550	50938	52815	129.2	229	45310
27.	Uttaranchal	250	32204	27027	80.03	9	7090
28.	West Bengal	1461	26890	3662	475	48	7930
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	358	405	796	167	25	60
30.	Chandigarh	0	275	1675	0	14	1525
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	1	80
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
33.	Delhi	301	0	4753	15	84	27990
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	85	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	62	13	637	0	21	90
36.	Others	0	3295	28197	0	18	16685
Total		43613	234840	440856	1396.946	5611	540830

SLS = Street Lighting System; HLS = Home Lighting System;
 SL = Solar Lanterns; PP = Power Plants; SPV = Solar Photovoltaic;
 BOV = Battery Operated Vehicles.

Statement II

Details of target set for 10th Plan period

Source	Target (MW)
A: Power from Renewables during 10th Plan	
Wind Power	1500
Small Hydro Power	600
Biomass Power/Bagasse Co-generation	700
Biomass Gasification	50
Waste to Energy	80
Solar Photovoltaic Power	5
Solar Thermal Power	140
Total	3075
B. Decentralized Energy Systems during 10th Plan	
Biogas Plants (Nos. in lakhs)	10
Solar Photovoltaic Home Lighting Systems (Nos. in lakhs)	2.5
Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant/Other Systems (MW)	4
Solar Photovoltaic Pumps (Nos.)	8,000
Solar Photovoltaic Generators (Nos.)	10,000
Wind Pumps (Nos.)	800
Hybrid Systems (kW)	800
Solar Water Heating Systems (sq.m. collector area in lakh)	5
Solar Air Heating Systems (sq.m. collector area)	5,000
Solar Cookers (Nos. in lakhs)	2.05
C. Remote Village Electrification	— Electrification of all remote unelectrified villages

Procurement of INS Talwar

2614. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Navy has got its first stealth ship with invisible war technology, INS Talwar, the 4000 warship with cutting edge technology;

(b) if so, whether the ship was first tested during recent Prime Minister's visit; and

(c) the salient features and cost of the warship?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Three ships of modified KRIVAK class are being acquired from Russia for the Indian Navy. These ships have state of the art anti-submarine, anti-ship and anti-air capabilities besides latest stealth features.

Interview for Selection of Dealerships at Panipat

2615. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interview committee of IOCL officers has not followed the relevant provision in the selection of petrol pump dealers during interviews at Panipat and not given the marks to all the candidates who were Matriculates and were in the age group of 56 to 65 years;

(b) if so, whether such candidates would be reinterviewed;

(c) if so, whether there is also a provision of securing at least 60 percent pass marks out of 65 marks by the land owner or his nominee appearing for the award of dealership;

(d) if so, whether it is a uniform policy in all the four oil PSU's; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) In the interviews held at Panipat

during 17th/19th November, 2003 for selection of dealers, the selection committee of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) had evaluated the candidates on various parameters, including those in respect of age and educational qualification, in line with their guidelines for selection of dealerships.

(c) to (e) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) are authorized to select dealers/distributors for retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships on the basis of guidelines adopted by them. The Government have advised the OMCs to observe certain broad parameters in the guidelines. Accordingly, the OMCs have formulated their own guidelines for selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products. Excepting Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, the other three OMCs, namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP owners/their nominees are considered for award of dealerships, they should secure, in the interviews taken by the selection committees, a minimum of 60% marks out of 65 marks for the parameters, other than that regarding land, infrastructure and facilities.

Complaints against Senior Area Managers Indane

2616. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government and Indian Oil Corporation Limited had received complaints against the Senior Area Managers Indane particularly that of Kamal;

(b) the details and facts of these complaints;

(c) whether the Government/Oil PSU's has conducted any enquiry against these said officers keeping in view of their past record; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) A pseudonymous complaint against the Senior Area Manager, Kamal was received by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in September, 2003 indicating about the improper conduct on the part of the officer against subordinate officials and LPG distributors. The examination of the complaint has revealed that it does not contain substance to merit any further action/investigation.

[Translation]

NTPC Plants in Bihar

2617. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Thermal Power Stations working in Bihar;

(b) the generation capacity thereof, place-wise;

(c) the share of Bihar in total power generation of the country;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to improve the pitiable condition of the Thermal Power Plants; and

(e) the details of the latest power tariff fixed for agriculture, irrigation and domestic use as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The details of Thermal Power Stations operating in Bihar and its capacity are given below:

Sl.No.	Name of Station	Sector	Monitored Capacity (MW)
1.	Barauni	State	310
2.	Muzaffarpur	State	220
	BSEB Total		530
3.	Kahalgaon (NTPC)	Central	840
	Bihar Total		1370

(c) The share of Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) in total power generation in the country during April 03-Nov 03 was 0.077%.

(d) The Central Electricity Authority has advised BSEB to formulate a comprehensive Renovation & Modernization (R&M) scheme to be funded under the Government of India's Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme during the 10th plan in order to improve the operating performance of Barauni and Muzaffarpur thermal power stations. Ministry of Power has also offered that NTPC could take over the Muzaffarpur Power Station on long term lease and improve its performance after investing in its renovation & modernization.

(e) The details of the latest power tariff fixed for agriculture, irrigation and domestic use are given in statement enclosed.

Statement

Statement showing Electricity Tariff for Domestic Irrigation and Agricultural Consumers in Bihar (Effective from 01.06.01)

Category of Service	Electricity Tariff	Minimum Charge
1	2	3
Domestic Service		
DS-I for load up to 2KW Rural Areas	Rs. 62/month/connection	
DS-II for Urban Areas and also Rural Areas having load above 2KW	KWh/Month Paise/KWh First 100 180 Next 200 225 All in excess 280 Plus Miscellaneous charge @Rs. 25/connection/month for single phase connection and @ Rs. 150/connection/month for three phase connection.	40 Units/KW/Month for single phase connection and 100 Units KW/Month for three phase connection

1	2	3
DS-III for registered societies or their residential units	250 paise/KWh Plus miscellaneous charge @ Rs. 25/connection/month for load upto 1KW on single phase connection, @Rs. 50/ Connection/month for load above 1KW on single phase connection and @Rs. 150/connection/month for three phase connection.	100 Units/KW/Month
Irrigation and Agriculture Service		
I.A.S.-I for all Agriculture service including private tube wells		
<i>Unmetered Supply</i>		
For motors up to 10HP capacity	Fixed Rate of Rs. 75/HP/month	
For motors above 10HP capacity	Fixed Rate of Rs. 80/HP/month	
<i>Metered Supply</i>		
For consumers getting power as per rural schedule	70 paise/KWh	Rs. 50/HP/month
For consumer getting power as per Urban Schedule	290 paise/KWh	Rs. 90/HP/month
I.A.S.-II State Tube Wells/State Lift Irrigation Pumps/State Irrigation Pumps up to 100Hp		
<i>Unmetered Supply</i>		
Fixed Rate of Rs. 350/HP/month		
<i>Metered Supply</i>		
100 paise/KWh plus Rs. 100/month/tube well as fixed charge		
I.A.S.-III World Bank and foreign funded Projects above 100 HP		
Fixed Rate of Rs. 490/HP/month 100 paise/KWh plus Rs. 100/month/tube well as fixed charge		

[Translation]

Denial of Work Orders to HEC

2618. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has ignored the claims of the Ranchi based heavy Engineering Corporation while awarding works as reported in the *Statesman* dated September 15, 2003;

(b) whether the Railways has been flouting global tenders for many of the important works and ignoring the indigenous companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) No, Sir. No works, as claimed by Statesman of September 15, 2003, have been awarded to a foreign company ignoring the claims of Ranchi based Heavy Engineering Corporation.

(b) No, Sir. Indigenous companies also participate in Global Tenders and there is no question of ignoring their offers, if the same are competitive as well as technically suitable and commercially viable.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Unproductive Expenditure

2619. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether unproductive expenditure has been incurred on the construction of road over bridges without ensuring the construction of approach roads by the State Governments;

(b) whether works are not included in the original estimates but are taken up separately;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

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

(a) to (d) No, Sir. Railways undertake construction of Road Over/Under bridges in lieu of busy level crossings on cost sharing basis only after the proposal is sponsored by the concerned State Govt. duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules which inter alia includes undertaking to bear their share of cost, closure of level crossing on completion of over/under bridge etc. The work is sanctioned on receipt of estimate of cost for approaches from State Govt. after which Detailed Estimate inclusive of estimate for bridge proper (over the track) and estimate for approaches is prepared and got approved from State Authorities also. After sanction of the Detailed Estimate, work is executed. Railways execute work of bridge proper (over tracks) and approaches are constructed by State Govt. Railways take up their portion of work only after the State Govt. takes up work of their portion and all out efforts are made to complete the work simultaneously with the work of approaches. However, in exceptional cases, sometimes State Govts. lag behind due to problem in acquisition of land for approaches or diversion of traffic etc. but Railway pursue them vigorously to complete the approaches for early commissioning of Road over/under bridge.

Break up of Punjab Wakf Board

2620. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued a notification to break up the inter-State Punjab Wakf Board into separate State Wakf Boards for Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the break up of the number of registered Wakf properties among these States/UT;

(d) whether the Central Wakf Council and Muslim organizations of national eminence were consulted before taking the decision;

(e) whether the Government has taken note of the wide-spread public criticism of this decision and whether they have received any representation from Muslim organizations;

(f) the annual income and expenditure of Punjab Wakf Board and the actual expenditure on religious, educational and charitable activities undertaken by it during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): (a) and (b) The Government has issued an order on 29/7/03 approving the scheme of division of the Punjab Wakf Board, framed by it in consultation with the Punjab Wakf Board and consented to by the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh and the United Territory of Chandigarh.

(c) The number of registered Wakf properties in each State is as under:

Punjab	—	22450
Haryana	—	10920
Himachal Pradesh	—	546
UT Chandigarh	—	11
Total		33927

(d) The order dated 29/7/03 has been issued as per provisions of Section 102 of the Wakf Act, 1995 after obtaining the consent of the concerned State Governments. There is no provision in the Wakf Act, 1995 to consult the Central Wakf Council or the Muslim organisations of national eminence before issuance of such an order.

(e) No sir. The Government is not aware of any wide-spread public criticism of this decision. However, some representations have been received from the Muslim organizations both in favour as well as against the division of the Punjab Wak Board.

(f) The information is enclosed as statement I, II and III.

Statement I*Statement showing the State-wise Income of Punjab Wakf Board during the last three years.*

Year	Common Pool	Punjab	Haryana	Himachal Pradesh	Chandigarh	Total
2000-01	3,02,34,134.36	7,82,40,150.74	3,94,57,515.89	29,52,263.49	Nil	15,08,84,054.48
2001-02	3,53,50,108.70	8,60,50,235.77	3,69,26,051.74	31,26,295.45	Nil	16,14,52,691.66
2002-03	3,11,99,684.77	9,39,50,784.60	3,93,31,410.82	12,58,084.60	45,700.00	16,57,85,664.79

Statement II*State-wise Annual Expenditure of Punjab Wakf Board during the last three years.*

Year	Common Pool	Punjab	Haryana	Himachal Pradesh	Chandigarh	Total
2000-01	2,79,83,998.18	3,14,65,121.25	2,76,67,593.10	34,87,114.80	9,59,446.00	9,15,63,273.33
2001-02	2,18,30,893.18	3,91,09,435.80	3,05,43,086.35	38,97,705.00	7,04,946.00	9,60,86,066.33
2002-03	1,91,08,825.82	4,09,51,985.39	3,47,80,259.10	36,64,746.50	6,43,663.00	9,91,49,479.81

Statement III*State-wise and year-wise Expenditure on Religious, Educational and Charitable Activities during the last three years.*

(in Rupees)

Year	Activities	Common Pool	Punjab	Haryana	Himachal Pradesh	Chandigarh	Total
2000-01	Religious	2,99,345	60,92,394	1,14,00,700	11,67,260	6,19,957	1,95,79,656
	Educational	2,55,655	92,74,197	29,49,117	3,43,421	7,100	1,28,29,490
	Charity	12,600	14,000	88,500	Nil	Nil	1,15,100
2001-02	Religious	1,11,342	61,29,587	1,20,03,861	15,80,881	4,09,342	2,02,35,013
	Educational	1,100	1,00,57,258	3,94,016	3,66,090	1,100	1,35,19,564
	Charity	5,200	20,000	81,000	5,000	Nil	1,11,200
2002-03	Religious	1,19,813	1,30,000	2,09,850	Nil	30,000	4,89,663
	Educational	96,744	1,04,32,306	31,77,537	3,96,135	Nil	1,41,02,722
	Charity	1,500	5,000	2,59,000	5,000	Nil	2,70,500

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8390/2003]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2002-03, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8391/2003]
- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8392/2003]
- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8393/2003]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8394/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Sir I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (2) Annual Report of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8395/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Railway Passengers (Manner of Investigation of Untoward Incidents) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 646 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th August, 2003 under section 1999 of the Railways Act, 1989.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8396/2003]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987:
- (i) The Railway Claims Tribunal (Financial and Administrative Powers) Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 383 in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2003.
- (ii) The Railway Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 384 in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8397/2003]
- (3) 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 Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8398/2003]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8399/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Sports Promotion Board, New Delhi, 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 Railway Sports Promotion Board, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8400/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi, 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 Railway Information Systems, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8401/2003]

[Translation]

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 the Table of the House.

- (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) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam 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 8402/2003]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8403/2003]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Cables 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 8404/2003]

- (d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8405/2003]

- (e) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8406/2003]

- (f) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Instruments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Instruments 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 8407/2003]
- (g) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8408/2003]
- (h) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Industrial Development Corporation New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
(ii) Annual Report of the National Industrial Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
(iii) Statement on the comments/observations of Auditors/Replies furnished by the Management of the National Industrial Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8409/2003]
- (i) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Engineers Project (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
(ii) Annual Report of the Engineers Project (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptrollers and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8410/2003]
- (j) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Udhagamandalam, for the year 2002-2003.
(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Udhagamandalam, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8411/2003]
- (k) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2002-2003.
(ii) Annual Report of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8412/2003]
- (l) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2002-2003.
(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8413/2003]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palakkad, 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 fluid Control Research Institute, Palakkad, for the year 2002-2003.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8414/2003]
- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2003-2004.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8415/2003]
- [English]*
- THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): On behalf of Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, I beg to lay on the Table—
- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8416/2003]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8417/2003]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8418/2003]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie and Company 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 8419/2003]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Biecco Lawrie 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 8420/2003]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8421/2003]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the GAIL (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the GAIL (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8422/2003]

- (h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil India Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Oil India Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8423/2003]

- (i) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8424/2003]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:

- (i) Notification No. P.-23015/1/2003-Mkt. published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2003 notifying "Remote Areas" in terms of government's Resolution No. 60 dated the 8th March, 2002.

- (ii) The Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Amendment

Order, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 931 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th December, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8425/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency Appointment and Terms and Conditions of Service of the Director-General Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 761 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 2003 under sub-section (1) of section 59 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8426/2003]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8427/2003]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8428/2003]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Power Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Power Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the

year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8429/2003]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited, Tehri, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited, Tehri, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8430/2003]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8431/2003]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8432/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore, 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 Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8433/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Power Training Institute, Faridabad, 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 Power Training Institute, Faridabad, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8434/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL): Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House:

- (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 Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, 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 National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 1999-200.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8435/2003]

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8436/2003]

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (b) of (1) above.
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, 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 for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8437/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, 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 Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8438/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, 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 Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8439/2003]

- (6) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8440/2003]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Nagmani I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House.

- (1) A copy of the National Policy on Older Persons (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8441/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Thirty Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commissioner for Linguistics Minorities in India for the period from July, 2000 to June 2001.
- (3) A copy of the Explanatory Note (Hindi and English versions) of the Report mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8442/2003]

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Thirty-Sixth and Thirty Seventh Reports—Presented

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir I beg to present the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Action Taken Statement—Laid

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 10th Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on action taken on the recommendations contained in the 9th Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on External Affairs on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2002-2003.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Twenty Third to Twenty-Sixth Report—Presented

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution:-

- (1) Twenty-third Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Twenty-second Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs);
- (2) Twenty-fourth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Twentieth Report on "Procurement, Storage and Distribution of Food grains";
- (3) Twenty-fifth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Twenty-first Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution); and
- (4) Twenty-sixth Report on "The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Bill, 2003."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Before I go to the Calling Attention Notice and Zero Hour, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister has made a request to me. She wants me to request the House that she has some urgent Business in the Rajya Sabha, and she wants to go there. Therefore, a very small Bill—according to her—may be taken into consideration.

If the House agrees, I can take it up.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, it is not a small Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a request to my colleagues of the House through you generally we take up legislative business at two O'clock and according to rules also a Calling Attention Notice if listed in the Business of the day is taken first, but today I have some personal difficulty and that is 97th Constitutional Amendment is on the list of Business of Rajya Sabha and there is voting on it. Today POTA is also there on the list and is to be voted

in that House. Thereafter Citizenship Amendment Act is also listed there. Today I will have to be present in Rajya Sabha at the time of voting on those three Bills and since it is my Bill and just now my colleague were saying that it is not a short Bill. It is a very small Bill. The amendment is of only a single word. Perhaps people are thinking that it is an amendment to MCI. It is not an amendment to MCI. It is an amendment to IMCC and that too of a single word. In the Act where it appears by mistake 'Medical Institution' should have actually been Medical College. Only the amendment is to be made. Therefore it is my request to you that. ...(*Interruptions*) If the House permits me I shall leave the House after disposing this Amendment Bill. Thereafter there will be no uncertainty for me for the three Bills in the Rajya Sabha. This is a very small amendment. It is not an amendment to MCI Act. A word was left by mistake in IMCC Act. It is only that much amendment. If the House permits, I will move from here after finishing that item. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): You do it.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, I can take this Bill now.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): I do not have any objection whatever hon. Minister has said. But according to you when it is one O'clock, the Lunch Hour begins. Therefore there are many important issues which are to be taken up in the Calling Attention and the Zero Hour. Those items should be taken up afterwards and the time of the House should be extended. Thereafter you go for lunch and therefore lunch hour should be extended.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I do not have any objection to it.

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever time will be given to Bill, it will be given to those subjects thereafter.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, UP): Also indicate the time to be allocated for discussion on ATR on JPC.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Whether there will be Zero Hour?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Certainly there will be Zero Hour.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, I had asked about Saddam Hussain.

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down. Please, that issue is also in my mind.

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): I just want to make one request to you. We have no objection to whatever she has said. However, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is up to those who gave notices of Calling Attention and if they cooperate and agree to let the House to take up this Bill, I have no objection. The most important thing is that the 'Zero Hour' notices that are to be taken up today are on important issues. I do not know how you will dispose them of because there are many other legislations, like the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, which are slated for today. From the Chair, if you inform us about the time slot, we will take care of it. Moreover, the discussion regarding Action Taken Report on the JPC is also going to be taken up today. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever time is going to be spent on this Bill, that will be adjusted during 'Zero Hour'.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There is a Statutory Resolution disapproving the Ordinance. Therefore, I give the floor to Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: When discussion will be taken up on ATR on JPC?

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: At what time, the discussion under Rule 193 will be taken up?

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: If you people do not waste the time of the House, I am prepared to take up all the issues. I know which business I have to take up.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If any debate begins on this Bill, I would not agree to that.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: No discussion is required. It is not a matter of debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There will be no debate. She has to move a statutory Resolution. So she will speak for at least two minutes.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: There are not many Members to speak on this Bill.

[English]

I am totally opposed to passing any Bill by simply mentioning that this is a short Bill. We are not in Parliament for doing that. This Amendment must be justified and it takes time.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I will justify it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You can justify it. However, in order to make our arguments, we need some time. How can you say that there is nothing to be discussed simply because it is a short Bill? The Parliament should not be treated in this way. You can take up the Bill and I do not mind that.

MR. SPEAKER: If you had said earlier that you are opposed to this. I would not have asked her to continue. We can still stop this and there is no problem in that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Our Party has selected some Members to speak on this Bill for which the time has been allotted. I am not against her, But what I am saying is that she should not feel that this Bill is not an important one and, therefore, we should pass it without any discussion. That is not the way to do things.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, we have allotted two hours for this and the Members want to avail that allotted time for discussing this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Half an hour was allotted we may do it now as this Bill will not take more than even fifteen minutes.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the hurry. This Bill may be taken up tomorrow.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I cannot give two hours to this Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: From our Party, we have selected the members who want to speak on this Bill and we told them to come prepared after lunch because we thought that 'Zero Hour' and the Calling Attention notice would be taken up first.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not taking it up now, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Dasmunsiji is agreeing to it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We can not take it up now.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am fully prepared to speak but debate will be for two hours.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: This Bill does not require two hours.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Two Hours were decided for that purpose in the Business Advisory Committee (BAC).

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Not two hours, but half-an-hour was decided.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The seriousness of my subject will end in this way. It is a subject of half-an-hour and so pass it without discussion.

[English]

We are ready to pass it without any discussion. However, if there is a discussion it will take time.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The entire House had given the permission.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a suggestion to make. Let this item be taken tomorrow as the first item and then we shall complete it in about 45 minutes. From my side I will promise that we will cooperate fully on this. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I have no difficulty. Now what had gone wrong. The entire House had given the permission by raising hands. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want to spend any more time on this. If there is no unanimity on taking up this item now, I will not take it up.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Only 'Medical College' is to be substituted for 'Medical Institutions'. There is no more amendment in it.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (*Raiganj*): Let it be taken up tomorrow. We will pass it in about 45 minutes.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why Ordinance?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I may just tell you why ordinance, since 70 applications were to be processed and due to single word these could not be processed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER; Sushmaji, we will take it up tomorrow. If the House is not unanimous on this, what can be done? They were unanimous in the beginning but the position has changed.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (*Hoogly*): Sir, when will the discussion on ATR take place?

12.11 hrs.

UTTAR PRADESH REORGANISATION (AMENDMENT) BILL,* 2003

[English]

MR. SPEAKER; The House shall now take up item No. 14 introduction of a Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we go to Calling Attention.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give permission when we start the 'zero hour', not now. I do not know why you want to waste the time of the House. Please sit down. Please do not waste the time of the House. You know that the first priority is always given to the Calling Attention. You have made the rules and you have to follow them.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER; Nothing now. You will be allowed only after the Calling Attention. The House knows the rules very well.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dt. 18.12.2003.

12.13 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Need to include Dalit Muslims, Dalit Christians and Certain other backward communities in the list of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and to provide reservation benefits to them

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment to the following matters of urgent public importance and request for a statement in this regard.

"Need to include Dalit Muslims, Dalit Christians and certain other backward, communities in the list of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes and to provide reservation benefits to them and the steps taken by the Government in this regard."

MR. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister would like to read out the statement. Whether it will do if he lays the statement on the Table of the House.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: No, Sir.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, speak whatever you want to speak Hon'ble Minister, you may please sit down.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I disagree with many of my colleagues here. On Calling Attention, the statement is always read out by the Minister in the House. We are diluting every practice in Parliament. What is this? He should read out the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: If the Member wants, the statement will be read out.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Not just the Member, we also want it to be read.

MR. SPEAKER; You can also say that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is the property of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, there is nothing in this to get agitated. You can stand up and say that you want the statement to be read out.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We want to know what is there in the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do get agitated unnecessarily? There is no necessity of this. You can always stand up and ask for it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I beg your pardon, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER Thank you.

Even if one Member wants it, I would ask the Minister to read out the statement.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the article 366(24) of the Constitution, "Scheduled Castes" means such castes races or tribes or parts of or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are seemed under article 341 to be Scheduled Castes for the purposes of this Constitution."

2. Under Clause (1) of the article 341 of the Constitution, there is a provision that "the President may with respect to any State or Union territory, and where it is a State after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be seemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that state or territory, as the case may be."

3. Apart from it, under clause (2) of article 341 of the Constitution, there is a provision that "Parliament may be law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any tribal community or part of a group within any tribes or tribal community, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause should not be varied by subsequent notification."

4. "The most social, educational and economic backwardness occurs due to traditional untouchability", is the criterion under implementation for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes.

5. In para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) order, 1950 only Hindu, Sikh and Bodh religion are included, vide which the persons related to these religions only are eligible to be included in the list of the Scheduled Castes, if they fulfil the conditions laid down in the above constitutional order. On the validity of para 3 of the above constitutional order, 1950 case (case number 9596 of 1983) *Susai etc. versus Union of India and others* was considered in the Supreme Court, wherein the apex Court in para 7 of the verdict observed that "now it cannot be a matter of controversy that the caste system is a characteristic of the Hindu social structure. It is a social event, which is unique for the Hindu society. At one point of time the reference of division of the Hindu social system used to be quoted by the profession or job, which as structural inheritance, which after many centuries definitely put into such a level, wherein a person was recognised from his birth. The existence of the persons, who were at the bottom of the social structure was considered beyond the jurisdiction of civilised society and even they were not actually "touchables." This social trend put those castes under the serious social and economic disability and cultural and educational backwardness."

6. The apex Court in para 8 of its verdict observed that 'it is very clear that the President was having all those means for mentioning that there is so much economic and social disability and cultural and educational backwardness among the dalit categories of the Hindu and Sikh communities that the members of those castes in these two communities demanded the protection of provisions related to the scheduled castes. It was clear that it was considered necessary to be intervened by the state through its legal and functional powers to bring improvement to their situation and to arrange for their betterment. It should be kept in mind that the announcement included in para 3 for treating those people as the members of the scheduled castes, was such an announcement as was for the purposes of the Constitution. It was an announcement which was enforced by clause (1) of article 341 of the constitution.' In para 8 of the apex Court concluded like this 'therefore, it is not possible to say that the President used his discretion in his decision in enactment of para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

7. It is alleged that during 1935-50 'Dalit Muslims' were availing of those benefits which were available for the Scheduled Castes and the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950 has deprived the dalit muslims of these benefits. It is clarified that there is no such record to show during the period of the years 1935-50 dalit

muslims were getting those benefits, which were available to the scheduled castes. It is mentioned in the report of the Union Government's Advisory Committee on amendment in lists of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, 'the relevant record shows that the criterion applied in preparation of the list of the Scheduled Castes, is the social, educational and economic backwardness emerged out of the historical practices. The list of the scheduled castes prepared in 1950 was the revised version of the list of the scheduled castes under the Union Government Act, 1935 which as respectively in the order of earlier list of the dalit categories. It is well known that the dalit categories were categories in an orderly manner by the Census Commissioner in the year 1931, who had issued the following directives for this category:

'I have clarified the dalit castes in terms of those castes, it is not our purpose to make it mandatory for high castes to bring about purification through interaction with them. But there is any relation of the change with the profession. But those castes, which for example are prevented from entering in the temples or they have to use separate wells or they are not permitted to sit within the premises of school building, but have to remain outside that building or have to face the similar helplessness on account of their traditional status in the Hindu Society'. Therefore, it is clear that dalit muslims or dalit Christians were not included in the list of dalit categories during the years 1935-50. The action on the issue of inclusion of the scheduled castes converted into Christianity on the list of the Scheduled Castes, has been taken up in consultation with the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Registrar General of India has express the views that segmental structure of Christianity on the basis of castes can become the issue of international controversy and at international level there can be a misunderstanding that whether Casteism is being imposed on Christians by the India. Therefore, such a reservation is not justified. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has expressed the view that inclusion of dalit Christians in the list of Scheduled Castes for the purpose of reservation is neither desirable nor justiciable. Similarly, the Registrar General of India in the case of inclusion of converted Scheduled Castes in Islam has opined that it will be a matter of heated controversy as also case of resentment among the Muslims if they are given recognition according to the Hindu Castes due to untouchability emerged owing to traditional system, particularly on the basis of backwardness for the purpose of article 341 of the Constitution of India. The National

[Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya]

Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has opined in this regard that there is not justification of the proposal of adding the Muslims in the list of the Scheduled Castes.

8. There is no hurdle to enlist Scheduled Castes on the basis of religion.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply that the hon. Minister has given seems to have been drafted by some government official and he has read it in the House. He has discussed social, economic and cultural backwardness. The socially and economically backward people should get reservation, be they Brahmin, Rajput, Kayastha, Bhumihaar, Kurmi or Koli. We would also support this but the Government has not paid any attention to the class that has been the weakest. The hon. Minister has said that their condition deteriorated over the years due to untouchability, and social and cultural disorder and they were not allowed to enter the temples and the homes of the upper castes and permitted to go near the water meant for the upper castes people and this made their condition worse. It was on account of all these things and social disorder that Hindu dalits were the first to be given reservation. I do not know whether Jatiya Saheb is aware of this or not? The dalit Muslims constitute 80 to 85 percent of the population of my region. Perhaps he has not taken note of this. The people of the area from which I come do not get water and do not have proper clothes to wear. You can go to Kishanganj, Purnea, Araria, Katihar and find out more about their situation. ...*(Interruptions)*. I have discussed the issue earlier. I want to inform you that even now Muslims are illiterate. The hon. Minister has written in his reply that less than five percent of the Muslims of the country were literate due to ignorance, illiteracy and economic disparity. Out of this dalit Muslims do not even constitute 1 to 1.12 per cent. Muslim population comes second only to Hindus in the country and if he notice their participation in the government jobs then he will find that it is between 1 and 1.1/2 per cent throughout the country. He talks about social and economic disorder. He should please cast his mind back to the time when Baba Saheb Ambedkar raised the issue under Puna Act. He did not confine himself to any caste or religion. He talked about giving reservation to the depressed classes, oppressed classes and ostracized class. He have not done anything keeping those things in mind. This issue was raised in 1932. It reached a solution in 1935 under Puna Act. When religion restrictions were imposed in 1950 then said that they were not aware of the fact whether dalit Muslims were to be given reservation or not?

The Government imposed the religions restriction in 1950 but after that the Act has been amended twice. Sikh dalits were given reservation after that. In 1990 Shri Ram Vilas Paswan did the job of providing reservation facilities to the Buddhist dalits. It one takes Purvanchal or Kerala and he would find that Christian dalits have been given reservation there. Bhumihaar and Rajputs have been given reservation in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. It is a good sign that two main political parties are in its favour. If Brahmins and Rajputs are poor then they should get reservation. I too support them. The whole country should support this keeping in view their economic and social status. I would lie to know whether the Government have even considered what is the situation of dalits despite the reservation provided to them in the country. What is the number of dalits Muslims in the country? What is the number of dalit Muslims in the House? There would be only one or two dalits Muslims as IAS officers in the country. It is written clearly in section 14 of the constitution that all religions are equal before law and in section 15 and 16 it is given that nobody would be discriminated on the grounds of gender, religion, caste, race or birth. Will this section of the constitution be totally ignored? Provisions have been made in the section 25 of the constitution and even then will Banjara, Dhunia, Nai, Hajjam, Julaha, Chudihar, Luhar and Rangrej remain social and economically backward? People belonging to these castes are backward in the Hindu society. Dalits Muslims also do the things. These people do. Be it the job of scavenger or such works, it is these people who perform it. Will they be divided? When dalit Muslims do the same works as Hindu dalits then we can not divide them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a furore was created over the issue of people of Surajpuri of Bihar. The Government of Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would elucidate the rule so that any Member might not think that I am doing any injustice to him in the name of Calling Attention Motion. It is the rule of the Calling Attention Motion that only questions would be asked but I permitted you to speak a little as I thought the subject to be important but if you give such a long speech then other Members will not get the opportunity of zero hour. Please ask a direct question.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has focused on two points. The dalits of Hindu society are weak but the Muslim dalits are weaker. The Muslim dalits are the poorest and the weakest section in the country. The Hon. Minister raised the issue of untouchability. The Sikh dalits have not faced anything like untouchability but they were given

reservation in the social and economic structure. Similarly the poor persons in Brahmins and Rajputs did not have to face untouchability, temples were open to them and they were allowed to take water meant for upper castes. Has it been considered to give them reservation of not? If you have done so then on what grounds you want to give them reservation? Please put an end to the religious restrictions as you have written after 1950. I wish that the NDA Government does this job, please remember that till date Congress has almost got the votes of around 85-90 per cent of dalit Muslims. But it has never catered to their need, never responded to their aspirations. The Congress should have answered to their needs for they ruled for so long. They should have paid attention to Muslim dalits after Hindu dalits. I would request the NDA Government to take this issue seriously. No Muslim of Hindustan is against these things and they do not overlook anyone's religions sentiments. This is their right and all these things are there to enhance the economy and improve the social order. I will continue to support reservation till there is imbalance in the society. You can put an end to reservation the day this imbalance ends, I would not mind it. But you will have to provide reservation to pave way for balance in society. Religions sentiments are not involved in any way. This is my request. I do not want to say anything more than this. Please do not overlook it thinking that religions sentiment to involved in it. You can conduct a survey, all the Muslims want that the social and economic order should be developed and they too want to be a part of this development. I believe that you will appreciate my feelings and make provisions for reservation for the dalit Muslims under Act 341 ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Further his speech will not go on record.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important issue under the Calling Attention Motion. There are three words involved in it. First word is Dalit Muslim, second word is Dalit Christian and the third word is that the other communities and scheduled caste have not been included. The hon'ble Minister has replied and he has said about two or three issues and that those are correct. I do not want to go into its details. Since I have been the Minister of this Department, I know how scheduled castes are included

and to what they belong. It is simple that no one should be discriminated on the basis of religion. No Muslim is foreigner in this country. No one is the descendant of Babar and every body is the people of India and it is also true that no Christian is foreigner. No Englishmen or no white is Christian here. Everybody belongs to this country. There has been a caste system in this country. Those people who were converted, would have certainly belonged to certain caste. Similarly if we see present day Muslim society we find that there are Sheiks, Saiyad, Bakko, Dhobi, Nub, Darzi, Panaria, Batasia, Bhisti, Gujjar, Guddi, Mauaha, Bakashal etc. castes in Muslim society. He has stated in his reply that no interference should be made in the religion. I also agree to it. But those people are already covered under the list of the Mandal Commission. Those people already belong to backward castes. The difference is only this much that they should be shifted from the list of scheduled castes to backward castes Category. The honourable Minister, have referred to the Act of 1935. Mahatma Gandhi had observed fast unto death in the year of 1932 and thereafter the Poona Act was enacted. The Act of 1935 was enacted under this provision but the issue of religion was not involved therein. The status of scheduled caste was given to them who so ever were untouchables. It is true that members of all religions were involved therein. Subsequently only Hindu Dalits were included in 1950. But when protest was made Sikh dalits were included in the year of 1956 again. We tried to include neo Budhists in Scheduled Caste in 1990. Now only the people of two communities,— Dalit Muslim and Dalit Christians are left. The people were killed in Chundur and it was a very tragic event. We had marched from there with Nyay Jyoti. They were Dalit Christian but nobody knew it. Everybody says that dalit people were killed. So, it is not good thing to give a logic of religion. Shri P.M. Sayeed, the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha is a Muslim. But he belongs to a tribal constituency. Similarly reservation can be given to Christian tribal. Tribal Christians are considered tribes, tribal Muslims can get reservation then why reservation can to be given to dalit Christians? Why Status of Scheduled Caste can not be extended to dalit Muslims? ...*(Interruptions)*. Please do not do that. If you say I may sit beside you. ...*(Interruptions)* Similarly there are Saiyads and Sheikh in Muslim and there is category of each caste in Islam and entire dalit community were not converted into Islam for any power. They were converted because they were being victimized in religion and were converted to get rid of their humiliation. I would like to request you that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Those people do the similar jobs even after they were converted. If they are doing the same things even after the conversion then what was the necessity of their conversion? ...*(Interruptions)* When they were in power for fifty years, they did not do anything, today they are speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How can you speak like that? You do not have any right to interrupt. You please sit down. If you have any issue and discussion begins then you can speak in debate only after seeking the permission from the Chair but when a Member is speaking then he has every right to put forth his opinion. You please sit down.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is not aware of the fact that they had no right to be a bishop and father in church in Christianity also till the recent past.

Similarly there is another community which belongs to Scheduled Caste in a state but it do not belong to scheduled caste in another state. The Paswans belongs, to scheduled caste in Bihar but they do not belong to Scheduled Castes in Delhi. The fishermen belong to Scheduled Castes in West Bengal but they do not belong to Scheduled caste in Bihar. The washerman and the Fisherman belong to Scheduled Caste here but in Karnataka and in other states they do not belong to scheduled castes. We had prepared a Bill during our tenure that if a person belongs to Scheduled Caste in a state, this status regarding caste this would not change even after migrating into another states. So, if a caste falls in the list of Scheduled Caste in a State, then wherever a person may go, his status of Scheduled Caste or scheduled tribe should be protected. The status of scheduled caste exists in the list of the Central Government but it does not exists in the list of State Governments. Similarly Shri Sharad Yadav and Shri George Fernandes hail from Bihar. It has been a long standing demand those that Gaud may be included in Scheduled Castes. There are many castes in Uttaranchal like Naneoshudra, Pod, Pandu, Rajvashi, Dhuwali, Palia, Malo, Kewat, Jaile, Kori and Chamear etc. but they have not been included in scheduled caste. Similarly there is the caste Paswan in Delhi. I would like that the Government should think over it seriously. Instances are given that he is a Muslim and there is no caste in Islam and Christianity and objections are raised from there. No objection is raised from anywhere. The Government should take positive steps and it will bring social harmony also. Discrimination in the name of religion will also come to an end and enmity with each other will

cease. And through you I would like to request all these things. ...*(Interruptions)* This is the sentiment of the entire nation. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important subject. I agree with my earlier colleagues who raised the point that the *Dalits* should be given this reservation opportunity irrespective of their religion. The Government should consider it in proper perspective.

Apart from that, I want to add some new points. *Santhal* tribe people are in big number and they went from Chhota Nagpur to various places all over the country during British Raj. The *Santhal* community is recognised as Scheduled Tribes in States like Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal, but in other States like Assam they are not recognised as Scheduled Tribes. So, a large number of people belonging to the *Santhal* community do not get the benefits of Scheduled Tribes. All these tribes should be recognised as Scheduled Tribes all over the country.

Secondly, during partition a large number of people migrated to India from Pakistan. The people from Pakistan migrated on two occasions to India. Once they came after the 1947 partition and again they migrated after the 1971 war. These people settled mainly in West Bengal and in some other parts of India, like Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Bastar and Udhamasinghnagar. Many amongst these people are not getting the benefit of being Scheduled Castes. There are, at least, four to five sub-castes. One is the *Namashudra*. There are a large number of people who belong to this sub-caste and who migrated from East Pakistan. Then, there are sub-castes like the *Pondra*, *Pode* and *Majhi*. The people belonging to these sub-castes are recognised as Scheduled Castes in the State of West Bengal. But they are not recognised as a Scheduled Caste community in States like Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and other places.

Sir, a community is recognised as a Scheduled Caste community on the basis of certain criteria. It is not out of the blue that such a recognition is accorded to a community. Now, if after due consideration of certain criteria a community is recognised as Scheduled Caste in one State, then why should they not be considered as Scheduled Castes in other States? There are about a few lakhs of people in places like Udhamasinghnagar, Nainital and such other places who are not recognised as persons belonging to Scheduled Caste. Those people came to Delhi last week and sat on a *dharna*. They are being deprived of their benefits.

[Translation]

We all had participated there. They are Scheduled Caste.

[English]

So, these people should be recognised as belonging to the Scheduled Caste community in States like Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and other places.

Sir, the *Santhals*, as I said, should be recognised as a Scheduled Tribe community in the State of Assam. As has been suggested by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, once a community is recognised as being a Scheduled Caste community in one State, that community should be given recognition as a Scheduled Caste community throughout the country. That would render justice to the people belonging to this community. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The names of all those Members who would like to support on this issue, will be associated.

[English]

Shri Ramchandra Paswan is the last speaker on this subject. He has given notice. His name has come in the ballot. Let him speak now.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, recently the Supreme Court has given a judgement that once a community is recognised as Scheduled Caste in one place in India, then they should be recognised as Scheduled Caste in every place in the country. That judgement should be considered and implemented properly. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker Sir till now I have heard that people change their names. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, there is an unanimity amongst Members on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)* Every section of the House agrees on this. ...*(Interruptions)* You please take the sense of the House and ask the hon. Minister to reply to this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Paswan ji you please Speak.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, till now. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ramchandra Paswan ji, you please keep on speaking like your elder brother.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one day I delivered a speech during 'Zero Hour' but amid din I could not complete my speech and a lot of points remained incomplete and even today it seems to me that I shall not be able to complete. I have got a chance to express my views since you are in the Chair. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to express my views. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that this subject is raised in the House because you are in the Chair otherwise it would not have been raised. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, till now persons change their names and titles only, but the caste remains the same. The caste of the person should remain the same all over the country whatever state may they live in. Today, the hon. Minister has made a statement. He has mentioned about various castes. These castes have got different status in different states. Therefore, a caste which is recognised as Scheduled Caste in one state is not recognised as scheduled Caste in the other state. I would like to know from the Government as to why the Government after conducting a survey in the whole country do not bring a Bill in the House in this regard? Secondly, this Government which is uniting each caste gradually, why they do not hold a comprehensive discussion on this issue in the House and bring a Bill in this regard? I would like to know whether the Government would like to bring a Bill for the people of all states of the country? The Third point is that thousands of people of Dalit Muslim, Dalit Christian front are courting arrest. People are agitating. The day before yesterday, National President of Lok Jan Shakti Party, Ramvilas Paswan ji, Kammal Asrafrine ji, Dr. Hazaz Ali ji and Pappu Yadav ji who have participated in the discussion here staged a dhama. Thousands of people courted arrest the day before yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to demand from the Government that it should oblige these people by bringing this Bill in the House. The people belonging

[Shri Ramchandra Paswan]

to Naunia, Julaha, Mallah, Namosudra, Podra, Buddha and Majhi Castes are deprived of the benefit of reservation. Therefore, these castes should be included in the list of scheduled castes. It is our major demand. Thank you very much. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to express my views on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will associate the names of all those hon. Members who want to speak on this subject.

[English]

I will associate the names of all those who are standing, with this discussion. All these names will be associated.

[Translation]

However, according to the rule, the other Hon. Members are not allowed to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this issue again under some other device. This is not the device under which I can permit you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue that has been reused by Rajesh Ranjan ji through Calling Attention. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ezhilmalai, I have associated your name. I am also associating the names of Shri Mahinder Singh Pal, Shrimati Hema Gamang and Shrimati Kanti Singh.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI (Tiruchirappalli): Sir, associating the name is all right, but this is an important issue.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this issue later on.

[English]

You can raise this issue again under some other device in the House. You can come to the Business Advisory Committee and ask for discussion on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, this is an issue concerning about 35 per cent of the population of this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have heard the views of one side, we would also like to express our views. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Members also want to take up the 'Zero Hour'

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: This is a perennial problem. ...*(Interruptions)* This has become a national issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. I have no problem on this subject. I know that most of the hon. Members of the House agree with the subject and some of them do not agree. This is bound to happen always. Therefore, the procedure for every rule is very specific.

The rule about Calling Attention is clear. Only those hon. Members who have given notices will be permitted to speak. I am bound by the rules which this House has framed. I cannot go beyond the rules which are framed. I, therefore, cannot allow more Members to speak.

You must realise another thing. At 1 o'clock I have to allow the Members to go for lunch. Before that 'Zero Hour' has to be taken up because I myself have invited the Minister concerned to reply on the Haji Committee issue which was very hotly discussed in the House. Do you not want me to discuss those issues?

I can let the hon. Members to associate themselves. There are 25 Members who want to speak. I am unable to allow them to speak. Otherwise, the issue of Haj Committee will not come for discussion. You cannot insist that on every issue there should be a long of discussion. Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai, please sit down. I am prepared to allow you to associate your name.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): Sir, in the Eighth Lok Sabha, a discussion on Calling Attention was converted into a discussion under Rule 193. That was also on the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe issue. It is a national issue. So, here also I request you that you can convert this Calling Attention to discussion under Rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER: I will check as to how to can be done. I have no problem, if the Business Advisory Committee agrees to it. I have absolutely no problem for any discussion now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through Calling Attention. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: ...(Interruptions) But the reservation to other communities that is listed among the Scheduled Castes is based on the Census Commission Report of 1901, 1911 and 1931.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please give reply. Only your reply with go on record. Now, nothing else will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dalit Ezhilmalai, the hon. Minister will reply to your question also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please take his question also into consideration.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ezhilmalai, I have already told the Minister to answer your question. You have already spoken and I have told him to reply to your question also.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as through Calling Attention. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying only this that my name be associated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, your name will be associated.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: You are so nice to the Chair.

[Translation]

MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE (Sheohar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am repeatedly saying that my name also be associated in it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will also be associated. You are also a very good person.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Hannan Mollah and Shri Ramchandra Paswan ji have drawn the attention of the House towards an important issue through Calling Attention. All of you know that reservation for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes in Government jobs is 15%, 7.5% and 27% respectively. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: What is their percentage as on date? Whether that has remained 15 percent today? What is the percentage of the SCs today? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

Why are you not saying this? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Pappuji has, said you cannot get away with any round about reply, you will be trapped. He does not know that the population of SCs and STs has grown to 26-26.5 percent. If it has grown to 26 percent. ...*(Interruptions)* the percentage of backward classes is also 26 percent. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I am telling about what is there existing percentage ...*(Interruptions)* I am not telling with my own sweet will. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Can you can justify that it will not be more than 50 percent. It has already gone beyond 50 percent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How can you anticipate what will be his reply? How can you speak by just anticipating his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ezhilmalai, please sit down now. I have given you enough opportunity to speak. Please cooperate with the Chair. I have nothing against the subject. I am interested in knowing what the Government wants to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: In the last Session also, you gave us time to raise this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER; Every Member is interested in knowing what the Government has to say. So, please allow the hon. Minister to speak. Please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: He is not coming out with the truth. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has not at all spoken. How can you say that he is not telling the truth?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: He has said that only 15 per cent reservation exists till today. According to the population of the community, reservation should be raised. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has not completed his sentence. Please sit down. By this attitude, you are putting the other Members to a loss.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through this Calling Attention Motion attention of the House has been drawn towards an important issue and Shri Rajesh Ranjanji had said that the Muslim dalits should be granted the status of dalits as per their work pattern. Undoubtedly, it is also mentioned in the rules as to who will be called the scheduled castes. Provisions enshrined in the law mentions 11 points as the basis of untouchability and it explains that such category of people shall be deemed as scheduled caste as are socially prohibited from entering any hotel or place of entertainment or in any dharamashala or inn. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Now this is not being done with anyone. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

How can he say that there is no untouchability prevailing in the country? How can he say that untouchability is abolished? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not given permission to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ram Vilas ji you are a senior Member. You have been a Minister as well.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: He is behaving in such a manner though he had been a Minister. You should also listen to what other have to say. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not saying anything wrong. I understand as much as you do. You have got your dignity so have I. Don't speak like that ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: If you will interrupt at every point, how will he complete his reply?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon'ble Minister submit what he intends to.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Calling Attention is a definite motion and it is mentioned in it that the Muslims and Christians. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, you can complete your reply. I do not want to stop you.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Now as I said earlier....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that untouchability is prevailing in Maharashtra despite the fact that conversion of the untouchables to the Buddhism continues. Despite conversion, people in villages consider them Hindus and if a Hindu converts as Buddhist or as a Christian. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can not stop Ramdasji.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The Government should have a programme to abolish untouchability. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister please carry on.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I submitted that the question involved is of limited scope wherein it has been demanded to enlist the Muslims and Christians in the list of scheduled castes are such who do the works similar to the people of scheduled castes and this enlisting has got a procedure. ... (Interruptions). Under that accepted procedure, these matters come through the State Government, the Registrar General, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission and thereafter through the Ministry to be introduced in the form of a Bill. Of course, such things that are being talked about in the country. ... (Interruptions), have got a procedure to be complied with for getting them accomplished and through the State Government the proposal should be sent to the Registrar General and then to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission to be introduced as a Bill ultimately for acceptance as a scheduled caste. We are certainly bound by this procedure and if any proposal comes up through this procedure then there should not be any problem in its acceptance. ... (Interruptions)

12.59 hrs.

(i) **Alleged misuse of name of BSNL in Kolkata**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This topic is over. I do not want to take Zero Hour for full time. Shri Ramji Lal Suman has

given me notice today for raising a very important issue during 'Zero Hour. There is a urgency with regard to queries raised by members regarding Haj Committee. Therefore I would like to take up that issue. But before that let Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi complete his point. I have started 'Zero Hour' now. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very alarming issue and you promised me to give me a chance to speak on that.

MR. SPEAKER: I have promised Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi also to give him a chance for two minutes and you can speak after he completes his submission.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring an important matter to the notice of the House. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is doing a great job and we all feel proud of BSNL. But some people are misusing the name of BSNL in the city of Kolkata. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Some people are speaking daily, but we are not getting chance to speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am not some people.

[English]

I am the Chief Whip of the Principal Opposition Party. You should understand that.

[Translation]

Why don't you understand that? ^{००} २

[English]

Sir, BSNL is a pride for all of us and I congratulate the Minister for running BSNL in a most efficient manner. But a group in Kolkata—all those who come from West Bengal know it—in the name of West Bengal UI STD/ISD Owners' Association has started collecting money for the last two years from young people saying that they

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]
would give agency to them to collect telephone bills of BSNL. The amount involved is huge and it might run into crores of rupees also. They told the people that if they give donation to the BJP, they would get agency for them and top functionaries of the BJP have been named several times in this connection in newspapers. The party said that they are enquiring into it and a leader called Shri Rahul Sinha was involved. He claimed along with one Shri Amul Roy that he wrote a letter to Shri Arun Shourie and said that he did not mind recommending names of NGOs to give jobs to 3,000 people. This news report was published on 24th November in *The Asian Age*. I am told that BSNL is taking action in this matter, to institute a CBI inquiry.

Sir, since the Prime Minister said that on matters of corruption everybody should stand above board, how can a party conduct the enquiry in a matter where its functionaries are involved and all receipts of collection of money are there. The membership drive of the party has been conducted in such a manner cheating thousands of people. I appeal to the Minister to take cognisance of the news report appeared in *the Asia Age* of 24th November. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has named the leader of our party, but he has not given any notice to name anybody. He has mentioned the name of Shri Rahul Sinha. He has mentioned the name of the BJP. This is not correct. So, it should be expunged from the record. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I did not name anybody and I am not making any allegation against the BJP. He should try to understand that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: No, Sir, he has named Shri Rahul Sinha. So, I request you to remove it from the record. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will go through the record and if any name is mentioned I will remove it.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, you have to complete your submission in two minutes.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I will complete it in half-a-minute.

I am not making any allegation against any party. The President of the BJP is a good man. The news report in *The Asian Age* of 24th November stated that

Shri Amul Roy said that he would take action and enquire into the matter. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, he should listen to me first. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If there is anything allegatory in nature against any member of the party, I will remove it from the record. I have already said that. Please take your seat.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, Shri Amul Roy claimed, as per this news report, that he is a BJP activist. It may be true or it may be untrue. The BJP President said that he would enquire into it and I am praising him. But this group which is running a racket by collecting money by misusing the name of BSNL should be stopped from doing that in order to save the unemployed youth who are being cheated. I would request the hon. Minister that he should take cognisance of the news report, institute a CBI inquiry into the matter and book all those people who are involved in this racket.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, think the matter which Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has brought before the House is a very important one. If you will just give me two minutes, I will locate all the facts. There have been several proposals from time to time, as you know, also for persons to collect bills of BSNL have handicapped persons from Maharashtra. From Mumbai, it was there. For unemployed youth from Maharashtra, there were proposals. There was also—I have seen the records—a proposal addressed to the MOS in March, 2003 for collecting BSNL's bills through private persons. In July, a letter of this kind was sent to me also.

Now you have taken the name of Shri Amul Roy.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Shri Amul Roy and Shri Sinha.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Actually, a letter was sent to him. By coincidence it so happened because the letter had come from him. It had been sent from BSNL itself. I clearly stated:

"the proposal has been examined in detail after taking into consideration inputs from the field, that is, from the Kolkata office. As per BSNL's policy in this regard, bill delivery/collection work cannot be entrusted to any private organisation except courier agencies and that too against open competitive bidding."

The letter was clarified.

The second point is that BSNL sent the proposal to BSNL. They have given me several reasons on account of which they would not like to give the collection to private parties. ...(*Interruptions*) I am coming to the point of inquiry.

The experiments of this kind have been tried in two or three Circles, including Haryana. It was found that it was not right because the BSNL then had to chase the private parties which had taken the money or take the authorisation to collect the bills. For that reason and for several other reasons, for instance, they are quite satisfied with the Department of Posts which is collecting the bills. Then, in many places like Andhra Pradesh, very good facilities have been provided under 'e-sewa' for direct payment of the bills.

BSNL is now trying and MTNL are trying that we should be able to pay the bills directly by Internet or through the banks or through cheque drop facilities. So, this proposal is not going to be considered at all.

May I please clarify three things. It is not being given to private parties. Secondly, there is absolutely no question of anybody collecting money on my name or BSNL's name or anyone else's name. Anyone who is paying for this is doing something completely wrong.

Thirdly, because you have brought this matter to my attention and because I now notice from the BSNL's Kolkata office that query has been received there by e-mail and from other parties also, I will have the announcement published in the newspapers in Kolkata that there is no scheme of this kind at all.

As far as the inquiry is concerned, I learnt from the Kolkata office of BSNL that actually a CBI officer visited the BSNL office for preliminary investigations. I assure the House that we will give every assistance for this kind of inquiry by CBI that is already there. ...(*Interruptions*)

13.09 hrs.

(ii) Problems being faced by Haj Pilgrims

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, the hon'ble Minister has come to reply on the issue of the Haji Committee. So, I will take that first. Thereafter you can speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Since I have been giving notice for raising this issue continuously for the last three days, I may, please be given the opportunity to speak for a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a subject for discussion. Only the Minister's reply is required. Therefore, I am allowing Shri Sumanji to speak.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Please associate my name also with it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Please associate my name also. I have also given notice for a Calling Attention Motion on this issue.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Please associate my name also.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats, I will associate the names of all of you. I have directed the Minister concerned to be present here. I want to listen to his reply. Please take your seats. Shri Sumanji, please speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members had invited your attention towards the problem of Haj pilgrims. The Union Government had taken a very imprudent decision during the month of September in that. Any Haj pilgrim, who pays income tax would have to commence his journey from Delhi. His family members viz. mother, sister and old aged father have not been allowed to accompany him during his pilgrimage. The family members and dependents of the Haj travellers will have to commence their journey from Lucknow. This is a highly imprudent decision. Mr. Speaker, Sir through you I would like to request the hon. minister who is sitting here to reply in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, I associate myself with this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): Sir, I also associate myself with this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, irrespective of whether the dependents of Income Tax payee Haj travellers are close i.e. wife etc. or not, nobody can commence and finish the journey with him. In this way Haj pilgrimage cannot be completed. Therefore, it is requested that such a provision be made so as to allow the family members of Haj pilgrim to travel with him irrespective of whether or not they are Income Tax payee but. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, my suggestion is that this case should be deferred for one year.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members have raised the issue of Haj pilgrimage. I know that everybody is concerned about it. I would like to say that the Government is very considerate towards the Haj Pilgrims and treat it as a festival. It will not be proper to think that the Government do not want to provide facilities to the Haj Pilgrims. The hon. Members who have mentioned this problem, is very much in the knowledge of the Government. The affidavits were to be filed under the proposal finalised for Haj Pilgrimage for this year which are not possible to deposit during this period. There has been discussion with the Members of Haj Committee on this issue and they have urged upon the Government that this decision should be deferred for a period of one year and the procedure of filing affidavit should be introduced from the next year. This proposal is being put up to the Cabinet for approval this evening itself.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The request is that this should be postponed for one year.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first flight is taking off on 24th.

MR. SPEAKER: Before that he is going to put up the Cabinet.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is going to put up this to the Cabinet today itself. Nothing more could be said in this regard. The Minister has said that the Cabinet will decide. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

13.12 hrs.

(iii) Reported Increase in the prices of Cement in the country.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very important matter. The cement prices in the country are increasing abnormally. There is a great blow to the construction activity, particularly, to the weaker sections of the society under the Indira Awas Yojana. Four months back the price of cement was Rs. 95 and the present price is Rs. 175. This has happened in a span of four months only. The construction activity is stopped not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in the whole country.

My sincere appeal to you is that you should direct the Government to make a statement as to why this has happened in the country. Everywhere the cement prices are increasing. My submission is that the Government should make an announcement in this regard as it is affecting the people, particularly, the weaker sections of the society.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs is here, he will convey your feelings to the concerned hon. Minister.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I am requesting the Government to come forward and make a statement as to why this has happened. I can understand if there is an increase of Rs. 5 or Rs. 10, but I cannot understand why this abnormal increase of price is there in the case of cement.

[Translation]

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): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will bring this issue to the notice of the hon. Minister and request him to do something in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji, you have already raised the issue. You may express your view in a few sentences so that a couple of other hon. Members also get an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will be associated with this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, heinous crimes are committed in the name of religion and a recent incident that took place in the Bhurkunda area of Jharkhand State is a glaring example in this regard. Six years old, Munna Paswan, the son of Shri Vijay Paswan a CCL employee was kidnapped in this area. There is a Khepa Baba. So many Babas like him exist there. They sacrificed the boy. His father is an employee with the CCL. When people protested, their voice was stifled by opening fire on them which claimed a college student as its victim. When he was arrested, the people intervened to prevent his arrest. So many mills are running there. ...(*Interruptions*) There is nobody to look into these types of incident. The children, who are sacrificed at the altar of such superstitions, mostly belong to the poor and tribal families. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This issue has come to everybody's notice. Now sit down please. I would like ask the hon. Minister to draw the attention of the concerned Minister to this issue. I am not granting too much time to speak on every issue. You have raised this issue in the House twice.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Please direct the hon. Minister to make a statement on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already asked the hon. Minister to do the needful.

[*English*]

Shrimati Renu Kumari will speak now. Nothing else will go on record except what she says.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion have been held so many times in the House on the deteriorating law and order situation in Bihar. The most deplorable point of it is that when the Chief

Secretary of Bihar was arrested on the orders of the hon. Court, the Chief Minister of Bihar, Smt. Rabri Devi threatened Shri Ravi Dhawan, the Chief Justice of the High Court on telephone in order to effect the nullification of the judgement which is a heinous crime in a democracy. ...(*Interruptions*) The people in power are misusing their position by intervening in the matters of the hon. Court. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

13.17 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch
till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Matters under Rule 377.

(i) **Need to resume air services from Jabalpur.**

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, civil aviation service was available for the citizens in Jabalpur city. Boeing planes were in operation in this sector, but the air service was withdrawn on the plea that the number of air travellers was not adequate. As a result, the people of this commercial, industrial and defence production city are facing a lot of hardships.

As far as the airport is concerned, it is in a very smooth and operational condition. Different politicians used this airport for their planes during the recent elections. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to resume the air services from this city by linking it with air services operating from important airports like Nagpur, Bhopal, Mumbai etc. and do justice to the citizens of Jabalpur.

*Not recorded.

(ii) Need to approve the proposals of the Government of Gujarat for promotion of tourism in the State.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, the Government of Gujarat has submitted three proposals for Central assistance for tourism projects on 21st March, 2003 for sanction.

I urge the Government to accord the necessary sanction at the earliest.

(iii) Need to check the rising prices of cast iron and coal with a view to safeguard the interests of small engineering foundry units in Gujarat and other parts of the country.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): As the Government lifted control over the steel plants, prices of pig iron and cast iron scrap rose beyond the reach of small engineering foundry units, which are spread throughout the country.

During the period of the last one year, prices of iron rose from Rs. 9,300 to Rs. 16,300 per tonne and similarly, prices of coal rose from Rs. 5,400 to Rs. 10,000.

A large number of small engineering foundry units in the country and particularly in Gujarat face the threat of closure. With the result, lakhs of labourers face threat of unemployment and starvation and it will also adversely affect the agriculturists because agricultural equipment will become dearer.

I therefore, urge the Government to intervene immediately and control the prices of cast iron, pig iron and coal.

(iv) Need to set up a Rubber Park at Pathanapuram in Kollam district, Kerala.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): As you are aware, Adoor is a reserved constituency and the area is very backward. The main cultivation is rubber. Small and marginal farmers are engaged in rubber plantation. Production of rubber is on a large scale. But there is no rubber based industry in this constituency. Therefore, I proposed before the Commerce Ministry and the Rubber

Board for setting up a Rubber Park at Pathanapuram in Adoor Constituency. Both of them have agreed in principle. But due to the financial constraints, the proposal is pending with the Ministry of Commerce.

I request the Government to look into the matter and start the proposed Rubber Park at the earliest.

(v) Need to direct the Government of Karnataka to abandon the project taken up by them to change the course of Netravati River in the Western Ghat region.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government and the Minister of Water Resources to the Karnataka Government's move to change the course of the Netravati River starting from the Western Ghat.

The Karnataka Government have already taken up the project in this regard. It is understood that this move is without the knowledge and permission of the Central Government and Kerala Government. If this project comes into existence it will spoil several rivers flowing through the Malabar area in Kerala. North Malabar of Kerala is already under drought and shortage of drinking water. This move of the Karnataka Government will deteriorate the situation in northern parts bordering Kerala. Thousands of acres of forest will have to be removed and destroyed. The animals and rare plants will be destroyed. The fertile land on the bank of the existing rivers will also be destroyed. Chandragiri, Tejaswami, Valapatanam rivers flowing in Kerala are small rivers and are parts of Netravati River. The drought situation of this area will double. It will adversely affect the landscape and nature of this area as a whole.

In the circumstances I would request the Central Government to please direct the Karnataka Government to stop such a move and depute experts to study the feasibility of the project immediately.

(vi) Need to enhance the outlay for the Sector Reforms Pilot Project being implemented in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI Y.V. RAO (Guntur): Sir, a sector reforms Pilot Project with an outlay of Rs. 40 crore with ten per cent community participation was sanctioned to Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh with a gestation period of three years, that is, from 1.4.2002 to 31.3.2005. The people of Guntur district have remitted Rs. 6 crore towards community participation. So far, Rs. 22.44 crore have been released

and Rs. 19.05 crore have been utilised. Works for the remaining amount are in active progress. The Collector of Guntur has submitted proposals for release of third instalment. Meanwhile according to recent instructions of the Government of India, the project which was to be completed by 31.3.2005 has to be completed now and accounts finalised by 31.3.2004 so that Swajaldhara could be implemented from 1.4.2004.

I request the hon. Minister to relax the stipulation of submitting accounts by completing works up to 15.8.2004. Since works are in full swing, the switch over of ongoing works to Swajaldhara-II would disappoint the community and hamper the extension of work. In the interest of the community and to successfully complete the drinking water scheme, I also request the hon. Minister for assurance of balance ten per cent paid for Rs. 15 crore for 40 projects in 45 villages either in Swajaldhara-II or sector reforms to start work immediately.

- (vii) Need to provide mobile telephone facilities in all the talukas of Parbhani Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.**

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Sir, there are 11 Talukas in my constituency, Parbhani. The mobile services are available in only three Talukas whereas Manwat, Jintur, Sonepeth, Palam, Poorna, Pathri of district Parbhani and Partur and Mantha of district Jalana are not having any mobile services. Due to this the people are facing a lot of inconveniences in today's fast life. If mobile services are made available in these Talukas, the common people will be greatly benefited and the Government will also get heavy revenue.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Communications and Information Technology through this House to start mobile services immediately in the above-said eight Talukas of my constituency. Necessary directions may be issued in this regard.

- (viii) Need to celebrate Rashtriya Mazdoor/Shilpkar Diwas on 17th September, every year and declare it as a national holiday.**

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government

to the workers and artisans of the country whose sentiments are deeply associated to the worship of Vishwakarma on 17th September. Every year crores of workers and artisans of our country celebrate and worship the God of artisans, Vishwakarma on 17th September on the occasion of 'Kanya Sankamati' and feel blessed. In this regard crores of workers and artisans have been demanding for the last many years to declare this day as a national workers and artisan day for performing Vishwakarma pooja on 17th September on the lines of International May day being celebrated on 1st May.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to declare this day as a national workers and artisans day for performing Vishwakarma Pooja every year on 17th September.

- (ix) Need to ensure proper maintenance of National Highways in Bihar.**

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Sir, most of the roads in Bihar are in very dilapidated condition. The situation is such worse that it is difficult to say whether there are potholes in the roads or the road is in the potholes. Even the road which has been included among national highways is not being repaired. The State Government is opening such roads which have been included among the national highways in the pretext of Union Government's Policy. The Union Government has done nothing to get these roads constructed as highways, even the repair works are not being done.

Therefore, I request the Surface Transport Department that the national highways in Bihar and the roads that have been included in national highways be repaired soon and made suitable for transport so that the people do not have to face problems.

- (x) Need for construction of an underground rail bridge at Karvi in Chitrakoot district in U.P.**

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the new market area of Karvi the Headquarters of newly carved out district of Chitrakoot in Uttar Pradesh is the main market and commercial centre and all the main government offices of the district and residences are situated in that area. The Judiciary of the district and all the offices of Judges and Courts are situated there only. Railway Station is also situated in this very area where dozens of trains pass every day. The gate at the railway crossing is closed mostly due to departure and arrival of trains. The public face lot of problems in their movement. Due to this vehicles are mostly stopped on the narrow

[Shri Ram Sajivan]

one lane roads on both sides of the gates and most of the time there is traffic jam. An alternative railway crossing is essential to overcome this situation and ensure smooth flow of traffic for the people. There is a railway line at some height nearby the river Payaswani in Karvi town and there is a small underground bridge below which a road passes through, my suggestion is that a big underground bridge may be constructed near that small bridge and this might solve the problem in a relatively economical way. Therefore there is a need for construction of an underground bridge and road at the above mentioned place.

"that the bill to amend the Electricity Act, 2003 as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Electricity Bill, 2001 was passed by Lok Sabha and we had accepted almost 80 percent of the recommendations of the Standing Committee while passing it. Some of the recommendations of the Standing Committee were related to the electricity policy and tariff policy that we are going to formulate. At that time we said that the Electricity Bill, 2001 was passed in Lok Sabha with 126 amendments and when the Bill came for discussion in Rajya Sabha then the hon. Members of Rajya Sabha also sought for some amendments. Rajya Sabha mainly demanded for four amendments and stated that if the Government brings these four amendments in the coming session then the Bill would be passed in Lok Sabha also. We gave the assurance in Rajya Sabha that government will pass those amendments then Rajya Sabha also passed the bill. To fulfill that assurance Rajya Sabha passed the Electricity (Amendment) bill on 8th December and the same Bill is before the Lok Sabha today for consideration. Sir, after the original Bill was passed, Electricity Law, 2003 has been enacted from 10 June, 2003. The amendment Bill which is before the House for discussion today relates mainly to the amendment in regulatory tribunal. Rajya Sabha raised objections over the right of superintendence and governance given to the tribunal in the original Bill and sought to end the tribunals right of superintendence and control. They brought in this amendment and we accepted it and Rajya Sabha passed the Bill with this amendment. The second important amendment relates to the open access that we are going to provide in distribution sector, there was this provision in the original Bill that regulatory commission should consider how to provide open access after considering it during one year and take an initiative for the same. There was no definite time limit in the original Bill. When the Bill came up for discussion in Rajya Sabha then several members said that the need is to fix definite time limit for providing open access and the Government does not have any objection in fixing definite time limit. That is why we brought in this amendment which was passed in Rajya Sabha and today it has come up for discussion in Lok Sabha.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Item Nos. 16 and 17, Statutory Resolution and the Bill are to be taken up together. Both the hon. Member and the hon. Minister are not here. Therefore, we are going to the next item.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I am here.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, hon. Minister has submitted before the House that the House can decide to take this up tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I was told it has already been agreed to take it up tomorrow.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: yes, Sir. We have agreed that it could be taken up tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: So, you have no objection.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have no objection.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What about the Government?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, we have no objection.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Then, we will go to the next item, item no. 18. Hon. Minister, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete to move for consideration and passing of the Bill. One hour's time is allotted for this discussion.

14.18 hrs.

THE ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the motion:

There are two important things in it, firstly when we are going to provide open access then there should not be such provisions in the guidelines which might become a problem for those who will come for open access. Conditions should be specified on the basis of which any work would be done. One amendment relates to the

provisions made in the original Bill to prevent pilferage. Some of the provisions were very strict. Relating to that when this Bill came up for discussion in Rajya Sabha then the apprehensions were expressed that now we are going to give open access to distribution that means many players would enter the field of distribution. Companies from private sector too would enter this field and these strict laws might be misused if private sector enters this field. That is why nobody's officer or house should be confiscated on the grounds of doubt only, if this right is given then definitely it would be misused. Therefore, these provisions should be removed from the provisions to prevent pilferage. There are four major points on which amendments were sought.

Sir, to fulfill the assurance we gave in Rajya Sabha we presented this amendment Bill in Rajya Sabha fulfilling the assurance and they passed it. The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2003 as passed by Rajya Sabha has been moved in Lok Sabha today for consideration and approval. My request is that Lok Sabha has passed the original Bill and it was discussed comprehensively in Lok Sabha and by the Standing Committee. While formulating and passing of this Bill alongwith the Standing Committee and both the Houses of Parliament discussions were held with all the States, State Electricity Boards and the people of all sectors related to power sector and then it was passed only after a detailed discussion by both the Houses of Parliament. That is why I request the House to pass this amendment Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Electricity Act, 2003, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. This Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2003 is a welcome aspect, but at the same time, I would like to draw attention to how we were having very great anxiety and expectation when the Electricity Bill was passed and subsequent steps were taken by the Government for implementing the provisions of the Electricity Act. We should focus on that aspect also. It is because this is a very important reform, which will change the face of the country. The State Electricity Boards are already at the dead end of their own financial aspect. Many of the States were compelled, after this enactment, to setup their own financial management. Many of the State Electricity Boards could

not come out of the debt trap. They are passing on their entire misdeed to the consumers. Ordinary agriculturists, small householders, and people who are living with small connections of electricity are now being overburdened. People are suffering because of this. You know very well that the results of many of the elections in the State Assemblies were also a consequence of this type of electricity burden being passed on to the consumers. Why does the Central Government, in such a situation, want to shift the burden to the State Government, instead of helping them in one way or the other?

On the other hand, the Electricity Boards are trying to come out of the trap, but they are not able to meet the requirements of the consumers. For agriculture, in the drought situation, they are now depending only upon the pumpsets. They need the electricity connections. They are ready to pay Rs. 25,000 in certain States. For example, in Tamil Nadu they are demanding to deposit the amount for that. But, the agriculturists are not getting the electricity connections.

On the one side, there is drought and on the other, the agriculturists are migrating from one place to the other. Some people want to stick to their own village, with their ancient farming that is their ancient occupation. They want to remain their with that, but they are not protected. They are not getting the incentives from the Central Government. They only want to have reforms in every aspect.

How is the Central Government going to address the grievances of the agriculturists, rural poor, and also the urban middle class and lower class people who need electricity? Without electricity, the life of a human being is nowhere. The Government of India should also address this aspect. Somehow the Government of India should find out the finances to help the State Electricity Boards to compensate for this type of debt or the burden that is coming upon the consumers.

In this aspect, I would like to stress upon the amendments. Of course, they are needed, but at the same time it should be seen whether it is going to be another red-tapism where the bureaucracy is going to put their own hands upon it to see that the private sector is not supplying to the needs of the consumer.

For example, now the amendment is being made for changing "including the capital adequacy, creditworthiness, or code of conduct" with the words "relating to the capital adequacy, creditworthiness, or code of conduct."

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

Even now the bureaucracy has the right to find out whether a proper competitiveness is being allowed in the same area to one or more persons or not. If a person is very strong—who is already in the same field—then he will try to use this particular Clause and see that there is no capital adequacy; there is no creditworthiness; and that there is no code of conduct followed properly by the second competitor. How are you going to tackle this problem? Is it going to be a very stringent measure or are you going to allow the competition to be followed by the lesser price and more convenience, and more services to the consumer system? Is that aspect of the private sector mind going to be applied by the bureaucracy even when they are applying this particular Clause?

The entire mindset of the bureaucracy has to be changed. We have already taken the example of Western type of global economics. When we are going for global economics, then the mind of the bureaucracy should also be like that only. There should not be more supervision, and there should not be more regularization, etc. It should only be allowed amongst the competitors. It is for themselves to find out their own way so that a healthy competition is allowed to be regulated by the Government and not more than that.

In the same way I feel about the next amendment. It states that: "provided also that the State Commission shall, not later than five years...." Why so much time is given to them? We are thirsty to get electricity. There should be competition. People should come out with their productions—whether it is making or producing the electricity through hydel power or any other power—and by way of that power production, it should be seen that production goes to the consumer immediately and without further delay. However, we are allowing them a long rope of five years, which is too much. It should be done immediately. When you are allowing a State Commission to provide such open access to all consumers, why can you not change their mindset so that they can provide it within six months or one year? When there is high demand for electricity and when there is production, if you are locking it up for five years, they will exploit that loophole and they will say, "We have sufficient time. You come afterwards; we will put it after one year or you fulfil the small conditions." When you are making rules, kindly pay attention to these things. The number of rules should be less and the accessibility to the people should be more. It is only then that the consumers get the benefit from that.

Section 121 is now expanded with some more things. You are now providing for audio *altum partum*, that is, for hearing the other side or hearing the Appropriate Commission and the other interested party. That is a welcome measure. This way, the passing of *suo motu* orders can be restricted by way of allowing the Appropriate Commission to come before the Appellate Authority. This way, the interested party is also heard. This is an appreciable measure. It should be applied in a proper way and within a time limit so that things can be delivered to the consumers in a proper way.

Section 139 and 140 deal with punishment and imposing a fine of Rs. 10,000. What will happen if the damages, injuries or breakages are more? Therefore, it should be flexible. It should be left to the court or any arbitrator to decide as to how much fine should be imposed. What I am saying is that the quantum of punishment should be in proportion to the damages caused to the Electricity Board concerned.

I appreciate the fact that the Government has come forward with this Amendment in a very short time. At the same time, I would request the Central Government to be more vigorous in implementing the Act so that the benefits reach the people as quickly as possible.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I stand to support the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2003 and welcome all the amendments that have been proposed in this Bill.

At the outset, let me say that I wish to compliment the Power Minister for his spirited pursuit of the reforms in the power sector, but let us not forget that all the past failures in this field have been making us look like as if we are a Third World country and these spectacular and magnificent achievements that can be quoted of other fields are missing in your power sector.

Sir, power sector and power remain as one of the most important ingredients of all developments and reforms in the country. We have to hasten to get the reforms in the right way. As they say, 'Once bitten, twice shy', hence, I continue to be extremely sceptical about the reforms of the power sector.

Electricity Bill, 2003 was passed in May, 2003, and it became an Act on 10th June, 2003, that is, over six months ago from now. However, I feel that there is very little impact of that Act visible on the ground. I would like to ask the Minister, through you, Sir, to let us have a report on what all have been the achievements in this sector in the six-month period that has passed. We have

been talking about reforms for a long time. We have been asking for a comprehensive Bill which would replace the three Bills which were there in this sector. So, let me ask him, Sir, as to what has been the achievement of the Government in the six months that have passed and how far he has been able to really assess that.

Let me now come to the specifics and give you some examples. Under Section 3 of this Electricity Act, 2003, the Central Government had to lay down the National Electricity Policy and the Tariff Policy. This should have been done by the time when we were discussing it in the House here and when this Bill went to the Rajya Sabha. The Government had enough time and it should have been done in time. Six months have passed. The Minister is saying that lot of things will be put into these rules and policies. Where are the rules and policies? Where is the Tariff Policy? Why has it not been formulated? I would like to ask the Minister through you, Sir, to let us know something about this as well.

Similarly, several States are yet to constitute the Regulatory Commission six months have passed. Where are the Regulatory Commissions which should have been set up in the States? Has the Government followed it up? What is the status of that? Can the Minister give us a report on that as well? These are but a few examples. Overall, progress of the implementation seems to be poor. The Minister needs to look into this and the reasons thereof urgently.

Let me now come to the amendments that have been proposed. It will be recalled that while speaking in this House on April, 19th, when the Electricity Bill was being debated, I had raised several issues where unanimous recommendations of the Standing Committee. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): They were not unanimous. I dissented.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: But you did not put it in writing, Sir.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes, I did put it in writing. Perhaps you have not seen the entire report.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Okay. Now please listen to me. I am talking about the unanimous part where you were with us.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Singh, please address the Chair. Bilateral talk is not permitted in the House.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Let him not disturb me, Sir. There were a lot of unanimous decisions. Not all of them were unanimous. We had made about 126 recommendations. Let him get up and say that all 126 recommendations were not in order and that he had objected to most of them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Singh, after you Shri Basu Deb Acharia is getting the floor. You address the Chair.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: So, he should not disturb me right now.

I will talk about the unanimous decisions, the ones which were unanimously taken. He was not there when we passed it unanimously on that day. That is why they were unanimous.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I was very much present.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you can speak when your turn comes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He should not mislead the House. It was not unanimous.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You correct him, if you want, but when your turn comes.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Sir, in this context I drew comfort from the Minister's assurance in the Rajya Sabha. He did not give an assurance here. This assurance was given on 5th May, 2003. It reads, "The Government will bring forth an amendment", which he has already done, "that would address the issues of the recommendations put forth by the Standing Committee." Unfortunately, several of the critical recommendations of the Standing Committee do not find mention in the proposed amendment.

Sir, in the Rajya Sabha during his reply on the discussion on the Electricity Bill on 5th May, 2003, the hon. Minister of Power said and I quote:

[Translation]

"These amendments would be brought on behalf of the Government and the additions and recommendation made by the Standing Committee specially the suggestions which have been given with general Consensus and about which the members

[Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh Badnore]

have also made a mention here, I on behalf of the Government give assurance here to the House for bringing all these amendments"

[English]

The Hon. Ministers had said that he would look into all the recommendations put-forth by the Standing Committee.

Let me once again reiterate the points I had made earlier before this House on 9th April, 2003. All these points were based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee—and I say 'unanimous' again—and they have been overlooked.

The Standing Committee in their Report, in paras 13.47 and 13.48, had recommended legislative oversight over the Regulatory Commission in view of their important development role. The hon. Minister agreed to them.

In para 13.46, the Committee had recommended that the Regulatory Commission should not have independent funds outside the legislative control like the Supreme Court and the High Courts, and they should draw funds from the Consolidated Fund as it was in the original ERC Act of 1998 and several other State laws. But that has been overlooked.

Similarly, in para 13.36 of the Report, the Committee had recommended that the Commission and the Appellate Tribunal members should not be eligible for re-employment so that their independence and autonomy are preserved. That has been overlooked.

Then, in paras 1.22 and 10.38, it was recommended that the Commission will frame all the regulations within one year so as to avoid discretionary approach and promote investment in the power sector.

The Committee had also recommended that the private transmission companies should be prohibited from having ownership interest in generation and distribution as this was necessary to avoid conflict of interest and creation of private monopolies. That also does not figure in these amendments.

Above all, the Committee had greatly emphasised the role of open access and repeatedly recommended a definite time frame for its introduction. This was considered central or anchor to the entire reform process.

The Amendment Bill now specifies five years from the date of this Amendment Bill, which means some time in the year 2009, this has to be done. Now, 2009 is so far away. Why should it be 2009? Let it be 2005 or let be 2006. Why does he say five years? We do not know in five years what is going to happen..

Sir, keeping in view the assurance given by the hon. Minister on the floor of the Rajya Sabha, I request him again to look into these recommendations of the Standing Committee which are unanimous. Whatever my friend on the other side may say, but these are very critical recommendations and they need to be looked into. Otherwise, I support this Bill wholeheartedly.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I rise to oppose the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2003 as I opposed the Electricity Bill, 2003.

Let me make it clear that the recommendations of the Standing Committee were not unanimous. I gave a four-page note of dissent. My friend, perhaps has not gone through the Report of the Standing Committee. If he had seen my dissenting note, he would not have said that it was a unanimous Report. The Report of the Standing Committee was not unanimous. Why am I opposed to the reforms and also the way reforms are being carried out? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Badnore, why are you disturbing him now?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE Sir, he disturbed me and I have a right to disturb him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We had three Acts—the Electricity Act of 1910, the Electricity Supply Act of 1948 and the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act of 1998. All these three Acts had been replaced by a single Act. My question is whether there was any need to have a new Act? Who has failed? May I know whether the Electricity Act has failed or we have failed?

In 1947, we used to generate electricity. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Sir, now we have to discuss the amendments to the Act, but not the Act. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has also referred to the Act.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE Sir, It happened six months back and now he is talking about the Act. he should have talked about all these things at the time of passage of the Act. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER; Shri Basu Deb Acharia, when he was speaking, you were interrupting and now when you are speaking, he is interrupting you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am criticising the Act. Why is he objecting to it? He said that the Report of the Standing Committee was unanimous. But it was not. Shri Raghavan and I—both of us—sent a dissenting note. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BANDORE; Sir, he has to talk on the amendments now. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): He is talking about the Act. Now, we are on the amendments. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER; Shri Paranjpe, please sit down. He has given his dissent to the Report. Let him speak. For this Bill, the allotted time is one hour. Let us finish it as quickly as possible.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, five lakh villages have already been electrified. I want to know what was the necessity for this new Act. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, what is the point that he is unnecessarily raising now? He was a member of the Standing Committee. Why should he now speak all that here? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Basu Deb Acharia says.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What was the reason which was put forward to replace the existing three Acts?

During the Tenth Five Year Plan and the Eleventh Five Year Plan, we will have a gap in demand and supply,

which may be to the extent of 15 per cent. That is why, open access should be given or allowed.

In the generation sector, private sector was allowed long back and we had the experience of Enron. Today, the Government has opened Pandora's Box. This country will be divided between urban India and rural India. No private sector will go to rural India. In India, 85,000 villages are yet to be electrified. In Bihar, only 15 per cent of the villages have been electrified so far. May I know—after bringing forward the new Act and allowing the private sector now only in generation but also in transmission and distribution—whether the private sector will come forward?

In the Ninth Five Year Plan, what was the target fixed for the private sector? It was 18,000 MW. What was the achievement? It was only 2,000 MW. May I know whether it was because of the Act which was prevalent at that time? Why did the private sector not come forward? Will we have to open up everything in the name of reforms?

The State Electricity Boards were unbounded. What is the experience of the States which started reforms in the electricity sector? May I know whether PLF has been reduced and losses incurred by the SEBs have been reduced? There has not been any impact. Rather, the situation has deteriorated. What is required is that we should strengthen the Act. The State of West Bengal is the first State which initiated action with regard to prevention of theft and pilferage. It was the first State to enact a stringent and deterrent Act, as a result of which, within one-and-a-half year there has been a lot of achievement. The State Electricity Board of West Bengal is now coming out of red by strengthening the Act and not by opening everything and bringing reforms without any human face.

What is the purpose of bringing this amendment? It is to liberalise more and more. Why does the Government want to amend section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003? It says:

"Provided that the Appropriate Commission may grant a licence to two or more persons for distribution of electricity through their own distribution system within the same area, subject to the conditions that the applicant..... including the capital adequacy, creditworthiness or code of conduct."

The word 'including' is being replaced by 'relating to'. Why is it so? It is to make it more liberal so as to give more facilities to the private sector.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

What is our experience of the six months of its existence? How many private sectors have come so far, have shown interest, to develop hydel power? Before the enactment of this Act there was no problem for the private sector to come in the hydel power sector. Why have they not shown any interest? I doubt, Sir, and future will tell whether this Act will be able to overcome the problems that we are now facing.

We have fixed a target that by 2007, cent per cent villages and by 2012 cent per cent households are to be electrified. Even in the States which have achieved cent per cent village electrification, the access to electricity is only 50 per cent. Fifty per cent households have been electrified. By enacting this Act, we will not be able to achieve the target. Rather, what will happen? The Government wants to put certain time limit. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is what I am doing now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Government wants to put time limit in regard to cross-subsidisation. Today, poor people living below poverty line and middle class people are getting electricity at a cheaper rate. If cross-subsidisation is removed, as has been proposed in the Act, what will happen to the people living below poverty line? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have already taken double the time allotted to your Party. Please conclude, otherwise, I will call the next speaker.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Government has not thought of that. India will be divided into two parts. The poor section of people will have to purchase electricity at a higher rate. The Government has not thought of them. Instead of bringing some amendment to protect the interest of the poorer section of the people, an amendment has been brought to protect the interest of the private sector. I not only oppose the amendments but also the Electricity Act, 2003.

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (Nasik): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me a chance to speak on this Bill. I rise to support this Bill on behalf of the Shiv Sena. I am feeling very happy to tell you that the Hon. Minister of Power, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete has given some assurance in the Rajya Sabha and after giving assurance there he has brought forward this amendment in this august House. I am thankful to

him for this. According to my opinion, no body believes any Minister or a leader because these people give assurances are forget. Therefore, about this assurance I recall a short story, which is as under:

There was a Member of Parliament. He visited a village after five years, when elections were at hand. All the inhabitants of that village gathered there. The villagers saw that the Member of Parliament was visiting their village after five years. One person stood up and asked that hon. Member of Parliament "the elections are about to be held, but no potable water facility is available in our village. He, the Member of Parliament was a very intelligent person. He told them he did not come over there for elections. He added that he had not gone there for electioneering. He tried to convince them that since they did not have potable water facility, he had come to provide them potable water facility. The public liked it. Thereafter another person stood up and thanked the Hon. Member of Parliament for providing potable water. But he further said that they did not have water for irrigation. The Member of Parliament told them that he was going to make available water for irrigation also. Thereafter, the third person stood up and stated that they were thankful to him for providing potable water and also water for irrigation. But you arrange for the construction of a dam. The Member of Parliament stated that he did have MPLAD scheme and therefore, he was ready to sanction a dam for the area. The people liked it. There was man like Hon. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, observed that the Member of Parliament seems to be very smart. He stood up and told the hon. Member of Parliament that he was thankful for providing water drinking as also for cultivation and also for providing dam in his area. He added that for all these things river would be required. The Member of Parliament told that he would provide them a river.

Therefore, I realise as to why the public do not believe even high profile leaders. I entered politics in 1961. When I was an undergraduate I became a councillor. I have been observing for the last 42 years that be he a leader or a Minister, nobody trusts him. But Geete ji I thank you that you are also fulfilling assurance you gave. ...*(Interruptions)* I will not contest the elections. It is not my job. The public will elect him. I will not be in the fray.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the four proposals submitted by the Hon. Minister are very good proposals. The hon. Minister is going to provide electricity in all the villages by the year 2007. He is going to provide electricity to each and every house by the year 2012. I would like

to pray to the God that he materialize this dream of the Hon. Minister. I read about electricity that 1362 megawatts of electricity was available in our country in the year 1950 and we were having one lakh fifty thousand megawatts of electricity by the year 2002. I feel pleasure that the hon. Minister is going to generate one lakh megawatts of electricity. I would again like to pray to the God that this quantum of electricity be generated at the earliest.

15.00 hrs.

I have also heard that a lot of enthusiasm and confidence has been created in the public in the power sector by this Bill. This amendment also reflects that none will be able to exercise his monopoly in this sector—neither the Government, nor the private sector. It is a matter of pleasure. There will be good completion, open access and the consumers would get electricity at cheaper rates through this amendment. More investment is also required in this sector.

Sir, the electricity is an important issue in our country. As all the people of our country viz. Farmers, farm labourers, small industrialist, businessmen and industrialists are associated with this sector, therefore, we want this much as to who there could be more and more investment and development in this sector.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Uttamrao ji, please conclude now.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Occasionally, I get a chance to speak. ...(*Interruptions*). Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please also keep in mind that I am not coming again. I told Geete that it is not possible for me. I do not want to come again.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there should be more investment in the power sector, be it from centre or the private sector. I feel pleasure that releasing was introduced for power generation, delicensing for distribution has also been introduced. It is good. One more thing which I liked is that where the power is generated, its distribution will be natural sequence. The licensee has been assigned the responsibility and the provision of penalising is also made therein for those who won't fulfill it. It is a matter of pleasure. But I would like to tell the hon. Minister that I fear that some people presume that there will be difficulty, if the private sector is encouraged. There is also apprehension that private sector would go on earning

profit. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister that he should pay attention in this regard also. I will conclude after speaking for a minute about Maharashtra.

I during elections read that BSP means 'Bijali' 'sarak' and 'pani'. ...(*Interruptions*) Shatrughan Sinhaji are you also here?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): Yes, water is also there.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: I used to read like this. In many states and everywhere in our Maharashtra state there has been no good rain. Some wells are having water and some are without it. Every Saturday and Sunday I visit my farm, not for picnic, but for farming. Even after becoming a Member of Parliament I do good farming. I in my farm house have fixed a bulb, which remains on day and night, as the electricity keeps on playing hide and seek. ...(*Interruptions*) The bulb lits with the advent of power and the servants came to know that the water could be pumped out now on switching on the motor. I would like to tell Munsji that there is acute shortage of electricity in Maharashtra state as it is in short supply to the tune of 1800 to 2000 megawatts. It is good for us. The supply of electric current is not up to the mark. I have launched many fronts and asked many people that to why these people are not providing electricity they should be sent back their homes and the people are in this very mood. I do not want to take your much time. I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak. As our hon. Minister Shri Geete ji fares well, I also thank him.

[*English*]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Thank you. The Electricity Bill, 2003 has been enacted and the provisions of the Act have been brought into force with effect from 10th June, 2003. Already ten drafts have been prepared and extensive discussions have been held on this legislation.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to place my views before the House. The salient features of the original Act was to prepare a National Electricity Policy in consultation with the State Governments. Constitution of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission has been made mandatory. To lure those Electricity Boards the Government has proposed some incentives also. Thermal generation has been de-licensed and trading has been

[Shri Adhir Chaudhary]

recognised as a distinct activity. Cross-subsidy has been proposed to be abolished in a progressive manner. Therefore, the regime of subsidy which has long been enjoyed by the rural poor, especially the poor farmers and the marginal farmers has been done away with by the legislation. One hundred per cent rural electrification, mandatory metering and corporatisation of State Electricity Boards were also proposed.

As you know, power is an indicator of economic development of a country. Availability of power at affordable cost along with quality is considered to be a determinant of economic development. The Minister concerned, who is hailing from Maharashtra which had the experience of infamous privatisation of Enron and Dabhol projects, knows very well where the shoe pinches.

Virtually State Electricity Boards have been degenerated into an abysmal of financial despair. There is no way for these SEBs to revive. Fifty-five per cent of the revenue deficit of State Governments is on account of deficit that is lying with the CPSUs.

The Original Bill has proposed some incentives to the SEBs. I must appreciate that. However, all the States have not yet signed that. Therefore, those non-performing States will be liable again for the accumulative losses of our exchequer. I know the plight of electricity in my State, West Bengal. Our Communist friends, who are pleading for some amendments or proposals, have to ponder over their own performance in the State of West Bengal. When we proposed to the Electricity Board for development of water body or its beautification, the West Bengal State Electricity Board asked us to pay the price of a transformer. Can you imagine that? First, we have to pay the price for a transformer and then power will be given. Even a village which has been provided with a single electrical pole without having transmission has been declared by the State Government as an electrified village. The problems are in galore!

First of all, insofar as the CPSUs are concerned, the Minister must admit that due to the high cost of electricity, the *bona fide* customers are now preparing to generate power on their own. Captive power generation has become an idea. The various industries and even the Government concerns also are now devising ways to have their own plants. The hon. Railway Minister is present here. The Railways are an energy intensive industry. They are now devising ways to generate power on their own because the price of electricity is very much high. Due to the poor quality of the electricity and the perennial

shortage of power, even the foreign investors are now shutting up their own enterprises in India.

Now, I would seek some clarifications. How many State Electricity Regulation Commissions have so far been constituted? How much autonomy has been given to those Regulatory Commissions? First of all, the entire exercise must be done to the benefit of consumers. The confidence of the consumers must be taken into account before any Bill is brought forward or any successful endeavour is made.

The Electricity Regulatory Commission is there. I would like to know whether the poor customers will be able to plead their cases before the Regulatory Commission without being provided with any lawyer. No. Therefore, there is still a serious mismatch between the customer and the performance of the Regulatory Commission. The Regulatory Commission itself does not have any financial autonomy. Therefore, the Government may propose a cess to be levied specially from those organisations which are involved in generating electricity, distribution and transmission. I would like to know whether the Ninth Plan capacity generation target has been achieved or not. If not, what are the reasons so far detected?

The Ninth Plan envisages a gross energy generation target of 606.7 billion units for the utilities in the terminal year. The actual energy generation has been 515.3 billion units. The All-India installed generation capacity of utilities at the beginning of Ninth Plan was 84893 MW. The Ninth Plan envisaged a capacity generation of 40245 MW. The actual capacity addition was 19015 MW during the Ninth Plan period. It is 47 per cent below the target.

Sir, this is the performance of our power sector. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to consolidate all those who are involved in power, coal and petroleum sector so that a comprehensive body for energy security can be conceived. Otherwise, the energy problem of the country cannot be solved by a single legislation.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate on the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2003. I welcome this amending Bill which has been introduced here after having been examined by the Standing Committee. This amending Bill seeks to safeguard the interests of consumers in respect of production and distribution.

Sir, the most important task before the country is to make electricity available at an affordable price. The hon. Minister, while answering to a Starred Question on 11.12.2003, stated that the Electricity Act, 2003 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. He said that the Bill had, along with other progressive features, the provisions for captive generation being freely permitted and having right to non-discriminatory open access through the grid without payment of surcharge and also for more than one distribution licensee operating in the same area of supply.

Sir, in the present shape, instead of being progressive, this Bill is regressive in certain aspects. Our duty is to provide electricity at affordable prices. But if this Bill is implemented in the present shape, it will make the State Electricity Boards unviable because the production is delicensed and anybody can generate power now. Industries pay more tariff to the State Electricity Boards and Corporations and that is utilised for cross-subsidisation towards utility services and weaker sections of the society.

Sir, in this connection, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandrababu Naidu has requested the Government to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers and the Power Ministers of all the States before passing this Bill. That would have given a better opportunity to discuss the Bill in a comprehensive manner before bringing it before this House. But that has not been done and this Bill has been sent to the Standing Committee straight away. Now, the Bill has been presented here after accepting some of the suggestions made by the Standing Committee. But, if the Bill is implemented in the present form, it will put a lot of burden on the common man. The people who are to pay more tariff which can ultimately be used for cross-subsidisation have now been taken away from the purview of paying surcharge. They can generate their own electricity and use it for their own purposes without purchasing power from the State Electricity Boards as well as Corporations. This will put a burden on the common man because cross-subsidisation has been taken away. Either the consumer has to bear the burden by paying more tariff or the State Governments have to bear the cost which will affect their economy.

Now, whenever the State Electricity Regulatory Authority increases the electricity tariff, the State

Government is bearing the burden because it will adversely affect the agricultural sector. The farmers are depending on tubewells in areas like Telengana and Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh and also in States like Rajasthan where the rainfall is very low. In these areas, the farmers have to depend only on ground water through tubewells for irrigation. If the surcharge is waived for industries and others, it will affect the farmers and other under-privileged people. So, I request the hon. Minister to reconsider this aspect. He should convene a meeting of the Chief Minister and the Ministers of Power in the States and work out a monitoring system so that this could be implemented before the burden is passed on to the common man.

This would also affect the rural areas. The surcharge waiving facility should not be given to those who are producing electricity.

In the end, I once again appeal for convening a meeting of the Ministers of Power in the States and the Chief Ministers to discuss and finalise the matter. On the basis of their recommendations, the Bill should be finalised.

With the changes suggested by me, I support the Bill.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Thank you, Sir. The Bill has already been passed. The hon. Minister has now brought forward some new amendments. In these amendments, the open access system is an important one. The Power Grid Corporation has done the work of transmitting the electricity. Now it is going to be privatised. With privatisation of the transmission system, I do not know how far it would help the poor and the common citizens. If the Ministry of Power generates power, it would help the people in the rural areas. But because of this privatisation, most of the villages would not get electricity. They have already got the experience of the telephonic system. When most of the telephone companies opted for entering into the privatisation field, they told that they would provide telephone connections in the rural areas out of five per cent of their profit. How far have they kept their words? When you go through that, the result is 'zero'. Likewise when we pass this Amendment Bill, we should also put a condition in relation to the transmission system that they should also provide electricity out of their profit at least to the extent of 10 per cent or 20 per cent of their profit. It should go to the rural areas. If you put it like that, it would help the society.

[Shri A. Krishnaswamy]

Now only the transmission system is being privatised. I saw details of the power generating projects in Tamil Nadu and other parts of our country. Most of the public sector power project companies are doing well. When our leader, Dr. Kalaingar, was heading the Government in Tamil Nadu, he provided free electricity to the poor farmers. But now it has been stopped. The present State Government is pushing the burden on to the Regulatory Commission. Electricity is one of the social obligations. It is not a profitable business. When there is a social obligation, the Government should respond to the needs of the poor and the rural people. They should supply power to the poor farmers. But now every right and the powers go to our Regulatory Commission. I am against that Regulatory Commission. It should come to the State Electricity Board. Then only, we can keep our words and fulfil the promise to the electorate. I am against privatisation of the access system.

I welcome the Amendments about negligently breaking or damaging works and also the penalty for intentionally injuring works. Whoever, with intent to cut off the supply of electricity, cuts or injures, or attempts to cut or injure, any electric supply line or works, shall be punishable with a fine which may extend to Rs. 10,000. I appreciate this Amendment. We are in the Opposition in Tamil Nadu. The ruling Party in that State cut off our electricity whenever we convene a meeting. So, I welcome this Amendment. I am not for privatisation of this access system.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, what he spoke is not relevant to the Bill. We should not derive any political mileage whenever there is a power-cut. He cannot attribute it to the State Government. That should be expunged.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would go through the records. If there is any objectionable thing, I would remove it from the records.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is right that the hon. Minister is my fast friend. I have deep attachment with the Department of Electricity. The Lok Sabha passed the Electricity Bill recently and sent it to the Rajya Sabha. The hon. Minister has claimed that he has introduced amendment bill to include the suggestions made by the hon. Members during discussion on the bill in the Rajya Sabha and also to remove the apprehensions expressed

by the Members. The hon. Minister has talked about four amendments out of which one amendment contains nothing but change of few words such as 'Availability of capital' and 'borrowing capacity' and this has been done to fulfil some objections. But, the bill does not provide for any time limit for disposal of cases by the State Commission. Therefore, there should be time limit for disposal of the cases by the Commission. It may happen that the Commission does not give its decision promptly. The hon. Minister has introduced amendment bill to fix the time limit.

Third amendment is about to limit the power of the Centralized appeal Commission. So far as punishment provision is concerned, there was scope of punishment on possibility. Legal opinion would have been sought and the word 'possibility' has been deleted as somebody will misuse it. Earlier, the term used in the bill was 'it is being misused', 'causing damage' and now the term 'possibility' is deleted. But, by deleting the term 'possibility' the Law will become weak. The people are also afraid of possibility. But, it seems that there is some technical point in it. This bill is about four things. But, as per the provision in the bill, there is no need to take licence for DVC. I want that the grievances of the people should be redressed and the consumers should get uninterrupted and cheap electricity. If the Government allows three to four licence holders to operate, it will lead to competition which ultimately benefit the consumers. This will further ease the rate and transmission of power will also be eased. Therefore, I treat this bill as a good one. However, when DVC was formed, it was provided a capital of Rs. 50 crore from the funds of Bihar. Later on, with the division of Bihar, the work area of DVC shifted to Jharkhand. Previsouly, it was in Bengal. The Government of India divided DVC in such a way that Jharkhand became the sole proprietor of DVC. Bengal has its share in DVC from the very beginning. But an amount of Rs. 50 crore is invested in it before bifurcation of Bihar. I would like to know as to why the share of Bihar become less? Bihar is out of the DVC area. If DVC is divided then we should get our share because our money is invested in it. The Government of India invested funds of Bihar in DVC, whether we have share in it or not? The capital invested in the DVC shifted to Jharkhand. I would like the principle of justice demands whether Bihar should get its share proportionate to the capital invested or not? At the time of division, the hon. Home Minister had assured us to compensate the damages. The Electricity Board and its assets were divided, the cadre of employees and officers are being divided. But, the process of division is based on geographical area. A registered company of

Tenughat Electricity Board is situated in Bihar. Its office is still there in Patna. After division of Bihar the Government of India transferred it to Jharkhand. Thirdly, after division Jharkhand also got Thermal Power Station having capacity of 840 MW. Geographically it fell in their area, alright. But, the country's old decayed unit, Barauni Thermal Power Station having a capacity of 320 MW and Muzzafarpur's Kanti Thermal Power Station having a capacity of 220 MW remained in Bihar. What will happen without electricity?

The hon. Prime Minister announced in the House that the Government is providing a huge package to Bihar. No such package is provided. National Development Scheme is implemented in Bihar, Orissa and in the hundred backward districts of the country. But, not even single district of Bihar is covered under this scheme. The hon. Prime Minister in his announcement made mention about Barh Thermal Power Station. Construction work of Barh Thermal Power Station was started in 1999. The hon. Prime Minister laid its foundation stone in the year 1999. Five years have elapsed i.e. the year 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003. What is the completion period of this scheme? In how many years it would start power generation? I would like to know it. The hon. Prime Minister has misinformed the people by saying that Bihar has been provided with a Mega Thermal Power Station for supply of electricity there. Its foundation stone was laid in the year 1999. Why has it not been set up during the last five years and by when it would generate electricity? Thereafter, he told all the hon. Members having sympathy with Bihar that the hon. Prime Minister has provided enough to Bihar state. Only statements are being made. A treachery is being perpetrated on Bihar. The hon. Minister is there to do justice.

The hon. Prime Minister claimed that the Government have provided Rs. 365 crore for transmission sector. Let's see what this Rs. 365 crore is? It is a project of Power Grid Corporation of India an agency of the Government of India. Power Grid Corporation said that it will charge 15 per cent amount of the project for transmission of power. They say that the amount is given to Bihar and an agency of the Government of India is charging 15 per cent of the amount allocated for performing the work. Its tender would be at 140 per cent and all the amount would be credited in the account of Bihar. This treachery is being perpetrated on Bihar by the Government of India. It is exploitation of the people of Bihar and the people of Bihar are being misinformed. Generation, transmission, distribution and electrification are four parts of the power sector and this is a recognized formula of this country

and the rest of the world. You have provided Rs. 365 crore for transmission, we should have got double of the said amount for power generation. We should have got Rs. 750 crore for power generation which will be used for renovation and modernization of Barauni Thermal Power Station. Re. One per MW is simple formula and we should get Re. one per MW for 220 MW Muzaffarpur Power Station. We should get Rs. 540 crore for renovation and modernization because you have given the whole amount for transmission. You have claimed that we are making reforms in electricity supply but until power is generated nothing will happen. Will we make telephone calls from these wires? Electricity will be supplied through these wires. Without electricity no work can take place. Even the train will not run without electricity. Hydro-electricity is not only cheaper but also pollution free. But the electricity generated from Thermal Power Stations pollutes the environment. Hydro-electricity is costly in the initial stage but later on it becomes cheap. We are not utilizing the hydel potential. Hence, we must give top priority to hydro-electricity. No one can perform its work without electricity whether he be a planner, economist or a scientist. Hydro-electricity may be generated in abundance in the North-East and the hilly areas. We must utilize the huge potential of hydro-electricity. Bihar State has not got even a single unit from the Government of India. Inderpuri Reservoir Project is a multipurpose project which has a capacity of 450 MW electricity generation alongwith irrigation capacity. This project is pending with the Government of India. The Government of Bihar has requested the Government for its implementation. When hydro-electricity is generated in every nook and corner of the country then why it is not generated in Bihar? After taking consent of many states on this issue, now it has become the responsibility of the Government to complete this project expeditiously. The Government has to obtain consent from two states. Survey has been conducted for setting up Pump Storage Project having a capacity of 2580 MW in Kaimur. The Government of Bihar has requested the Government for its completion. The Government of India has the capacity to invest capital in the project but the Government of Bihar has not the capacity to invest. The Government of India has institutions like NTPC and NHPC. Kaimur Pump Storage Projects is situated in Poorvanchal. With this project, arrangement can be made for supplying electricity in the peak hour. But, it can be done if it is done in right earnest. Therefore, through you, I demand the hon. Minister for modernization of thermal power and generation of hydel electricity. Katihar and Bihta projects are pending. Patna Electricity Project is pending with the Government of India, how will it be implemented? I would like to raise

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

all these questions. All of you know that no work can be done without electricity. As breathing is important for the sustenance of life so is the electricity for this country. Where is our DVC share? Hon. Minister you give an appropriate reply and get the Bill passed.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Power for a great thing that he has done. He has genuinely believed that as a Minister he had to respond to the constructive suggestions of Members of Parliament that had come up during the course of a debate. In honour of his assurance and in response to the suggestions of hon. Members of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, he has come up with this Electricity (Amendment) Bill. The hon. Minister deserves the praise of all sections of the House for having brought the amendments in the light of their suggestions in this Bill. Therefore, I would like to thank him first.

I would like to address the hon. Prime Minister through the hon. Minister of power on one aspect. Let us for once decide that we can do politics in every front but in certain areas let us take a determined view that we shall not do politics and one such sector is the power sector. I am not questioning the *bona fides* of any political party. I am neither accusing nor abusing any political party. The time has come to join in the economic development of the rest of the world and make India one of the top giants.

The hon. Prime Minister is talking about achieving eight per cent growth. The energy sector is the only sector that can take the nation to that height, giving its support to agriculture, industry and all other sectors. It is because of this reason that I said that I wanted to address the hon. Prime Minister. I request the hon. Minister of Power to request the hon. Prime Minister to call a meeting of all political parties. Let us take a decision on this once and for all. All kinds of populist slogans are used to win elections. Let us not use the power sector as a vote bank. Let us not ask exemptions from tariff or free electricity for the sake of gathering votes. It would take the whole nation back by twenty years.

I do not think Japan is an extraordinary country but it is commanding the economy of Asia today. We have much more potential than Japan. We have abundant resources. We have rivers, mountains, skilled workers and coal. Yet, I wonder how we are not able to make

much progress. From time to time, I keep reading reports that politics comes into play affecting the functioning of State Electricity Boards and exemptions are sought during election time. This sort of a thing leaves the entire power sector in a mess.

I admire the quality of engineers we have in the NTPC, the Power Grid Corporation, the NHPC. They are all well qualified and when it comes to talent they are no less than the engineers of the United States of America and other developed countries of the world. Yet, our political will is not clear and that is why we are taking the nation backwards every year.

I do agree that we have problems with the marginal farmers and poor farmers. The hon. Prime Minister had to talk to all political parties and decide the criteria for determining who are poor farmers for the purpose of giving this subsidy. It has to be the same in all the States, be it Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar or any other State. Let us agree once and for all what we should give and to whom we should give it. Everybody is talking about farmers. I am not against farmers but the definition has to be rediscovered to find out who is a rich farmer, who is a poor farmer and who is a *zamindar*.

If we are to reach the target of eight per cent growth, the hon. Prime Minister has to call a meeting of all political parties and say that though we shall do politics is every matter we should not do politics in the issue of power generation. Whichever party might be in the Government, the country should move forward.

I was studying some records in my State. Due to delay of coal handling in Santhalpur, the coal *mafia* locked the good quality coal and pumped in ash content coal. As a result of this, the plant suffered and the engineers suffered. At the end of the day, the entire plant could not take the plant load factor. When the engineer gave a report that something wrong was done, the *mafia* turned his life into hell. This is what is happening in the country. What happens is that somebody in this House or in the other House or in an Assembly would stand up and argue with the Minister and the Minister would in turn say that he also has to fight elections.

This is the situation which is taking the entire system absolutely in a wrong shape. I know of a case where a few days back the Chairman of a public sector undertaking in coal sector was suspended. I can understand if the bureaucracy is fighting for him. I can understand it. But why should the politicians join in this

issue? Only in this sector of power this kind of atmosphere is now prevailing in the country? Many good companies are looking for investment in India in power generation programme. We may agree with the hon. Prime Minister after a meeting that if the foreign companies were to come to generate power, they can have this much of tariff for small-scale industrial units and if one were to cross the limit, then they should take the permission of the Government, of the appellate commission; the major industries should do this, the poor farmers should do this etc. I can understand all these things. These are the matters that we can discuss threadbare. But the investment climate can only be created if there is a strong arrangement in the States to stop the theft of power. Even in regard to theft of power, when the officers go, the local gang comes to prevent him. I know it.

I therefore, feel that a time has come even to think of whether a substantial control of power generation programme and planning should be left to the States. Defence is managed by the Union Government; telecommunication is managed by the Union Government; revenue mismanaged by the Union Government. These are vital links. Maybe that in power generation planning and programme, a substantial authority is to be vested in a central mechanism. I am not saying that you totally take over the power subject. My friends from the State Government will be unhappy with me. The moment you leave it to the State, politics come in such a way that power generation suffers.

I will give you an example. As a Member of Parliament, I gave Rs. three crore from my MPLADS funds to take electricity to the villages. You will be shocked to know as to what happened to it. I claim that I am at serial number one in the list published by the Ministry of Programme Implementation in my State regarding spending of funds under this scheme. I gave Rs. three crore for power sector. You would be shocked to know that three-fourth of the amount has not yet been spent because some central items are not available and because there is a huge debt to the authority and items are not coming etc. My money is there. How do we do it? If somebody works on one day, another will not work. This kind of things are going on in the entire power management.

Therefore, I strongly feel and I appeal to the hon. Minister to kindly prepare a white paper and come to the Parliament, if not in this Session, at least in the next Session giving the status of respective States in terms of

the investment, utilisation, plant load factor, optimum reaching of power generation programme and the problems therein. I am not talking of any Party or any State. After preparation that White Paper, you please give indication as to which State did well in the Sixth Plan, which State did badly in the Sixth Plan and likewise about the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Plans. It may give details of our Government or that of the Left Parties or whatever it is. Then, please have a special conference by the hon. Prime Minister as to how to rise to the goal of 8 per cent growth. It can be in the lines of the Electricity Bill that you passed in this Parliament earlier after detailed study by the Standing Committee and the amendments that you brought in.

You effectively utilise the power. I think the only solution for effective utilisation of power is that every Party has to commit and make a pledge that in this sector we should not do politics.

Coming to solar energy, it is not exactly under you; but I request you one thing. Solar energy was the aim right from the days of Shrimati Indira Gandhi that the poorest of the poor who stay near the seashore, who stay in the islands and other helpless people should at least be provided with power in these areas where you cannot carry the full transmission. You have a provision of subsidy. I know it. But you will not believe, even that subsidy amount cannot be generated by the people belonging to the scheduled castes, the OBCs in the villages. I know of such cases. The installation cost should be paid by the Government; then regarding tariff let them pay a little. They cannot take more.

I will tell you how things are happening. I am giving an example. I hope my friends from West Bengal will not mind. After fighting for long period, I got an amount to the tune of more than Rs. one crore from the Planning Commission to take power to an island in my constituency. You cannot go there easily. I go there by a boat. It is an electorate of 20,000 people. The area is surrounded by two rivers on both sides.

They want only electricity. They do not want anything else. They say that they can stay without food. Money was also allotted for the purpose two years back. Polls are standing there as statues for the last ten years. Till today, nothing has been done there, at the place called Ratua and village called Bilaimari-Mahanda Tola in district Malda. Whenever I go there, they say 'you are a big parliamentarian. What about electricity to our place?' They have got the money, but I am told that it is being utilised

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

for some other purpose. I do not blame the State Government also—they may have a different priority—because the quality of the coal, whether it is good coal or it is bad coal, matters to the plant where the coal comes. The coal with high ash content does not go to the washery in time. Before that, the coal *mafias* take away that coal. I do not support POTA politically, but I was thinking to say that if you have any power more than POTA, first you book coal *mafias* and, if necessary, bring a law to execute them by fire. Then only, all the power plants will get coal and will be able to electrify our villages.

Therefore, my appeal to the hon. Minister is to bring a White Paper, address the Prime Minister to take a serious meeting of political parties. Let us not do politics in energy sector. I know that even if I want to become a Chief Minister, I will go and say.

[*Translation*]

Give us votes, we will forgive, but the country would not forgive us and the world would not forgive us.

[*English*]

Therefore, my appeal to the Minister is to kindly take it seriously. I support the Bill.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my AIADMK Party, I welcome this Bill. I draw the attention of the House to the hon. Minister's reply given on 4.12.03. to a Starred Question in Lok Sabha that 'to improve the financial viability of the State Electricity Boards, the Government have launched Accelerated Power Development Programme reforms and the programme has got two components.' Sir, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister that under this programme, there is an investment component and also incentive component. Under investment component, the Central Government has got 50 per cent share and the State Government has got 50 per cent share. All of us know that the State Electricity Boards all over the country are in a state of financial crunch. So, I appeal to the hon. Minister to reduce 50 per cent share of the State Government to 25 per cent and increase the Government of India's share to 75 per cent in order to give financial support to the State Electricity Boards. At the same time, for special category States—Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal—you have provided 10 per cent loan and 90 per cent share. I request the hon. Minister to consider increasing the Central Government share to 100 per cent.

Coming to the power sector as it is, though we have the projected figures for the Tenth Five Year Plan, I am afraid and I do not think that we will be able to achieve the goal by the end of the Five Year Plan. Again, I request the hon. Minister to have an yearly review of our achievement so that we will be able to improve our quality of work, quantum of work and also pull up the machinery in terms of generation and distribution of power.

Sir, I have an apprehension that the recent Supreme Court judgement has delayed the projects in my area particularly. Hon. Minister is well aware of Kolli Hills hydroelectric project having two units of 220 megawatts in my constituency. It got the forest and environment clearance only about six months back.

During a discussion with the State Electricity Board, the reply that they gave was shocking. They stated that: "The State Electricity Board has to pay another Rs. 47.50 lakh to the Ministry of Forest and Environment to get the projects cleared."

Of course, we respect the judgement of the hon. Supreme Court, namely the recent judgement of 01-08-2003. It states that: "The net present value/amount has to be deposited by the user agency for the afforestation programme." In this regard, I appeal to the hon. Minister to review this Supreme Court judgement. The Government of India can appeal on behalf of the whole country.

The other day in your own reply to another Starred Question you stated that 163 projects are under your process, but all the 163 projects were cleared after the due date of hon. Supreme Court judgement, that is, 30-12-2002. So, I would like to have a White Paper placed on the Table of the House by the hon. Minister, so that all the Members of this House will get to know about the implications of the least Supreme Court judgement. We would also like to know as to how we are going to go about it and how the financial problem of the State Electricity Boards can be taken care of.

Sir, another problem is regarding the Kolli Hills, and the Yercaud tribal people. The hon. Minister knows very well that we are encouraging, and the Government of Tamil Nadu is encouraging the use of solar system, especially in the tribal areas. The Government of Tamil Nadu has sent a proposal for catering to all the tribal areas under the solar system. So, I would request the hon. Minister to consider our request of giving financial assistance to my State.

With these few lines, I thank you.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, how many speakers are left?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are two more speakers. Only two minutes will be given to each speaker because we have to go to the next item also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I rise to support the bill which hon. Geeteji has brought. Electricity plays a great role in making a country a developed nation. That is why hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee has given priority to power sector for making India a developed nation. If we want to make our country self reliant in the field of power sector then as per estimates we will have to spend around 5 lakh 66 thousand crore rupees during the 10th Five Year Plan. As per a research it is estimated that coal would be available in India only for the coming 200 years. We have to think about the coming generations as well. We have to see which are the areas where power can be generated. Today our country has a capacity of 1½ lakh megawatt of hydro power generation. But we are using only 25 percent of this capacity.

15.59 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

35 thousand crore rupees have been estimated to enhance this capacity during the 10th Five Year Plan. Similarly, it is estimated that 15 thousand crore rupees are needed to set right the transmission and distribution system. 43 thousand crore rupees have been provided for rural electrification and 12200 crore rupees have been provided to overhaul the old transformers.

16.00 hrs.

At present our state electricity boards are incurring a loss of 27000 crore rupees and if the electricity boards do not implement the reform programme of Power Ministry then this loss may reach upto 40000 crore rupees in the coming five years. So it is the need of the hour that State Regulatory Commission or Electricity Boards which 18 states have set up should be formed by other states also which have not done so far. I am very pleased to

say that electricity board formed in Haryana and the reforms carried out by it have fetched a profit of 10 crore rupees and the Union Government's scheme of incentive of 50 percent. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It was decided to give two minutes to each member and your time is over now. This Bill alone has taken two hours time so far.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Yesterday also you gave me only two minutes. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria. You have taken too much time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the Government of India has resolved to make electricity available in each and every home of the country and we have to work fast towards achieving that goal. ...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the former Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Raoji made a crude joke with my Yamunanagar Lok Sabha Constituency in Haryana, he announced a big power house and thermal power station in Yamunagar through a remote control in Faridabad near Delhi but even 1 percent of the work had not been done till date. 1400 acres of land is lying vacant over there. The farmers lost their land but the work has not yet begun. I request the hon. Minister to give it priority if he has to do this job and if it is to be done by the state Government then please direct the State Government to complete this project. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the use of the Presiding Officer sitting here?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Today China has achieved a capacity of 2 lakh megawatt in 13 years then why cannot India increase its capacity. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the use of the Presiding officer sitting in the Chair here? Please resume your seat. Nothing will go on record hereafter.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. What is the use of speaking now?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Except Shri Mohale's speech, nothing else is being recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Sir, electricity is not simply a source of light. It is a source of light for the man and the country. I am very happy that our Minister of Electricity is from Maharashtra. I thank him. ...(Interruptions)

Sir, persons belonging to backward castes are lagging far behind in the race of life. They are lagging behind in the field of health, economic prosperity, government jobs and power too.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my constituency is a hilly area. Dongri region of my constituency is tribal dominated. Electricity has not reached there yet. I do not say that Government is responsible for the lack of electricity there but I would say that the Government did a wrong thing by signing an agreement with the Enron company. The ruling party always maintained that they will force the Enron company to leave the country but when this Government came to power they happily signed an agreement with them in just 13 days, it is just like mortgaging the Lok Sabha and the President's House. The Government took such major decisions in a hurry which is not right.

Sir, there is one thermal power station in my area which generates electricity from coal but it breaks down for three days in a month which results in the loss of huge amount of electricity and consequently Maharashtra faces power crisis. I request the hon. Minister to make improvements in it and new equipments and techniques should be used in power generation.

Sir, our Minister of Electricity Shri Geeteji is aware that Vidarbha is the electricity producing area in

Maharashtra and today the situation is that there is no electricity for weeks at a stretch. Due to this not only that area of Maharashtra but the border areas of Gujarat are also plunged in darkness. I request you to improve the situation.

Sir, in the electricity board of Diu and Daman the person who used to be overseer is now Chief Engineer. As a result, the electricity Board of Diu and Daman is running into a profit of 75 crore rupees. It should be taken care of. Shri Rattan Lal Kataria was saying just now that Haryana Electricity Board is doing good job and is earning profit. The reason behind is that the electricity boards earn profit due to modern technology and constant power generation, but a number of electricity boards of our country generate less than forty percent of its capacity and due to old technology and equipments they run in losses.

Sir, now as Dr. V. Saroja says that power crisis may be solved if new technology and superior quality of equipments are used in power generation. New research should be conducted in power sector and other resources should also be promoted for the power generation in the country. The power supply should be improved in the country. It is my request to you that the power should be supplied as much as possible to the tribal areas.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very very thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Bill. I rise to support the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2003. I extend my thank to the honourable Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee that he has worked out far-reaching schemes to make the country self-sufficient in power sector. We will definitely achieve the target which has been set to generate one lakh mega watt of power till the year 2012.

Sir, I live in Delhi and which is the capital of India. The power is related with many things. The people do not get drinking water due to lack of power supply. If power supply is cut off, there is a serious security threat. According to the report brought by me just now, there is necessity of 2824 megawatt power in Delhi. I would like to congratulate the Union Government that whenever the Government of Delhi talked to the Central Ministers about the shortage of power supply, the full quantum of power had been supplied. Today whatever quantum of power is required by Delhi, the Government of India are cooperating with full strength but at present the population of Delhi is around one and half crore. The one-fourth population of Delhi, are deprived of electrification as yet. Today the

*Not recorded.

whole power distribution has been given to Tata and Reliance companies. We said that if power supply can be improved by privatisation in Delhi as it was done in Mumbai then there is nothing wrong in it.

Sir, once I went to Mumbai and I asked to the people there that when power supply is interrupted, they said that power supply disruption was a rare phenomenon. We the people of Delhi are so unfortunate that we have to wait for power supply to be resumed. Under these circumstances, I would like to request to the honourable Minister that there is not any permanent arrangement of power connection for the people of slum area and unauthorised colony. There was a agreement with private companies before election that the power supply would be given to entire slums areas but the power was supplied to them through contractors. At that time they were told that free power will be supplied and no power connection will be cut off.

Sir, just now Munsiji was saying that we should not politicized the issue of power supply. The Government of Delhi have disconnected the power supply of all slums of Delhi after the election was concluded. Today people are crying there. I would like to request to you that power supply and power management should be improved in Delhi. Hardly one thousand Mega watt power is generated here in Delhi and power supply comes here from northern grid and different states. You may formulate new system for power generation in Delhi. We want that Delhi should be self-sufficient in power sector. If sometimes problem erupts in other states, then Delhi should not remained dark. Consumption of electricity is not only limited to the house hold sector in Delhi. Sometimes power supply is disturbed for hours in our flats where we live and drinking water is not available due to disturbed power supply and on accounts of it children are unable to go to schools in Delhi and they are deprived of their study. The electricity metres installed by private companies in Delhi do not work properly. Those metres run fast and give five times more consumption bills. When the issue of submitting the bill arises, people get bills of lakhs of rupees and the bill which should be of five hundred rupees, inflated to twenty five thousand or fifty thousand rupees. When it is requested to them to correct the metres then only will deposit the bill, then they say that first you deposit the amount then afterwards we will set the metre right. You can imagine that if a person may sell his house then also a poor person can not pay his bill. Delhi is the capital of India and in a city like Delhi power supply should be in a better position so that we could say that we live in Delhi, the capital of India and here power

supply is in a better position. This department is smoothly functioning in Delhi under your leadership. Whenever we meet to you, we talk about improvement.

Sir, in brief I would like to request to you while supporting this Bill that on the one hand you are paying attention to whole country and other states and on the other hand you should pay special attention on Delhi so that we could make Delhi as a model city in the field of power supply.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank all the 13 Members who have participated in the discussion on this Amendment Bill.

All the Members have supported the four amendments introduced in the House and while supporting these amendments they have made us aware of the prevailing power situation in the country. When discussion was initiated by the Congress Members on behalf of the opposition, they raised two questions regarding the provision of open access in the distribution sector which we are going to amend. They apprehend that while there is a provision in the law to ensure competition in the distribution sector by making available two, three or four players instead of one but bureaucrat could be or will become a stumbling block in it. The second apprehension they expressed was about the five year time frame we have provided in regard to the implementation of amendment as they felt that withholding for five years was not needed, it should be implemented immediately. I would like to assure the hon'ble Member as well as the whole House that the responsibility for issuing of licences for distribution has been entrusted to the State Regulatory Commission or the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and legal authority has been vested in them and neither the State Government nor the Union Government interferes in their functioning. So with regard to the concern expressed by you, it is submitted that the new players would not face any obstacle if they wish to come in the distribution sector. Through the State Regulatory Commission they can certainly get opportunities. We have provided them a time frame or five years which was not in the original Bill. In the original Bill it was provided that the State Regulatory Commissions or the Regulatory Commission could, after consideration within a period of one year as to how competition has to be brought in the distribution sector and how more licences are to be issued. But there was no time frame mentioned in that. So this sort of demand was raised in the Rajya Sabha that there was a need to set a time frame. The time frame we have set is of maximum five

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

years. This does not mean that there is any need to stay for five years. If the State Regulatory Commission wishes, it can issue licence any time. There is no restriction for that but the maximum time frame is of five years. Thus, there will certainly be competition in the distribution sector once this amendment is passed.

Almost all the hon'ble Members have expressed the apprehension and thereby sought to know whether improvement has been noticed in the power sector during the last six months i.e, ever since coming into force of the new Electricity Bill. 2003 w.e.f. 10th June, 2003.

Such apprehensions were expressed here. Of course, significant improvements are being felt in the power sector after the Electricity Act, 2003 came into effect. Not only improvements but also the results are coming at the fore.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the State Electricity Act, 2003 there is provision to formulate laws to prevent its theft. This Act is obligatory for all the States. Now laws are being formulated in every state to prevent power theft and with the implementation of these laws are also being the good results thereof are visible to us. Today, in several states there has been a shortfall in the incidence of power theft. If the quantum of power theft comes down, the financial condition of the State Electricity Boards would definitely improve. Its result would be visible to us.

In the Electricity Act, 2003 also provides for a constituting the State Regulatory Commissions in all the states. Today in almost all the states of the country such a law has been formulated and such commissions have been constituted. Those commissions have been made functional. They have started functioning. There are some states of the north-east where the State Regulatory Commissions are still to be constituted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): Which are the states where this has not been implemented. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: It has been implemented in almost all the states barring one State, Jharkhand. In the smaller states of the north-east no provision of funds are made in those states for constitution and working expenses of the Regulatory Commission. So it has been provided in the Act that it is not mandatory for every state to have separate commissions. Two or three states may jointly constitute the Regulatory Commissions. The northeastern states are in agreement with us in this regard. Efforts are being made from their

side as well. So when the Regulatory Commissions have been constituted, they have to take decisions concerning all the problems of common consumers and policy regulators of the Government with regard to power taking into account. Today, certainly its effect is also being seen in the power sector.

People are taking much interest in the field of generation. People have expressed apprehensions mainly regarding capacity generation over here and a reference was also made of the views of Shri Chandra Babu Naidu, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Shri Manda Jagannath raised a point here that the Electricity Act, 2003 provides solution of all the problems regarding captive generation. Today our industries are lagging behind and due to this unemployment is also increasing and new opportunities of employment are not being created. If the industry itself generates its own power then all its problems might be solved. Provisions should be made in the Act so that the industry is free of shackles.

That is why an apprehension has been expressed that electricity is distributed at different rates. Especially in our country electricity is given to the industry at the highest rate. The rate at which electricity is provided to the businessmen is also quite high. Farmers, common consumers and dalits are given subsidy from the money that comes from supplying electricity at high rates. The money thus earned is used to provide electricity to poor persons at lower rates. An apprehension has also been expressed that if the entire industry sector gets separated from the State Electricity Boards due to the freedom being given to the licensees and fulfills its own needs, then how will this subsidy be generated. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit two-three things. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will allow you after the reply of the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE; A little bit of apprehension in this regard is justified, but we have formulated the Act, whose results are now visible, to reverse the situation. Going by the results, in this regard, I would like to reiterate in the House the assurance given in Rajya Sabha with regard to the four amendments that

as and when need arises we too will pass an amendment in Lok Sabha in the interest of the nation and people. That is why I would state in the House that we have formulated a good law and it has been also implemented. We have brought this amendment especially about competition in the field of distribution which was quite essential. One amendment was felt essential about Appellate Tribunal as it does not seem to be right to entrust the responsibility of such a big sector to one person. So, we brought in the amendment when the issue to remove the provision regarding superintendence and control in the original Bill was raised in Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha has passed that Bill and now it is in Lok Sabha. When we will pass this comprehensive Bill then it will definitely help in bringing about reforms and revolution in the field of power. I would request the House to pass this Bill.

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO: I have to make a little submission as the hon. Minister has also mentioned that Jharkhand is a newly created State and over there Jharkhand Electricity Board has not been constituted. Raghuvanshji has also mentioned that their share has gone to Jharkhand. This Board should be constituted soon and whatever is the share of Bihar should be given and a separate commission should be constituted for Jharkhand so that we can start power generation. For the lack of this Commission electricity related works have come to a halt. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I said right now that it is not so that Jharkhand has not constituted State Regulatory Commission. Jharkhand has constituted State Regulatory Commission, but it has not signed the tripartite agreement which is essential for improving the financial condition of the State Electricity Board. The State Regulatory Commission has been constituted in Jharkhand too.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the basic idea of passing the Electricity Act in both the Houses of Parliament, as has been stated by the hon. Minister, was to improve the power structure in this country.

Sir, I was late and I could not participate in the debate. But since I have got an opportunity now, I would like to make two points. The first point is that the Ministry of Power cannot achieve its target unless the other Departments of Government co-operate with the Ministry

of Power. One such Department is the Department of Coal. A dog in the manger policy is being pursued by the coal sector presently.

Many applications are pending before the Coal Department. They are stopping giving captive mines to the private sector on the plea that they will try to do it. If you go through the records, for the last twenty years they are keeping as many as fifty or sixty blocks. They have no funds. The Government of India is telling them that they must do it from their own funds and that they cannot get any Budgetary support. Here, you have to do something. Otherwise, the ambitious decision taken by the hon. Prime Minister will not see the light.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not a speech. You must ask clarifications. You are making submissions. You are making requests.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: What is the basis of this Bill?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should have asked your partymen to talk about it or to speak about it. You can only seek clarifications. You cannot make fresh speeches.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You know the procedure.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: That is the problem of the North-East. All of you neglect North-East.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This opportunity is only to seek clarifications.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Normally, the Members who have participated in the discussion alone are entitled to ask for clarifications. Not every Member can seek clarifications.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: North-East can provide maximum hydel power, but it is not being harnessed by the Government of India. *...(Interruptions)* Here, you should go to the Cabinet and so something for the Tipai Mukh Dam. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is only a suggestion and not a clarification.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh): The supply of electricity in Madhya Pradesh is very poor. My suggestion is that special attention should be paid in this regard. Ours is a farmer's country. Electricity is supplied to the fields for irrigation purpose. But, the farmers do not have representation in the electricity regulatory boards. Least electricity is supplied to the farmers. Therefore, special attention should be paid in this regard.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): According to the privatisation policy of generation of power, in my constituency, near Ennore, when Shri Suresh Prabhu was the Minister of Power, he signed an MoU with the State Government of Tamil Nadu to start 1,000 megawatt capacity project. There was one more project by the private sector, to be started by the Videocon in my constituency. I want to know the status of these two projects?

MR. CHAIRMAN: While participating in the discussion, did you make this point?

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You had gone out of the track while you spoke. While speaking, you should have made this point.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I welcome the suggestion given by Sontosh Mohan Dev ji and the Government of India will extend full cooperation to all the north east states.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Kanti Singh, you have not spoken.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Definitely efforts will be made for the project you have mentioned here.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Kanti Singh, allow the hon. Minister to speak. You have not participated in the

discussion. Normal practice is that those Members who have participated in the discussion alone are entitled to seek clarifications. It is not a general debate.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The hon. Members who are present here want clarifications from me about their constituencies. I would request them to visit my office. I would certainly cooperate with them.

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that open access will be implemented in five years. It is left to the State Commissions to implement it in five years. Five years is the maximum period. Is it not a fact that if one State Commission does not do it, you cannot achieve open access? Suppose, Haryana does not do it and Punjab and Rajasthan do it, open access will not come. Five years' period should be reduced to three years. Otherwise, it is useless.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj): Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister through you. Sir, I have come to know that the Government is providing subsidy for the hilly areas for hydel-electric projects. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would like to provide subsidy to other areas beside hilly areas. There are canal facilities in our state. There is huge potential of hydel-electricity under these canals. Whether under these circumstance, Government will provide subsidy so that electricity could be generated in our state?

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM (Aligarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is Harduaganj power station in my constituency. It has five units. Out of them one unit is generating electricity and the remaining four units always remain out of order. You are requested to allocate the amount for their repair.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Members Shrimati Kanti Singh has talked about subsidy. No discrimination is made in providing subsidy. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources deals with small hydro-electric projects having a capacity of less than 25 MW and also provide subsidy to them. Some provisions were made in the last year budget so that more encouragement could be given to hydroelectricity.

The hon. Member should tell me about the specific project if any in her constituency. Full cooperation will be extended to her in that project.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Electricity Act, 2003, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Clauses 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.38 hrs.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

I thank you very much for giving this opportunity. While moving the Motion for consideration of the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2003, with your permission, I would like to say a few words about the Bill.

India is an active and prominent member of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the specialised U.N. body responsible for establishing and enforcing world standards in maritime shipping. We enjoy a high reputation as a leading maritime country and as a major supplier of officers to the world maritime industry.

India has international obligation to continuously upgrade the quality of its shipping. Laws pertaining to shipping and maritime affairs have global relevance. Our ships have to trade internationally and could be subjected to inspections at foreign ports to check their compliance with IMO Conventions and protocols whose status keeps changing. Similarly, foreign flag ships will also be subjected to inspections when they visit Indian ports with a view to protecting our waters from environmental hazards. In order to implement the conventions and protocols to which India has become a part and to be in line with the international standards, India is required to incorporate the provisions of these conventions and protocols in Our Merchant Shipping legislation. We have to be dynamic and responsive to both need and time, and the present effort is to incorporate the provisions of the conventions and protocols acceded to by India in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. Once the proposed amendments are approved by Parliament, India will be able to keep up with its international obligations.

The International Maritime Organisation adopted in 1973 the International Convention for Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL 1973) which was amended by adoption of Protocol in 1978. The MARPOL 1973 and Protocol of 1978 thereto, together known as MARPOL 73/78 seeks to achieve complete elimination of pollution of the marine environment by oil and other harmful substances and minimization of accidental discharge of such substances by prescribing a package of requirements of design, construction, survey and certification norms with respect to discharge of sewage and garbage into the sea.

MARPOL 73/78 has six Annexes specifying the technical requirements to be complied by ships for the purpose of safety of life at sea as well as prevention of pollution from ships. In accordance with Article 14 of the MARPOL 1973 and Article 2 of its 1978 Protocol, the provisions of Annexes 1 and 2 are mandatory for contracting States while implementation of Annexes 3, 4

[Shri Shatrughan Sinha]

and 5 was optional. India acceded to MARPOL 1973, as modified by its Protocol of 1978 along with Annexes 1 and 2, by depositing the instrument of Accession with IMO on 24th September, 1986. The instrument of accession deposited by India contained a declaration "that the Government of the Republic of India shall not be bound by the provisions of Annexes 3, 4 and 5 of the said Convention". It was decided not to accede to these Annexes because by that time, major maritime States had not acceded to these three optional Annexes. It was decided to first understand the implications of the provisions contained in these Annexes. Afterwards, now these Annexes, that is, 3, 4 and 5 have also been acceded to by India.

Article 15 (2) of the Convention as amended by the Protocol of 1978, stipulates that the Optional Annexes shall enter into force internationally, 12 months after the date on which not less than 15 States, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50 per cent of gross tonnage of world's merchant ships, have become parties to it. As on 30th November, 2002, Annexes 3, 4 and 5 have been ratified/acceded to by 205, 89 and 110 States, respectively. The percentages of combined merchant fleet belonging to these States who have become parties to these optional Annexes are about 83, 51 and 89, respectively. Annex 3 and Annex 5 have come into force internationally on 1st July, 1992 and 31st December, 1988, respectively. Annex 4 has already come into force on 27th September, 2003.

Than main advantage arising from ratifying these Annexes is that the Indian as well as foreign vessels plying on overseas trade worldwide would automatically follow the universal standards on the subject. Once these Annexes are acceded to, the reception facilities as contained in these Annexes are to be provided by the ports where vessels call. This will, in turn, help us to develop service facilities in Indian ports comparable to standards available elsewhere. The system of prevention of pollution (i) by harmful substances carried by sea in packed forms, (ii) by sewage from ships as well as the waste and garbage management for disposal of garbage from ships in port, etc., could be made mandatory so as to ensure cleaner waters. Further, ratification of the Annexes under consideration may ensure avoiding any unreasonable application of strict Port State Control on Indian ships elsewhere in the world, thereby boosting the Indian maritime services.

The Government of India has now decided to accede to the optional Annexures as the MARPOL 1973 and its

Protocol of 1978 strengthened such anti-pollution measures by introducing adequate design and constructional aspects of ships so as to control pollution of the sea by oil escaping into the sea, (a) harmful substances carried in package forms, freight containers, portable tankers and road or rail tank wagons; (b) noxious liquid substances in bulk; (c) sewage from ships; and (d) garbage from ships.

To implement the provisions of the said Convention and the Protocol, the present Bill contains amendments to 12 sections from section 356A to 356O under part 11-A of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

Annexures I to V to MARPOL 73/78 contain many technical details and operational matters which often change with progress made in the sphere of technology, safety and environmental standards. Therefore, it is not desirable to put such details in the body of the MS Act since that would involve changing the Act frequently with the changes in the provisions of the Annexures I to V of MARPOL 73/78. As such, it is proposed to amend sections 356 E and 356 O to confer powers on the Central Government to make rules to prescribe these technical and operational requirements prescribed by the MARPOL 73/78 and its Annexures as amended from time to time.

With the proposed amendments, India will not only be able to meet its international commitments arising out of the accession to Annexures 3, 4 & 5 to MARPOL 73/78 but also will be at par with the systems and requirements of other advanced maritime nations.

With these words, Sir, I commend the Bill for consideration of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Chairman Sir, at the outset, I welcome this Bill. This Bill has been amended so many time in this august House. The Merchant Shipping Act 1958 has undergone lot of changes and lot of amendments primarily in order to fulfil the international obligations, to accept the protocols and international conventions which are accepted by different member countries. As a result of that, this Bill has undergone lot of changes.

I think, the hon. Minister would consider my point that the time has come for a comprehensive Shipping Act in this country. After this Act was passed by this august House in 1958, so many things have happened. The whole world has changed, the maritime laws have been changed, and so many conventions, protocols have been signed by the member countries.

I agree that India is a very active and prominent member of the International Maritime Organisation. So, we have to follow the protocols, treaties and conventions which are signed by the IMO. But the Ministry of Shipping or the hon. Minister of Shipping has to take this aspect very seriously. The time has come for a comprehensive Bill or for a comprehensive Act.

As has been rightly pointed out, so many years have been passed after this International Convention for Prevention of Pollution from ships called MARPOL 73/78 came into existence. Now, we are coming forward with a Bill and I am afraid that an active and prominent member in IMO has delayed this process for a long time. I would like to know what is the reasons for such an inordinate delay in passing such an amendment for this Merchant Shipping Act of 1958.

Sir, the Asia Pacific Maritime comprises three major sea regions, namely, South Asia, East Asia and Pacific Islands. The South Sea Asian Region includes Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as well as the bordering country Myanmar. The sea pollution is one of the major issues, especially in the South Asian Region. So many questions are coming before us when we are thinking about this marine and coastal environment. Sir, a large majority of the population in the region resides along the coasts and one quarter of the world's 75 largest cities are situated near, or on, the region's coastlines. The growth rate of coastal population is also increasing, as a result of this, there is growth of the population in the coastal areas.

There are other related issues. The sea pollution is increasing day by day into an alarming proportion. Sir, this region is economically important to most of these countries. Forty-seven per cent of world's fisheries production occurs in this region.

Sir, coastal marine water pollution in this region is mainly due to discharges from rivers, surface run-off and drainage from port areas, domestic and industrial effluent discharges throughout falls and various contaminants from ships. Rivers in this region are generally heavily contaminated with municipal sewage, industrial effluent

and sediments. Asian rivers account for nearly 50 per cent of the total sediment load. The 70 per cent of the waste effluents discharged into the Pacific Ocean have no prior treatment. Over 40 per cent of marine pollution in the region is derived from land-based activities, and maritime transport contributes a further 12 per cent.

Sir, as far as India is concerned, there is exceptionally high concentration of the minerals, namely, lead and cadmium. It has been observed in Thane creeks on the Bombay Coast and the mercury concentration in other parts of the area. The metallic concentration in these areas, reaching to the sea, is also one of the major pollution problems. We are discussing marine pollution, and this Bill is directly dealing with marine pollution. So, the marine pollution also arises from sea-based activities, including marine transportation and off-shore mineral exploration and production activities.

Sir, when we are discussing about this aspect, we have to think about the situation all over the world. Sir, there is a severe threat from the tankers. It is called 'tankers threat'. Most stringent regulations for the tankers are necessary. World over, a movement is coming up against this kind of tankers. It is because of the high ecological devastation, people are more aware and they are coming forward with this very basic issue. A campaign is on to limit operation only to contemporary double-hulled vessels which offer comparatively higher degree of safety. Now, we have seen the tankers which are old, which are very ancient and called as 'rust buckets and floating dustbins'. The floating dustbins and rust buckets are creating environmental problem in the sea. India, as a Third world country, should be more alert. Our guards should be very alert because 52 per cent of the tankers plying through a sea route are single-hulled. It is because, according to the law, which is available in the world, the single-hulled tankers can be operated from up to 2015.

So, it is a lawful activity. The law permits them to operate on the sea routes. India is importing 70 per cent of the crude oil and petroleum products. We are one of the major importers of crude oil and petroleum products. The majority of the crude oil and petroleum products are coming through the sea route. So, the volume of tanker traffic has enhanced considerably. Therefore, the risk aspect is more.

The Arabian Sea is a cheap route supplying petroleum products from Gulf countries to the entire world. So, the risk of India is more in this case. The threat to tankers is more to India and its neighbouring countries.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

What is the Indian Government doing? The Indian Government has entrusted this work to the Coast Guards. We have to examine whether our Coast Guards are efficient or properly equipped or given proper training or proper facilities to prevent and check this kind of tankers and pollution.

If I have to go into the details of the ships which are coming here, and the ships which we are plying to the other parts of the world, I am sorry to say that our Coast Guards have not been given proper facilities. Our Coast Guards are not given proper training. Even though our sincere Coast Guard personnel are there, we have not equipped them properly. As a result of this, there is a serious threat perception as far as India is concerned. The Coast Guards are asking for more specialised vessels. Till now, we are not in a position to give specialised vessels for them to prevent various activities in our Indian seas. More authority should be given to them. Also, more facilities should be given to them. Otherwise, you dismantle these Coast Guards and think of a more dedicated organisation which can meet the challenges of the present day. Since this threat of tankers is a major issue before India and other member countries of the IMO, I think, we have to ponder over very seriously for forming a new organisation which can effectively tackle these issues.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to go into the details of the coastal pollution because you are also aware of these things as you represent a constituency which is in the coastal area. The coastal pollution is coming up like anything. Over-fishing is also one of the major issues. Construction activities are going on in the coastal areas in the name of tourism and other allied activities. All these issues are now creating more and more pollution in the seas. So, these issues should also be taken into consideration very seriously by the Government of India."

Sir, I have a paper cutting. It is titled as "Oil spill scare on Goa coastline." In Goa, we have very good beaches. Shri Shatrughan Sinha knows it. We have seen so many of your films where you are dancing and fighting on the beaches of Goa. But, these reports are there in the local Press. Recently, the local Press had highlighted that three prominent beaches had been blackened with the pollution because of the oil spill. These three beaches are Calangute, which is the Queen of Beaches, Candolim and South Goa. They became blackened because of the oil spill.

17.00 hrs.

This is a very serious matter. The threat from the oil tankers and other pollutants is turning into a very serious issue. So, the Government of India should think it over very seriously. This amendment, which is before this House, is only for a limited purpose, to make the law more stringent. My point is that this Bill would not help us check pollution. This is not adequate to prevent the threat from oil tankers. This Bill would not serve the purpose. So, a comprehensive Bill is necessary to check and tackle all these issues more effectively. The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 should undergo a serious introspection and the hon. Minister should come forward with a comprehensive Bill before this House.

I agree that as a member of the IMO, India has to follow the new conventions and protocols signed at the IMO. That is all right. There are some provisions of the Act which are obsolete and which cannot be applied in the present day scenario. So, a serious effort should be made to overhaul the Merchant Shipping Act, which is in force today.

I do not want to take much time of the House. Of course, this is a welcome step. In the coming days, I hope, the hon. Minister would think seriously about the other aspects that I have mentioned and come up with a comprehensive Bill.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I stand here in support of the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

Sir, Shri Ramesh Chennithala, you and I come from the littoral areas of India. We know what a sea change the sea has taken during the last 50 years and that is mostly because of the pollutants that have caused lots of problems not only to our country but also to the entire world.

Shri Ramesh Chennithala was speaking about the three regions: the East Asia region, the South Pacific region and the South Asia region. We are more concerned about the South Asia region. May I say that out of the pollutants that have been creating problems in the sea, twelve per cent are due to the shipping activities. It is a very important pollutant that has to be taken into account.

In its wisdom, the International Convention had taken into consideration certain factors requiring a restriction on shipping and restriction on design and construction and

requiring a certification. These are the aspects that have been taken into account by the Convention. We have taken up this matter.

As the hon. Minister has said, there are five clauses of the International Convention of which two have been adhered to and three are in different stages of adherence. There is an immediate necessity of this amendment so as to ensure that we comply with the Convention which we have agreed to.

May I remind the hon. Minister that tankers are coming in large numbers with crude oil and other petroleum products. Only single-hulled transport tankers are being used now. About 60 per cent to 65 per cent of the tankers that come to India are single-hulled transport tankers. Now, it has been found that single-hulled transport tankers are not good because of constant danger of accidents and spilling of oil. May I intimate that in the Malacca Straits, which is a busy strait in the South-East Asian region, 460 accidents of different ships had taken place within four years.

Many of them were oil tankers. In Chittagong Harbour, an oil tanker had sunk with 6,000 tonnes of crude oil. Now, these are matters which have to be taken into account. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may have seen and hon. Member Shri Ramesh Chennithala must have seen also that the oil slick patches come to the coast. How do they come? They come because of the faulty tankers which are being used. The Convention is taking up this matter to see the design of the tankers which are mostly being used and the construction of these things are improved. When you think of design, next comes construction and inspection of those tankers mostly and other ships which are being used. These are absolutely necessary. Tanker ships must have two hulls.

So far as inspection is concerned, survey part of it has been indicated in the amendment provision—356(g). But I have a doubt here. May I request the hon. Minister to clarify on this thing? I read the first two sentences of Section 356(g):

“A surveyor or any person authorised in this behalf may go at any reasonable time...”

I am not reading the other thing. When we are thinking of reasonable time, it should have been appropriate to say ‘to inspect between sunrise and sunset’ instead of saying ‘at a reasonable time’. That does not convey any meaning at all. May I request that at a later

stage or when the rules are being framed after this amendment is taken up, they should say, a surveyor should inspect between sunrise and sunset. That is most important because surveying is very important so far as this amendment is concerned.

We are thinking of 12 per cent contaminants because of the ships and all that. We are thinking of commercial ships. But let us think of the luxury liners which come from America with lots of people to Goa coast, to Mumbai coast and occasionally to Kerala coast. It has been found out that these luxury liners discharge 60 tonnes of trash, 250 gallons of sewage and millions of tonnes of gray water into the sea. You are very much aware that the United States of America is very finicky about pollutants. It may so happen that these ships which come to India or near about of the Indian territory would be discharging these pollutants into the sea. We have to find out ways and means, as hon. Member Shri Ramesh Chennithala has said, that the Coast Guard has to be very effective. We have to find out means to find out whether these luxury liners which are coming to this area for cruising; they have to be properly guarded and it has to be seen as to whether they are discharging the sewage into the sea in and around India or not. Otherwise, whatever amendment we may bring in, it may not be of any help to us unless we are quite vigilant.

It may be out of place here when we are thinking of the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act to say about other environmental difficulties that we face. The coastline is completely polluted. Hatcheries are coming up. Shrimp ponds have come up. It has been a mushroom growth of shrimp ponds. Everywhere hatcheries have come up. The estuarine area between river and the sea are getting polluted because of frantic efforts by people who fish around and they are fishing in a very big manner so that the pollution is coming up in a big way.

As I had said earlier, only 12 per cent of the pollutants come from the ships. The other 88 per cent comes from different activities in and around the sea. Now, minerals are being taken out from the sea. What type of restrictions do we impose on those people who take out the minerals? The Merchant Shipping Act would not take into account all these things. It is the Ministry of Environment which has to take it up. The Ministries of Shipping, of Environmental and of other Ministries which are involved in this type of activity have to go into these activities. Then, next is about the mangrove forests. Sunderbans are shrinking.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

The mangrove forests in my area of Orissa are also shrinking. A small part of mangrove forests is there in Andhra Pradesh, which is also shrinking. Shri Ramesh Chennithala knows better that the mangrove forests are shrinking considerably in Kerala and some mangrove forests have completely vanished. Are we not concerned about mangrove forests? We have to think about these forests. When we think of pollutants in the sea, we must give due consideration to regeneration of mangrove forests also. That is most important. We may think of bringing about some such legislations to ensure that those mangrove forests are not just vanishing into the thin air.

I would say last point about breakage of ships. On the Gujarat coast, we have different industries which are breaking up ships. They are discharging obnoxious and noxious substances into the sea near the coast, but that is also creating problems for us. We have to think of a stringent legislation to see that breakage of ships is confined to certain areas and that they adhere to strict norms. People from my State have been going to Gujarat and taking up the work of breaking of ships. When they come back, they have different diseases like tuberculosis, skin diseases and many other sorts of diseases because of the noxious substances that are generated, when the ships are broken, inside the area. So, these are the things which have to be taken into account.

Sir, section 356(O) of the principal Act has taken into account different prescriptions to be made, different procedures to be adopted and rules to be framed because in a changing world, we cannot have strict measures created by laws to be adhered to for, say, 10, 15 or 20 years as there might be different conventions which will come up and different designs will also come as research will be undertaken. It would require international commitment also. In view of this, provisions have been made in clause 6 of section 356(O) which are quite salutary and would take into account whatever conventions come up at a later stage. With these words, I support the Bill and thank you.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Sir, I thank you very much for the opportunity given to me to speak. The existing Merchant Shipping Act is not properly implemented. The office of DG (Shipping) is behaving like a silent spectator to the gross violation of law.

I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the scam of Rs. 100 crore where workers' Provident Fund money is looted by the officers working in the office of DG (Shipping) and no stringent action

has been taken against the culprits. Deputy-DG (Shipping) was a party to the crime. Workers' money was used illegally for share market operations without any control of the office of DG (Shipping). All the money has gone. The Seamen are not getting their money back and are anxious about the whole episode. I request the hon. Minister to evolve a proper scheme to refund the Seamen's Provident Fund of Rs. 100 crore. It was deposited by the Seamen for the safety of their family members, housing, marriage and education of their children. In this regard, the responsibility of the Government of India is clear because the Commissioner of Provident Fund was nominated by the Government of India. He is the culprit. So, it is the duty of the Government of India to take measures to refund the hard earned Provident Fund money of the Seamen.

I urge upon the Government to cleanse the administration of the office of DG (Shipping); otherwise, the law cannot be effectively implemented. The prevailing corruption in the office of DG (Shipping) has made implementation of the Act a mockery. If the senior officers of the office of DG (Shipping) are in league with the shipping companies, how do you expect them to ensure implementation of the law?

There is stagnation in tonnage of our shipping industry because of the utter neglect of the shipping industry by the Government. For the last three years, the Plan targets have not been fulfilled. Ships have become old. Unless urgent steps are taken in this regard, the tonnage of our ships will decline in the forthcoming period.

There are many training centres in India, but there is acute shortage of officers. Our trained officers are going to foreign ships because they do not have to pay income tax on what they earn from working on foreign ships. The Government is charging income tax for the foreign voyages, and this is creating the shortage of officers. Our Seamen's Union have demanded that their foreign voyages should be treated as export earnings and that they should not be asked to pay income tax. But, the Finance Minister is not listening to the legitimate demand with the result that the issue is getting more complicated.

The National Shipping Board is a statutory body under the Merchant Shipping Act. But, the recommendations of this body remain unimplemented for several years in the Ministry of Surface Transport. It is not representing the important meetings of the Shipping Board. The Government is not providing adequate fund to this important company, as a result of which it is adversely

affecting its functioning. Even the representatives of the Ministry of Surface Transport remain absent from important meetings of the National Shipping Board. I suspect—under these circumstance—whether the amendments provided in this Bill will be implemented in true spirit.

There are strong conditions in the amendment to Section 97 (1) prohibiting a persons or a company or an organisation including a Union to demand or receive—either directly or indirectly, from any seaman or person seeking employment as seamen or any other person on his behalf—any remuneration or donation or fees or compulsory subscription of any kind other than fees authorized by this Act. It is a truth that from each seaman thousands of rupees, and sometimes lakhs of rupees are charged for getting a job. There are many evidences and proof of such extortion of money from seamen.

However, DG (Shipping) is conniving with these malpractices. US\$ 300 is being charged from the Shipping Companies, and such things go unchecked. I would like to know what machinery DG (Shipping) office has to check this blatant malpractice. The officers of DG (Shipping) are beneficiaries of this malpractice. I demand an inquiry into such murky deals, so that this Section of the Bill would be implemented in practice.

The Minister of Shipping is not taking any action on the criticism raised through the National Shipping Board meetings. Several recruiting organisations and Unions are involved in the illegal employment with full knowledge of the office of DG (Shipping). The untrained seamen meet with accidents, but the things are allowed to continue. Many seamen are taken to Dubai or other parts of the Middle-East and there they are given jobs. They later return to India as tourists, but the Government of India allows such practices on the plea that our workers are getting jobs.

DG (Shipping) office has given Continuous Discharge Certificates (CDS) to over one lakh persons, who have not attaining proper training. However, there are no jobs in Indian Shipping Companies with the result that the number of unemployed seamen is increasing.

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you allow to lay speech on the table then it will save the time of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: This is encouraging corruption in the shipping industry. Seamen who are registered in the roster of companies do not get job in time. I would request the Government to review the employment situation of seamen. The functioning of seamen's unemployment office should be properly improved so that proper norm would be followed in allotting jobs to seamen in India.

The safety standards of Indian ships are below the mark. The Bill provides some improvement in the safety norms, so that safety conditions in the Indian ships are properly checked. Violation of the safety rules must be handled with stringent penal action. Otherwise, by merely amending the Act, the things will not improve. The seamen have to work in different atmospheres, and there life is very hazardous. They have to do overtime duties and put long hours of work. This is affecting the health of the seamen. The occupational diseases are not properly identified for Indian ships, and seamen do not get sufficient protection from the occupational hazards.

I request the Government to take measures to ensure implementation of the provisions of the Bill whose objectives are to implement the ILO Convention in Safety and Environment on Board the ship. Since we are an active member of the International Maritime Organisation we are expected to rectify the Convention and Protocol which they have adopted. MARPOL 73/78 merit our consideration for the purpose of seeking to achieve complete elimination of pollution of the marine environment by oil and other harmful substances. Seamen work on these ships and they are also affected due to this. The measures proposed in this Bill to prevent sea water pollution are most welcome.

Hence, while supporting the Bill, I have given some positive suggestions to improve the present conditions of the Employment Safety and Environment so that quality of the life of seamen on board the ship will be properly improved.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivganga): The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2003 is a welcome step. It is very much belated because more than 30 years after the Convention, we are making this amendment. This amendment gives the right to issue pollution prevention certificates, which was not available in the original Act. At the same time, when we look at the clauses, definitions and other things, we find that

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

there are some *lacunae* and we do not know whether they will be in our favour or prevent the seawater pollution.

For example, new clause 356 (1) (a) refers to 'oil tankers of 150 tonnes gross or more; other ships of 400 tonnes gross or more and offshore installation'. In case of 'other ships' that were of 500 tonnes gross or more, you have reduced the tonnage to 400 tonnes gross or more. Now-a-days, the ships are becoming bigger and bigger to transport a lot of oil and other chemicals. In such a case, why are you reducing the tonnage? What is the purpose of reducing that tonnage in this amendment?

Another point is that the ships owned by the Government, warships and non-commercial ships should also be covered because they could also cause pollution. However, here, you have given exemption to them. Is there any enactment to take care of these ships owned by the Government, warships and other non-commercial ships? Clause 356 (2) (a) says, "This part shall not apply to any warships or otherwise ships owned or operated by the Government and used for the time being by the Government for non-commercial services." It means that you are allowing certain categories to pollute the sea-waters. Why are you allowing this? Why are you giving this exemption? Why can you not see that these ships are also maintained properly as per the International Convention? If we allow the ships owned by the Government to get away with this sort of lethargic attitude, it will be damaging the country and also the nature. Therefore, that should be looked into.

Coming to definitions, in (j), the definition of oil means, 'petroleum in any form including crude oil, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse and refined products to include many other things which were already defined in the previous Act.' Now, we have restricted it to 'refined products'. If it is a crude oil product, what will happen? Why other products were not covered in this definition?

In the same way, sub-clause (1) defines 'oil tanker'. In the previous Act, which is being amended now, there is a general classification of 'tanker'. Now, we want to restrict it to 'oil tanker'. Why is there a restriction only in this case? If other tanks pollute the sea-waters, what will be the position?

This is a broader definition. It says:

"... a ship constructed or adapted primarily to carry oil in bulk in its cargo space and includes any

combination carrier or any chemical tanker when it is carrying a cargo or part cargo of oil in bulk..."

That means, the focus is only on oil tankers. If a ship of general class causes pollution, what will happen? Will they exempt this class of ships?

Then I come to the reception facilities. Here the term 'oil' is excluded. The previous Act clearly mentions 'oil reception facilities'. But here, reception facilities in relation to port means:

"...facilities for enabling tankers or ships using the port to discharge or deposit residue or mixture of any substance subject to control of the convention..."

General aspects are excluded from this definition. Therefore, if the general class ships come for reception facilities and if they cause pollution, what action would be taken against them?

Coming to certification, no doubt it is being done by the Government of India for Indian ships. We are getting more powers by way of this Convention. In Section 356C, Sub-Section (4) we are making a provision that we can give certification for ships of other countries also. When we are having wider power for awarding certification to ships of other countries also, we should have broader categories of ships so that not only oil tankers but also general class ships can be certified in order to see that pollution caused by them also is checked. Violation of pollution control norms has to be looked into according to the provisions of the country.

Section 356H gives powers to the Director General which were previously with the Centre. Here, two classes are given.

"...detained oil tanker or other ship, until causes of such contravention are removed to the satisfaction of the Director General or the officer authorised by him..."

This means that there will be a lot of delay. A lot of international institutions are focusing upon our delay tactics now. When a ship comes to our shores, we are just keeping them in abeyance and delaying them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is one more speaker from your party.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: I will restrict my time to that extent.

We are resorting to delay tactics which would cost us very much. Ships of other countries are not coming to our country because they are incurring costs because of the bureaucratic set up. Each day of delay costs them heavily. This aspect should be taken care of while making the rules. Time restrictions should also be imposed.

Clause B says:

"...proceed against such oil tanker or other ship for recovery of the cost of pollution damage, if any, and the cost of prevention of the pollution damage and cleaning of such pollution."

This is a very important. We have a lot of instances of damages caused by pollution. Gujarat Government has a contingency plan on oil slicks. The National Marine Park in the Gulf of Mannar is utilised for this purpose. In the same way there are safeguards along the Tamil Nadu coast. Many of the incidents that have occurred very well show that a lot of damage has been caused to the living organisms in the sea near the coast. In the neighbouring villages, the fishing industry is totally spoiled by this type of ships of foreign origin which just pour away their oil as a result of which we are left with the damage.

How is the Government going to compensate the fishermen who depend upon this profession for livelihood throughout the year? The cost of this damage should be paid to them. We should also protect our own ports in a better way. We should not give a reason for accidents. Our navigation should also be properly looked after. We are having all old vessels in our hands. They have to be looked after. Pollution control is applicable to them also. Simply issuing certificates is not sufficient. At the same time we have to see that our old commercial ships are also maintained in a proper condition.

Sir, only one ship construction unit in Visakhapatnam cannot cater to the needs of the very vast area having potentiality of Indian seas and Indian Ocean.

We know very well that the hon. Minister is having not only the dance for the Goa scene but he has created the stunt also. He is the man who can bring new things for the shipping industry also.

Sir, I would like to conclude by saying that simply following the convention alone in a delayed tactics is not sufficient. We should also equip ourselves; and our machinery should equip ourselves to the modernity so that the entire international shipping should be focussed

towards India and India should be focussed towards all the nations globally. We should revive the shipping industry which is very ancient. Tamil culture says that even before 3000 years, we were having shipping throughout the world.

With this words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heard the hon. Minister's reply yesterday during the Question Hour so I will not raise many issues today. The hon. Minister has informed us that before moving the Bill an agreement has been signed with the International Maritime Organisation. Earlier amendments were carried out in 1973 and 1978. Article 356 of the Constitution, which is a sensitive section, is there to implement it but now he wants to amend subsections 'a' to 'h' of Article 356. The hon. Members have mentioned that before this agreements were signed in 1973 and 1978, India is one of its powerful Members. Up to 1978 international agreement was being flouted or financial constraints were being faced in implementing the agreement of international level? At the outset, the Hon. Minister should have mentioned why there has been this delay of 30 years? What did the Government do in the absence of these amendments?

Earlier it was imposed on the ships weighing more than 500 tonnes and subsequently was brought down to 400 tonnes. I feel that in the international agreement they would have been asked to bring down 500 tonnes to 400 tonnes. I do not know what its mean? I want to know whether there is anything in the international agreement about preventing pollution in the sea? Further, whether it has been kept in mind that garbage should not be dumped at keeping in view that fishes and other colourful sea animals are not affected adversely and the human beings do not suffer any harm. The Government have brought this Bill due to international agreement. The country is surrounded by sea from three sides and the total length of coast is 7500 kilometres.

There is a waterway from Haldia to Patna and Allahabad. Similarly there is a long water way in Kerala. The hon. Minister informed in the reply to a question that only 0.15 per cent water way is being used. It is against the interest of the nation. There is 7500 kilometres of waterways passing through 11 big and small States of the country. West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Daman-Diu, Lakshdweep and Andaman and Nicobar

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

all are linked by waterways. Our country has great potential in this field. Rich benefit can be reaped by developing sea transport. We are concerned about global environment and Ozone layer is getting damaged. That is why all this should be developed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently, I visited Finland alongwith the hon. Speaker where in December sun does not rise for two months and in June day is two months long. People over there came to visit India.

The population of Finland is 92 lakhs. They want to visit India for Sun bath but the beaches here are infested with garbage. It is causing immense loss to India. Whether the Government have prepared any action plan or have constituted any fact finding committee so as to get rid of the sea pollution. What are the reasons for not taking any measures so far? The Government are going to make this enactment under the compulsion of the international agreement but do we have any law in our country for us? I would like to cite an example. A PIL—'Marine Life Threatened by Construction' has been filed in the Delhi High Court which states:

[English]

"..... over the amendments in the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), 1991 allowing storage of hazardous material and construction activities. By these amendments the Government seems to have come under pressure of some vested interests"

[Translation]

What is the reaction of the Government thereon? There is enormous scope for the utilization of waterways but we have not been able to tap it properly. Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai are on the sea-shore from where trade used to take place. Therefore, they have been more developed. In those days there were no air-routes. Since our area was far away from sea, that is the reason we have lagged behind. Now 11 states have been connected to the water transport routes, therefore, it is not appropriate to neglect it. Have the Government chalked out any scheme for the development of Ship Transport? Nepal—our neighbouring country is substantially far off from the sea. When heads of both the nations meet they discuss that there should be the facility of shipping. Ship transport can also be beneficial for Nepal through the sea route of Calcutta via Kosi. This is the agreement between India and Nepal. That is our neighbouring country. The issue of agreement with Nepal invariably

comes up. I would like to know whether the Government have any scheme, whether any research has been carried out in this regard or any discussion has been held so as to have the facility of ship transport through the waterways of Calcutta to Nepal. There should also be transportation of Cargo of Nepal.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is Vasco Port in Goa. We found there that our ships made of iron are smoking their way into the sea and spreading pollution. When Vasco-De-Gama came with the fleet of boats, he discovered India. When Columbus went to discover India by his fleet of boats, he reached America and he discovered it. Now-a-days America is a developed country but he discovered America when he ventured out to discover India. America is a country with 250-230 years of history, while the history and culture of our country dates back to thousands of years. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the capacity of shipyard for commercial ship manufactured in the Cochin Sea-Port and wherever they have shipyards for manufacturing commercial ships and whether their capacity is being fully utilized or not.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): They are selling that.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What they are selling, they are privatizing. People have told that out of all the sea ports throughout the world the Cochin Sea Port is the ideal from the Nature's point of view. But the sale of that is in process. In this way the Government are going to sell for a song our natural wealth and gifts of nature. All these questions confront us today. Calcutta, Vishakhapatnam, Chennai, Cochin, Goa and Mumbai all these are on the sea shores.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: In my Constituency, there is a big port called Tuticorin Port.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Tuticorin is also there. All these ports should be developed. I wouldlike to know through this Bill as to what is the blue print for their development. I also dream of that future. We shall also not lag behind any of the countries of the world which utilize shipping and ship transport. And the day is not far away when India will forge ahead among all the countries and fully utilize its potential, keeping in view the scope of its ship-transport, the distances and the way we are surrounded by the sea from all sides.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

The Merchant Shipping Act was enacted in 1958 for the matters relating to shipping and for the development, as also for efficient maintenance of Indian mercantile marine. India being an active member of the International Maritime Organisation, has acceded to the International Conventions and Protocols which were adopted in 1973.

Sir, I welcome this Bill as this is a very good Bill. Therefore, I congratulate the hon. Minister who has taken care to bring such a Bill. As Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was telling just now, for the last 30 years nobody has taken care of this. A dynamic Minister of our NDA Government has brought forward this Bill. This is a very essential Bill. As you know, big oil tankers come at the ports and if some leakage happens on the seashore, it will create problems. In my area of Kutch, there is a 400 kilometre long sea coast. In that area very rich mangroves are there. Whenever there is drought, these mangroves, which are rich in nutrients, are very useful to the animals. Many a time it has happened in the past that due to oil leakage, these mangroves got damaged. In my district, in the last fifty years, we have witnessed more than 32 famines. We cannot go anywhere. Our animals are also dependent on mangroves. Due to all these oil leaks, damages occur. It causes great damage. Therefore, it was very much necessary to enact this law.

Secondly, there is a ship breaking yard in Alang of Gujarat. Many big ships, ruined ships, and oil tanks also come there for breaking purposes. Many a time it happens that they bring all polluted substances. If this control is not there, then it can cause great damage to the sea shore and coastal areas, where fishes are there. As told by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, many creatures live there. They get damaged. To deal with this, the Bill has been brought by the hon. Minister. It is a very good Bill. I welcome it and I support it.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for allowing me to speak on the Amendment to this Bill. I welcome this Bill. It is late. Nevertheless we welcome it.

We want to know why it has taken so long for the Government to make these enactments. If we see article 53 of the Constitution, it makes it obligatory on the part of the Government to honour all international conventions and treaties. When this article has been inserted in the

Indian Constitution, why are the Governments taking so long to implement and execute the international treaties, covenants, and protocols?

As you know, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the United Nations has enacted a lot of humanitarian laws which the Indian State has not accepted or reduced them to municipal laws like what our Shipping Minister is doing today.

I would like to bring to notice of this House the fact that this Bill is over centralised. All the powers lie with the Central Government. India is a big peninsula and has thousands of miles of coast. I would propose that most of these powers should be delegated to the States. They should not be made a sole preserve of the Central Government. If the State Governments are associated with the implementation of these provisions, the purpose for which this bill has been brought forward can be implemented properly and successfully.

The hon. Minister has not made us aware of the penal provisions of this Bill. If somebody violates this Bill, what will be the penal provisions? Where will the case be registered? Who will investigate it?

Then, I think the burden is placed on the Navy and the Coast Guard. I think these are specialised forces. One is meant for the defence of the country and the other is to prevent other unlawful activities. I would recommend that the Shipping Ministry should come out with its own marine fleet to take care of pollution that takes place in the coast and in the ports. I agree with Shri Sahu, the hon. Member from Orissa, that the Environmental Ministry must come out with a comprehensive Bill to save our coast, our sea-shore and our coastal waters from large-scale pollution that goes into it from the rivers and other things. There must be provisions to save the marine life of our coastal areas.

The hon. Minister has said that there are a lot of officers who are wanted in the international Navies, Merchant Navies. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that all schools for training officers and seamen are located in the coastal areas of this country. A landlocked State like Punjab does not have a semblance of a school or a college to train officers or seamen. So, I would very strongly propose to the hon. Minister to create such an institution in a landlocked State like Punjab so that we also evince interest in coastal shipping and the sea life of this country.

Sir, if a Marine Police has to be created, I think the Finance Ministry should also pool its resources because

[Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann]

a lot of customs and excise inspections have to be carried on. So, I strongly propose the creation of a Marine Police for the Shipping Ministry. I hope the suggestions that I have given will be implemented specially for the creation of a school in a landlocked State like Punjab.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I support the provisions of the Bill. But, at the outset, I would like to point out that the original statute is outdated. It will not suit the changing conditions now available. It is an old Act and is unsuited to the prevailing conditions that are available in maritime activities. Moreover, it may be further pointed out that a mere cosmetic change will not serve the purpose. The hon. Minister is making a cosmetic change in the old Act but that will not serve the purpose. I am sorry to say this.

Pollution is an international phenomenon. It is not only existing in the sea but even in land also. Now, the sea is polluted not from ships alone. Pollution is coming from inside the country. We all know that many States are using the sea as a dumping place for throwing away all the waste materials. Even sewage is also led into the sea thereby the fish is also affected very much. It has a detrimental effect on fish. We hear of fishes which are dying in large numbers and coming to the coastal area creating pollution there also. So, this is a double-edged weapon. Of course, ships are also pollution from land also. The large industries in big cities are the agents of polluting the sea. So, I would request the hon. Minister to look into this fact and see how it would be implemented. There will be another difficulty because the foreign ships may come. As per the protocol, now we will have to take action. The only action is the seizure of the ship and nothing else. Who is competent authority to launch a prosecution against the offender? When the international convention is violated or the international law is violated, what is the agency? What is the tribunal to take all these organisations to task and punish those culprits who have committed the offence? From that aspect, the law is not clear. We will be facing difficulties.

We will be put to difficulties in the future also. There is no specific mention in the statute. Who is the competent authority? The Director-General can make a report. In the matter of issuing licences, he has to take all these matters into consideration. That is the Amendment law. But that alone is not sufficient. Who will take action? The Director-General can cancel the licence or he can refuse giving a licence or he can refuse giving a pollution certificate so that it could not be shown in a foreign

harbour that they have such-and-such pollution certificate from the Indian Government. That foreign Government will have to accept the certificate issued by the Government of India and *vice versa*.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I think, the hon. Minister, is a Member of the Rajya Sabha. He has a voting pre-occupation in the Rajya Sabha today. I sincerely feel his being occupied there is valid. So, I am proposing that let the debate continue till the last speaker finishes his speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

The Minister can give the reply tomorrow. The other Minister can take a note of it for his contribution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, you can conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): For explaining my position, I would draw the attention of the House to the proposed Amendment:

“356C (1) No Indian oil tanker or other Indian ship shall proceed to sea unless there is in force, in respect of that ship, a certificate issued by the Central Government, to be called an international oil pollution prevention certificate, in such form, for such duration and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.”

Now what is the guarantee that a ship will go to the foreign sea without the certificate? He can go. What is the compelling force that he must have a certificate issued from the Government of India before he proceeds to a foreign country? Now that could be done only by enforcing the law in an effective manner. This is not the effective way of doing the things. To make it effective, whenever a ship licence is issued, make a condition precedent that it must possess a pollution under control certificate. This certificate is provided in the statute, that is, 356C. If you want to implement section 356C, you will have to make it a condition precedent at the time a ship is allowed to proceed further. It must be made a condition before allowing it. Any ship can go anywhere. Where has it been stated that it must obtain? How can you compel it?

So, my humble submission is this. There are certain inherent difficulties that are not easily implemented in the present statute. That is the Amendment law. That is why, at the outset also, I have stated that the original law is outdated. This is only a cosmetic change. It will not serve the purpose as the Minister would consider.

Before concluding, I would request you to bring a comprehensive legislation and make all these provisions

enforceable. You must have an express law and authority in India to implement the provisions of the statute. For that, a legislation is essential. So, I would request you to go through the entire Act and make it abundantly clear so that these provisions can be implemented without delay.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. I express my sentiments and join with other Members who have raised this very important issue that this Bill has come very late. After almost 30 years of signing this whole protocol, we are now coming with this Bill to fulfil all the conventions and other things that we have ratified.

I also join with the sentiments expressed by my friend from the opposite Benches, Shri Gadhavi, who has talked about the coastal and the marine parks as well as about

Alang. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister specifically to the oil and oil-slick, especially by the carriers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the wish of the House that the time of the House be extended till Shri Mistry finishes his speech?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Let us take it up tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. We will take it up tomorrow.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 19th December, 2003 at 11 AM.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on December 19, 2003/Agrahayana 28, 1925 (Saka).

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