

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 14, 1997/Shravana 23, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, before going into the Question Hour, I want to say something about an item which has been listed.

MR. SPEAKER : Just a moment. We are not going to take up Questions just now.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am just drawing your attention.

MR. SPEAKER : Not now.

WELCOME TO THE RT. HON'BLE MS. BETTY BOOTHROYD, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to make an announcement. I am delighted to inform that we have with us in the House today Rt. Hon. Ms. Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of House of Commons. She has come here on the invitation of the Parliament of India as our honoured guest to participate in the Golden Jubilee Celebration of our Independence.

She brings to us the felicitations and the tributes of the British people on the success of our Parliamentary democracy. She has visited India on earlier occasions as well. In 1994, she was with us in the Central Hall of Parliament to deliver Govind Vallabh Pant Memorial Lecture. She is immensely aware of our style of democracy to respect for dissent.

Her constituency in West Bromwich, about 10 per cent of which is comprised of voters from our Sub-Continent. In this sense, she represents people of all origins as well. She had had nearly quarter of a century of experience with her constituency having been returned for the first time in 1973. She is reputed for her qualities of wit and wisdom, discipline and dacorum, fairness impartiality. She is also an artist by her own right.

She will grace the forthcoming midnight function in the Central Hall of Parliament which would mark the commencement of our year-long celebration of the Golden Jubilee of our Independence.

Let us, hon. Members, warmly welcome Rt. Hon. Ms. Betty Boothroyd for the hearty occasion.

11.03 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform The House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri C. Ramasamy Mudaliar.

Shri C. Ramasamy Mudaliar was a Member of the First Lok Sabha representing Kumbakonam Parliamentary constituency of erstwhile Madras State.

Earlier, he was Vice-Chairman, Municipal Council, Kumbakonam during 1939-47.

A businessman by profession, Shri Mudaliar was an active social worker. He worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the downtrodden.

Shri Mudaliar passed away on 9 July, 1997 at Kumbakonam at the age of 92 years.

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

As the Members are aware, more than 125 persons have met with untimely death and there has been great loss of property on account of inclement weather and flash floods in Shimla and Kinnaur districts of Himachal Pradesh. We deeply mourn this tragedy.

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

11.04 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, let the hon. Speaker of the House of Commons appreciate the kind of generosity that you are capable of.

I am referring to Item No. 21. The introduction was made yesterday by Shri P. Chidambaram in respect of Income-Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997. We have not been given sufficient time to study this Bill.

I, therefore, request you to kindly consider whether this can be shifted to the next Session of the Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER : I will discuss it with the Government.

11.06 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Setting up of Central Energy Conservation Authority

*321. +
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Central Energy Conservation Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof and main functions of the Authority;

(c) whether the Authority is likely to be empowered to impose penalty on corporates as well as consumers for non-compliance of the conservative measures in power consumption;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the Authority will play a coordinating role between Centre and State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH):

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) With a view to laying down standards and norms for energy consumption for equipment and appliances consuming energy or in production and supply of energy; enforcing a scheme for energy labelling and mandating energy audits for designated consumers, the Central Government is considering proposing an enactment for energy conservation which would, *inter alia*, provide for an agency to perform such functions in coordination with various concerned Governmental and non-Governmental agencies.

(c) and (d) It is being contemplated to vest in the proposed Agency as well as State Governments and their designated agencies powers to impose penalties for non-compliance of the provisions with respect to manufacture and sale of sub-standard equipment and appliances.

(e) The proposed Agency is expected to coordinate the efforts of various concerned Central and State agencies and other institutions, both Governmental and non-Governmental in promoting energy efficiency. The State Governments and their designated agencies would be primarily entrusted with the responsibility of enforcing the various provisions of the proposed legislation.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : The reply makes it clear that the Government proposes to have another Authority. In this respect, I have no objection having another Authority to discharge the responsibility for other areas.

But may I know from the Government firstly whether the contemplated Authority would have the power to determine the power tariff? Secondly, it is regarding the feasibility or otherwise of the foreign investment in power sector. Thirdly, it is regarding the terms and conditions related therewith with particular reference to power purchase agreements on fuel use. And lastly it is with regard to the implementation of projects funded by foreign agencies.

MR. SPEAKER : Too many 'ands' !

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The Energy Conservation Authority will concentrate on energy conservation and not on any of the other issues that the hon. Member is talking about.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : As we all know, there is a Central Electricity Authority set up by a Statute of this House. What is the necessity otherwise to have another parallel Authority while an Authority as per the Statute exists today? I would also like to know whether there will be duplication of functions or not.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The Central Electricity Authority has many very important functions to perform and the Government looks forward to their advice and also the performance of their statutory duties. However, on energy conservation starting with the Report of the Advisory Board of Energy to the Prime Minister in the late Eighties, there has been consistent feeling by most experts that the country does need to put in more effort on energy conservation. The whole question of labelling of energy standards, for example, or the whole question of energy audits are there. Therefore, it is considered important that we have a separate mechanism for an Energy Conservation Policy which (a) is able to coordinate with the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, with consumer groups, and with farmer groups; and (b) is also able to get energy audits and energy standards developed, set-up, and implemented.

I would request the hon. Member to please look at this proposal which has gone through considerable discussion. I do not think that it will, in any way, impinge on the main functions of the Central Electricity Authority, which will continue. (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : C.E.A is relevant for electricity generation while Central Energy Conservation Authority is to regulate consumption. This is the distinction.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Why is he prompting? (Interruptions) You are not supposed to prompt a Minister.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The Energy Conservation Authority will not get into (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have to answer that question. I have not permitted him to ask this question.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Yes, Sir, I am in your hands.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is great need of energy for the development of country. Today, the concern of the country is that we are not nationally utilising the energy which we are generating. Perhaps, that is why you have decided to set up an agency for energy conservation. According to section 59 of Electricity Act, State Electricity councils have been instructed to earn atleast 3% profit every year. Till now all state electricity councils have not earned 3% profit and the state governments also do not follow this. Till now, the Central Government has not made any arrangement or made an enquiry to implement this law. The arrangements which you are going to make for energy conservation you have mentioned about equipment. There is no proper system of distribution of every energy which you are generating and transmission losses have also increased. Pilferage is reported in distribution and for that pilferage consumers as well as your department are responsible.

I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister through you whether there are any guideline regarding the Authority which you are going to set up. Have you taken into confidence the state governments before setting this Authority and before making rules and laws, because ultimately the entire responsibility of implementing this authority will be of the state Government.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that discussion are going on for the past 6-7 years on this proposed legislation and in this regard state governments were consulted eloboutely. Except one or two state governments most of them have welcomed this Act because firstly energy appliances will be standardised, audit will be conducted for energy intensive industries and standards will also be set for the energy equipments for generation or transmission of power. As I have said we will make full efforts for having Central legislation and I believe that when state governments set up such authority they will make provision for including the representative of the farmers as the pump sets equipments, diesel efficiency are the areas of concern and there are such tube lights and lamps which can give as much light while consuming less energy. We will make efforts that the Housewives also give their advice to this energy authority..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, Mr. Minister, you cannot go on explaining that please be precise. We have very limited time.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The hon'ble Member is interested that the energy conservation programme should be chalked out with State Governments only and to some extent State Governments themselves will implement these penalties.

[English]

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the reaction of the State Governments with regard to taking the decision to set up such Commission.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : As I have explained, Sir, almost all State Governments have welcomed it.

AN HON. MEMBER : What is 'almost'!

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I think one or two States have expressed their reservation.

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Which are those States?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Jammu and Kashmir, I think, is one such State. They have also said that they are not opposed to it. But otherwise the State Governments have welcomed this legislation.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Mr. Speaker, Sir we are discussing an important issue, that is, conservation of energy. Conservation of energy is the nature's law. There is a law that dissipation of energy is there. Therefore, my pointed question is whether the government has made any sort of study to know (a) the rate of dissipation of energy and (b) the primary reasons for dissipation of energy in our country.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, I assure the hon. Member that the Government will work within the laws of physics. But the concern here is very specific, that is, on the places of equipment and so on.

SHRI JAGMOHAN : Sir, the point is the implementation of the laws that you make. There is a section 59 of the electricity Supply Act of 1948 which makes it obligatory on the part of the State Electricity Boards to earn three per cent rate of return. If this law is being violated by every States Electricity Board and if it is being violated by the State Governments, where in the guarantee that the new Authority will be able to enforce these regulations?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, the new Authority will do not of its work through coordination and through publicity campaigns. For example, there are countries in the world where when energy conservation project is there, it is discussed with the Chief Minister or the Governor of that State. These kinds of things are expected to have an impact. The enforcement part will be very specific and will be limited to abuse of equipment or labelling or standards, and we hope that it will be enforced.

[Translation]

Decontrol of Supply and Price of Fuel

*322. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to decontrol the supply and the price of fuel for the private power producers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH):

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) **Liquid Fuel** : In order to establish additional power generation capacity in the short run. Government of India had decided to provide liquid fuel linkages to about 12,000 MW of liquid fuel based projects. Pricing of liquid fuel imports for these power plants would be outside the administered pricing mechanism and would not be linked up with the Oil Pool Account. The prices of these liquid fuels would be based on international prices, and would not have any element of subsidy. Apart from this liquid fuels are subject to the Administered Pricing Mechanism, for both public and private sector projects. Import of LSHS is however, permitted on OGL.

Natural Gas : The prices are fixed by Government. However, import of Liquid natural gas is permitted on OGL. These apply to all projects, for both public and private sector.

Coal : Prices of grades E.F.G grades of coal are fixed by the coal companies in accordance with the formula laid down by Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices, Captive mining for power generation units is permitted. Coal can also be imported on OGL. These apply to all projects, for both public and private sector.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I had asked a clear cut question whether the government propose to introduce the policy of decontrol for the power producers? The reply of Hon'ble Minister does not contain clear details regarding three types of fuel, i.e. liquid fuel, natural gas or coal. I had asked that whether the government propose to decontrol the supply and the price of fuel or not for the private power producers which they are demanding. Therefore, I would like the Hon'ble Minister to give a clear reply in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : You have to give clear reply.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : It is a clear reply. What more clarification do you want in this regard.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Fuel is the source of energy. It is very essential for power, Power has great potential for the development of our country. It can be irrigation. Power is required both for irrigation and industry. Therefore, It is essential for its supply that you give clear guidelines with regard to its control and supply. Has any such demand come from Power Supply Zones.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : If you are talking about Naphtha there should not be any control over its import then I would like to say that the policy of Government of India in this regard is that there should be limited quantity of power generation based on Naphtha. However, the price will be fixed at international level. And its import will be as per the licences approved.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, it is quite well known that Kerala is starving for power. With all the rains we have, our dams could not be filled and we are still short of power. Every-day loadshedding and power-cuts are going on. We are blessed with a lot of hydroelectric projects. But, unfortunately, the Environment Ministry is always putting some objection on us with the result that our Poyamkutty scheme is still in the cold storage. For the past 15 years we have been after the Government to sanction the Poyamkutty scheme. The Central Government has not sanctioned it. Desperately, now Kerala is going in for Naphtha-based and coal-based small as well as medium power projects. In the reply the hon. Minister has stated that he has calculated the liquid fuel to the extent of 12,000 MW. The reports are that the Ministry has not taken into consideration the needs of the small units that have sprung up in Kerala and also our major Kayamkulam project is there.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put the question.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, my question is, considering the logistical fixation of Kerala, will the government be pleased to come out with a clear statement that Naphtha and other liquid fuel will be available for our Kayamkulam scheme and for a number of other schemes that have been submitted before the Government also?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kerala has been allocated 660 MW of fuel linkage and this has been issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. As far as Kayamkulam project is concerned, it is an approved project and its fuel linkage has been taken care of. I would also like to inform the hon. Member that we are making provision this year for a fairly substantial amount of loan assistance for Kerala for the refurbishment of its existing hydel power plants so that they can work at a larger capacity.

SHRI A.C. JOS : In that case, why do you not sanction the Poyamkutty scheme also? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : Thank you sir, The position is that liquid fuel linkage should be provided to the independent power producers to the extent of 12,000 MW. Recently the reports from various newspapers say that the infrastructure which would be required to set up for supply of liquid fuel is to be put up by the independent power producers. The independent power producers are complaining that the cost of infrastructure should not be borne by them. That is why the power stations which were to be set up for this 12,000 MW of power by the independent power producers could not come up because there is no clear fuel policy of the Government of India. The independent power producers are objecting against bearing

the cost of infrastructure which will be required to supply the liquid fuel to them. What is the reaction of the government to this position of the independent power producers? I want to know whether the Government is contemplating to impose the cost of infrastructure on the independent power producers or whether the Government would make budgetary allocation from out of its own resources to provide fuel linkage to independent power producers.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, the position of the Government of India on the liquid fuel projects has been very clear from the very beginning.(Interruptions) The independent power producers will have to pay the price of imported Naphtha depending on its international price. As far as the creation of the additional infrastructure is concerned, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas would like them to deposit some funds which will be adjusted in the final Naphtha price.

SHRI ANIL BASU : They are objecting.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I can understand the objective behind to it. It has always been understood that this will be expensive power. The Government does not think that there is any case for subsidizing this power.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister is saying that after decontrolling the price at which power was produced, government will have no control over that. The Hon'ble Minister is also saying that they are encouraging Naphtha as a fuel. Naphtha is a very costly item and therefore, its use is not encouraged for power generation in any country of the world. I also know that our country is first one where experiment is being conducted to use this item for producing power. As is said :

[English]

Fools rush in where angles fear to tread.

[Translation]

This is what is happening. It seems that by using costly item we are going to make electricity a luxury item. Whether by doing so electricity will not be out of reach of the common people. I would also like to know from the hon'ble Minister that is it not the responsibility of government that not only more and more electricity be generated but it should also reach common people at low price, when you are not giving any subsidy on it.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member has rightly said that Naphtha-based power is costly power. The Planning Commission had conducted study in this regard last year. They have conducted study at four-five locations and arrived at the conclusion that the Naphtha based power would cost from Rs. 210 to Rs. 2.60.

PROF. RITA VERMA : We are going to import naphtha while naphtha based power is not produced in any other

country. Naphtha is not produced in our country and we are going to import naphtha.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during Eighth Five year Plan adequate investment decisions had not been taken on coal and other resources and naphtha based power plants are being constructed within two months. As per the study conducted by the Planning Commission it would be in the interest of India if some limited quantities of power is produced by using naphtha.

PROF. RITA VERMA : The power will be much more costlier and how it would be in the interest of India. We can experiment about it in our country while power is not produced by naphtha in any country in the world.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have already put three supplementaries.

PROF. RITA VERMA : I was just explaining my basic question.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Naphtha-based power do exist in a limited quantity.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : You tell me the name of any country where naphtha based power is being produced. The policy of the Government is wrong. Government wants to make power a luxury item so that common man could not get power.

[English]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I will send you the information.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a very simple question from the Hon'ble minister. You are going to produce power by using naphtha, whether the use of naphtha would affect the environment?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question should be short like this and the answer should be shorter perhaps.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The Government have equipments to handle the problems of environment.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Sir, maximum power is produced with the natural gas and as per the policy of the Central Government four plants based on natural gas were sanctioned in Madhya Pradesh, but natural gas has not been provided. When they asked for naphtha, it was also not provided in adequate quantity to them. Apart from Madhya Pradesh, power is not being generated in other states also due to lack

of naphtha. I would like to know as to what steps the Government are going to take in this regard? Are you going to increase the allocation of naphtha or efforts are being made to increase it so that power generation of 1500 megawatt which is being affected due to lack of naphtha in Madhya Pradesh, could be prevented? What steps the Government is going to take in this regard?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, provision would be made for linkage of coal and gas fuel during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, we want a special discussion on fuel, because it is very important.

MR. SPEAKER : Today is the last day.

[Translation]

Free Power-Free Fall

*323. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Financial Express dated July 18th, 1997 under the caption Free Power-Free Fall;

(b) if so, whether as per the study conducted in the country, 63% of power is being used without making any payment;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) the estimated percentage of payment actually made at the national level for using power?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of an assessment made by the Planning Commission, it is estimated that for the year 1996-97, the average cost and average revenue of supplying electricity per unit was 186 Paise and 147 Paise respectively. This implies cost recovery of 79 per cent. The non-recovery of full cost of supply can be attributed to several factors including low tariff prevailing in the agricultural and domestic sectors which account for 47% of the total sales but contribute only 15.4% of the total revenue, theft, un-metered supply etc. The State-wise details of sales revenue as a ratio of cost are given at Annexure-I. The State-wise details of auxiliary consumption and Transmission & distribution losses (including commercial losses) are given at Annexure-II & III respectively.

(c) and (d) Improvement of Plant Load Factor (PLF) and reduction of Transmission and Distribution losses would help in improving the financial performance of the State Electricity Boards and also result in better utilisation of capacity.

The Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power adopted on the basis of discussions held with Chief Ministers on 16.10.1996 and 3.12.1996 provides that the following measures would be undertaken by the State/UT Governments to rationalise retail tariff, improve PLF, reduce T & D losses and promote private sector participation in Distribution.

Rationalisation of Retail Tariffs

- (i) Determination of retail tariffs, including wheeling charges etc., will be decided by SERCs which will ensure a minimum overall 3% rate of return to each utility with immediate effect.
- (ii) Cross-subsidization between categories of consumption may be allowed by SERCs. No sector shall, however, pay less than 50% of the average cost of supply (cost of generation plus transmission and distribution). Tariffs for agricultural sector will not be less than fifty paise per Kwh to be brought to 50% of the average cost in not more than three years.
- (iii) Recommendations of SERCs are mandatory. If any deviations from tariffs recommended by it are made by a State/UT Government, it will have to provide for the financial implications of such deviations explicitly in the State budget.

Improvement of PLF

PLF of those thermal power stations having less than 40% PLF at present would be increased by 3% annually, by 2% in the case of those plants with PLF between 40 and 60% and by 1% for those plants with PLF over 60%. The overall PLF in the State sector in the country must come up to a minimum of 65% and the national average to 70% by 2002 A.D.

Metering arrangements to reduce Transmission & Distribution losses including commercial losses

Compulsory metering at sub-stations and on all major feeders would be introduced. Compulsory metering of all new electricity connections as also of connections to agriculture sector exceeding 10 HP will be under-taken and completed in two years. All electric supplies would be metered by 2002 A.D.

Private Sector participation in Distribution

State Governments agree to a gradual programme of private sector participation in distribution of electricity. The process of private participation shall be initially in one or two viable geographical areas covering both urban and rural areas in a State and the State may extend this to other parts of the State gradually.

Annexure-I*Sales Revenue as a ratio of Cost*

Sl. No.	SEB's	1996-97 (Accounts Provisional)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	81.23
2.	Assam	63.76
3.	Bihar	79.34
4.	Delhi	74.15
5.	Gujarat	73.31
6.	Haryana	71.28
7.	Himachal Pradesh	102.15
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	16.17
9.	Karnataka	72.69
10.	Kerala	73.09
11.	Madhya Pradesh	79.91
12.	Maharashtra	85.05
13.	Meghalaya	72.90
14.	Orissa	89.38
15.	Punjab	63.04
16.	Rajasthan	71.84
17.	Tamil Nadu	87.46
18.	Uttar Pradesh	73.71
19.	West Bengal	79.27
Average		78.93

Annexure-II*Auxiliary Consumption*

Sl. No.	SEBs	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (RE)	1996-97 (AP)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pr.	5.36	5.35	5.66	6.44	6.81
2.	Assam	9.18	8.55	8.09	8.47	8.27
3.	Bihar	12.87	12.78	12.80	11.15	11.41
4.	Delhi (DESU)	8.44	7.57	8.72	9.20	8.62
5.	Gujarat	10.39	10.04	9.66	9.28	9.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Haryana	5.33	5.46	5.28	5.23	5.25
7.	Himachal Pr.	0.35	0.27	0.24	0.56	0.51
8.	J. & K.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	10.0
9.	Karnataka SEB	0.12	1.47	1.60	1.78	1.62
	KPC	3.30	3.70	3.50	4.20	4.50
10.	Kerala	0.50	0.57	0.38	0.51	0.64
11.	Madhya Pr.	9.26	9.30	9.09	9.28	9.20
12.	Maharashtra	7.91	7.89	7.53	7.80	7.80
13.	Meghalaya	0.42	0.34	0.34	0.73	0.53
14.	Orissa	2.89	3.29	2.71	0.81	0.00
15.	Punjab	4.20	4.92	4.49	4.63	4.89
16.	Rajasthan	7.33	7.50	7.10	7.67	7.42
17.	Tamil Nadu	6.06	6.79	6.41	7.28	7.29
18.	Uttar Pradesh	8.74	8.15	7.58	7.58	7.45
29.	W.B. SEB	11.14	10.71	10.91	10.61	10.44
20.	W.B. PDC	9.83	9.99	10.40	9.92	9.55
Average		6.91	7.04	6.78	7.05	7.18

Annexure-III

Percentage transformation, transmission and Distribution losses (Including commercial losses such as Pillerage etc.) in SEBs/EDS.

Region	State Elec. Board Deptt.	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Northern Region						
1.	Haryana	27.49	26.79	26.78	25.00	30.80
2.	H. P.	21.45	20.37	19.51	18.31	18.21
3.	J & K	42.33	49.21	48.28	45.69	48.74
4.	Punjab	18.97	21.52	19.24	19.37	16.70
5.	Rajasthan	25.92	23.11	22.74	25.00	24.78
6.	Uttar Pr.	26.93	26.96	24.43	24.08	21.60
7.	Chandigarh	26.72	29.64	26.21	27.27	28.44
8.	D.E.S.U.	23.86	24.35	23.56	31.79	34.56

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Western Region						
1. Gujarat	23.71	23.56	22.03	20.34	20.02	
2. M. P.	24.94	25.08	21.35	20.26	19.61	
3. Maharashtra	18.06	18.40	17.83	16.22	16.33	
4. D & N H.	17.69	19.66	17.93	12.64	11.35	
5. Goa	24.97	23.78	21.85	24.50	26.87	
6. Daman & Diu	16.85	15.90	15.67	22.34	16.30	
Southern Region						
1. A. P.	23.43	19.70	19.88	19.91	17.95	
2. Karnataka	20.11	19.88	19.55	19.55	19.41	
3. Kerala	21.67	21.67	21.95	20.00	17.11	
4. T. Nadu	18.74	18.63	17.50	17.18	17.11	
5. Lakshadweep	18.62	17.43	18.72	16.99	17.84	
6. Pondicherry	19.20	18.00	15.31	15.80	15.00	
Eastern Region						
1. Bihar	21.09	23.19	22.00	20.35	19.76	
2. Orissa	25.29	24.65	25.25	22.43	23.03	
3. Sikkim	24.53	25.89	22.55	22.60	21.22	
4. W. Bengal	21.81	22.26	24.87	20.82	21.51	
5. A & N Is.	19.83	21.66	23.62	23.71	22.38	
North Eastern Region						
1. Assam	24.10	21.76	21.41	22.44	24.10	
2. Manipur	28.07	24.73	22.35	23.92	25.30	
3. Meghalaya	11.80	11.49	11.79	18.03	18.47	
4. Nagaland	26.08	23.14	27.26	33.45	36.12	
5. Tripura	29.59	31.96	30.64	30.33	31.96	
6. Arunachal Pr.	19.99	28.20	32.32	42.04	45.30	
7. Mizoram	29.63	34.95	29.04	31.89	29.76	
All India (Utilities)	22.89	22.83	21.80	21.41	21.13	

Source : DM & LF Division .

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister that with a view to solve the problem of power crisis in the country a meeting of Chief Ministers was held some time ago in which Common Minimum Action Plan was formulated and he has also mentioned about it in his statement also. Transmission losses and distribution losses are maximum in our country. The factors responsible for power crisis include generation, distribution and transmission what progress has been made to improve the position with regard to transmission and distribution losses. You have given the points but I would like to know the actual progress made in this regard. The second thing is that the generation capacity of power projects in the country is 86,000 M.watt. It is not a fact that only 40,000 M.watt power is produced and what do you think to improve it during the Ninth Five Year Plan? How would you improve it? When demand is increasing and 1 lakh 42 thousand M.watt power is required and they are unable to improve the earlier capacity. I would like to know the steps propose to be taken to improve it?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Plant Load Factor has reached from 59% to 64% during the last few years and it has improved a little in the current year also. During the last two months first time after 21 months the growth rate of power was 8.2 per cent in June and 8.4 per cent in July. It has become possible due to improvement in Plant Load factor. During this year we are trying to do it with Rs. 1600 to 1800 crores, a provision made by the Ministry of Finance to the State Electricity Board for Rehabilitation and maintenance. In the national grid for transmission and distribution, Chanderpur HDVC line of Southern grid from Western grid would become operational in September this year and for the remaining two major lines eastern grid line with southern grid and eastern grid with northern grid, arrangements for expenditure have been made. We are making provision to give loan assistance to the state government also to improve transmission and distribution system.

Effort are on to ensure that the conditions are such which could be implemented to improve the system.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Sir, I want to know whether it is not a fact that during the last eight Five Year Plans more than 200 projects were conceived, but out of them only 64 projects have been completed? For example, there is Thein Dam project in our Punjab state its water goes to Pakistan and we do not get electricity. In 1969 its outlay was Rs. 85 crores which has escalated to Rs. 3000 crores by the time it completes. There are many such projects in the country. I would like to know whether cheap electricity cannot be generated by hydel project? Cannot cheap electricity be generated from natural gas? Is it not a fact that the Govt. have made up its mind to generate electricity in private sector and for that a decision has been taken for a Naphtha Project involving generation of 8,000 MW of electricity and for that 12 million tonnes naphtha was to be imported annually. The hon. Minister has stated in the beginning that subsidy would be given....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is a question hour. What are you doing?

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : That is what I am asking, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : What are you asking, I am not able to understand.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : You are not listening to what I am saying. I am saying that the subsidy is not the first thing. First of all you have told about subsidy for natural gas project but afterwards the Government denied that now he told about subsidy for Naphtha and for that also Government denied. Rita Ji has rightly stated about Naphtha. Naphtha will be costlier and the electricity is already costly. The cost of electricity is Rs. 2.50 per unit. It is the highest in the world. The electricity will be costlier if generated from liquid gas.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think that I am going to allow a question like that, there is a limit to everything.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : What about the outgoing projects.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Professor, you cannot do like this. This is a question hour. If you cannot frame a question in three minutes, then it means that you do not know the subject.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Sir, there are only two points.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question of two things.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : First is this that.....(Interruptions) The Government will give subsidy so that the plant could be run on liquid gas. I would like him to reply to these points.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, have you understood anything of his question?

[Translation]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : An additional amount of Rs. 660 crores has been allocated this year after the presentation of the budget for the completion of the Hydel Project. State Governments are being given loan assistance

to enable them to complete thermal and hydel projects and these projects include 600 MW Ranjit Sagar Project in Punjab.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : In reply to this question a long statement has been laid on the Table of the House in which the measures being taken by state electricity boards have been mentioned. One of the measures was compulsory metering

[English]

'All electric Supplies would be metered by 2002 A.D.'

[Translation]

I want to tell the hon. Minister that manipulation of meter is in itself theft of power. The consumers themselves or in connivance with the meter reader, get the speed of the meter slowed down. As a result thereof the real consumption of electricity is not recorded in the meter. To fulfil the compulsory target, would the hon. Minister like to produce meters which can not be manipulated?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : There is enough improvement in meter quality, and we will support them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chatterjee, it should be a one line question

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I will be very brief. On the question of distribution and collection, there was a suggestion that the responsibility be given to the panchayats. Has that been decided or is there any State where the panchayats have been entrusted to take charge of distribution and collection so that the collection percentages could improve?

MR. SPEAKER : It is a very good question.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The States are experimenting with alternative distribution systems. For example, in rural areas, Rajasthan has a massive scheme of privatisation of distribution systems — below the 32 KVA line — in nine districts. There are some cooperative projects in States like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. I have also had some discussions with the Power Minister of the State of West Bengal and we will be supporting specific schemes which try to see that power is delivered efficiently to the consumer and is encouraged to pay for it also.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Will it be through the panchayats?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Up-till now, the main proposals are of cooperative nature.

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping in view the distribution system, transmission losses and theft, I would like to know whether the Government have evolved some technology that could work to stop the theft and the line losses.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : There are technologies in which the first thing to do is to have appropriate measurements at different levels — In distribution, transmission and sub-transmission systems; and we give full support to more modern technologies which use electronics and so on. However, I think, it will be fair to say that at the lowest level, the organisational systems, which I think is the brunt of the questions that the hon. Members are asking, have to collect the bills is also an extremely important question.

SHRI K.S.R. MURHTY : Sir, in the statement of the Minister, it is said that the cost recovery is about 79 per cent. Practically, all the State Electricity Boards in the Country are in red, excepting the NTPC. Now, what is it that the Government of India is doing to make the State Electricity Boards stand on their own when the World Bank, the IMF and everybody else are refusing to give them loans?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, to begin with, we are placing before the House a legislation for setting up independent tariff regulatory bodies both at the Central and the State levels. The recommendations of these bodies will be mandatory. Therefore, it is expected that once this legislation is approved, there will be an improvement in the systems at the level of the State Electricity Boards. Also, for specific strategies of reform where there are many models, and I do not want to take the time of the House in describing them — Orissa, Rajasthan and so on — if there are financial costs to the reform in addition to the World Bank or the ADB packages, then the Power Finance Corporation can also make funds available to the State Electricity Boards. When the Power Finance Corporation lends to the State Electricity Boards, it tries to establish with them a reform programme of a specific kind depending on the conditions in the State.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not like to go into any dispute regarding the information given by the hon. Minister in regard to the generation of power in private Sector and Public Sector. The claims of the Government notwithstanding, the fact remains that there are lakhs of people in our country even today to whom we are not able to provide electricity connections due to shortage of electricity. In my constituency, there are one lakh of such persons. Moreover, in the markets and sectors of Chandigarh, in villages and in the colonies, we are not in a position to provide electricity connections. Pay attention to the fact on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of India's Independence will the Government consider giving electricity connections to every person on demand, irrespective of the fact whether he lives in the villages, in colonies or in any market and supply electricity too? Will the hon. Minister consider it and give an assurance to this effect?

AN HON. MEMBER : They should give both the connection as well as electricity.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : The people should be given connection as well as electricity because at many places there are connection but there is no electricity.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know whether it arises out of this question.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are schemes of the Government of India under which provision has been made for electrification of rural areas. There is a 'Kutir Jyoti' scheme for the poor and a special project for tribals. Unfortunately there are three-four states which have failed to repay their old loans as a result or which they could not get their money. We are trying to get that amount. A reference was just now made about Bihar. If they could draw mutually acceptable repayment schedule, we can give the money to them for that. If the state Government formulates a scheme, we shall encourage them. All the State Governments should formulate similar schemes during the Ninth Five Year Plan. If the rural electrification is completed, we shall be in a position to develop loan assistance for that purpose.

Cost of Power Generation

*324. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- whether the Government have made any assessment about the cost of power generation at the national level;
- if so, the average cost of power generation in hydel, thermal and atomic sectors during the first and final years of the Eighth Five Year Plan separately;
- whether the average cost of power generation has gone up during the above period; and
- if so, the main reasons therefor and the percentage increase estimated in the average cost of power generation as a result of each factor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH):
(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) the cost of generation, at the national level, hydel and thermal sector at the beginning of 8th plan and in the year 1995-96 are given below :

	At the beginning of 8th Plan	In the year 1995-96
Hydro Power Stations	Varied from 10 P/Kwh to 69 P/Kwh	Varied from 19 P/Kwh to 115 P/Kwh
Thermal Power Stations	Varied from 56 P/Kwh to 190 P/Kwh	Varied from 79 P/Kwh to 288 P/Kwh

The rate of supply from different nuclear power stations to SEBs during the 8th Five Year Plan is as under :

Sl. No.	Name of Nuclear Power Station	Paise/Kwh	
		Existing rate (Effective from)	Proposed rate (Effective from)
1.	Tarapur	57 (Dec. 1992)	83 (July, 1996)
2.	Rajasthan	61 (1992-97)	206 (March, 1997)
3.	Kalpakam	63 (April, 1991)	130 (July, 1996)
4.	Narora	120 (Jan. 1991)	159 (July, 1996)
5.	Kakarpara	207 (May, 1993)	204 (July, 1996)

(c) Yes, Sir, the average cost of power generation has gone up during the 8th Plan period.

(d) The main factors for the average cost of hydro & thermal generation and its percentage increase during the 8th Plan period are as under :

Main Factors for increase in cost of generation	Percentage increase during the 8th Plan period
1. Cost of Fuel	42%
2. Estt. & Administration	20%
3. Interest Payment	45%
4. Depreciation	60%

In respect of Atomic Power Stations, the main reasons for increase in cost of generation are due to (a) increase in cost of fuel and lease charge for heavy water and (b) derating of some of the generation units.

MR. SPEAKER : All the questions seem to be very powerful.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, I am lucky today. All the Members are interested in Power.

SHRI A.C. JOS : The answers also are very good.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in response to my main question the hon. Minister has agreed that the cost of power generation has escalated and our country has now shifted from mixed economy to liberalisation and our industry is not in a position to face global competition. The way in which power generation cost has escalated is a matter of concern. Our industry shall never be able to compete in the global market. In USA and UK maximum power generation cost is at the rate of 1.4 kilowatt where as it has increased by 2.88 per kilowatt in India. It is a matter of great concern. The main reason for this escalation is said to be the hike in the cost of fuel which

has increased by 42 per cent. I would like to say through you that fuel like coal and Naptha are under Government control and the Government has monopoly over them.

MR. SPEAKER : You ask the question.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : I am asking the question. The cost of power generation has gone up to a great extent and it has caused a lot of concern.

MR. SPEAKER : You have repeatedly spoken that it is matter of concern.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government through you, as to the measures the Government propose to adopt to bring down the cost of power generation. As electricity is becoming dearer what measures the Government propose to adopt to make electricity available at a cheaper rate so that we are able to compete in the global market?

[English]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, in many areas like coal, the Government has announced policies of private investment, of de-regulation of the prices of certain categories of coal. It is expected that the investments that come will be of a cost reducing kind. In the proposed legislation for the tariff-fixing bodies, the whole issue of economy, efficiency and cost reduction is given as a specific term of references.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir the reply that was given is not satisfactory. Forty five per cent interest payment has been shown in the statement. I would like to know from the Government through you whether the government propose to reduce the cost of power generation by reducing interest payment of the generation cost is not going to be reduced till adequate subsidy is given to make power supply at a cheaper rate in order to give Indian industry an opportunity to participate in the global competition?

[English]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The real issue is to decrease the real cost of production and to improve efficiency and not to be giving subsidies. All our policies are oriented towards that. As we saw in the reply to an earlier question, the cost of more expensive fuels can mean electricity supply costs close to around Rs. 2.70. These are marginal sources of supply but the average costs are lower. But it is the reform package of the power system as a whole which will reduce the cost and I believe that subsidies would have to be limited and they have to be targetted.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Will you accept that we are paying 45 per cent as interest?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : No Sir.

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : The hon. Minister in his reply has said that the rate in supply of energy of different nuclear power stations to the State Electricity Boards during the last few years has increased as per the Eighth Plan, particularly in Rajasthan from 61 paise to 206 paise whereas in Kakrapar, on the contrary, it has decreased from 207 paise to 204 paise.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it necessary for you to read the answer?

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am reading it in order to pinpoint my question.

MR. SPEAKER : You can pinpoint it without reading the answer.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : What are the reasons for this? Rajasthan is a place which in the set up of deserts and other things is backward. While trying to increase the cost of energy, what is the Government of India going to do regarding reduction in the cost of energy, if not subsidy? What steps are they going to take to see that the people of Rajasthan can get cheap electricity?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The nuclear power plants have been going through programmes of modernisation which involve capital investment and also because of the requirements of safety. There has been de-rating of capacities and that has a consequential impact on the unit cost of power.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : I would like to ask only a very short question... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Listen to the question and not to the comments.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has considered the fuel scenario and it has recommended that the State which are beyond 600 km. to 800 km. From the coal mines be allowed the import of coal and other fuels when the Government has already announced OGL policy on coal. Will the Ministry of Power, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, try to reduce the duty on coal? Otherwise, the benefit of OGL import of coal is not able to reduce the cost of power in States which are 800km. Beyond the mines.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : There is a very marginal import duty on coal.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : It is very easy to remove if it is very marginal.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : There are some considerations also in trying to be fair to the domestic coal industry and they are not revenue losses. But generally the Ministry of Power is in favour of as little taxation as possible on energy sources.

MR. SPEAKER : The other Ministers are jealous of the Minister for Power now !

Appointment of Railway Ticket Reservation Agents

*325. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have appointed railway ticket reservation agents in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any complaints regarding misuse of tickets by rail travellers service agents; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb the misuse of tickets?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Rail Travellers Service Agents have been appointed on the Railways to purchase tickets from the railway reservation offices on behalf of the intending passengers by standing in the queue like a normal passenger.

(b) and (c) Some irregularities have been noticed regarding functioning of Rail Travellers Service Agents during the checks conducted in reservation offices from time to time by commercial Officers with the assistance of ticket checking staff, anti-fraud squad and Railway Protection Force. Frequent checks are conducted on the premises of Rail Traveller's Service Agents to see if any irregularities are committed by them and appropriate action is taken in case of irregularities detected.

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : I had asked about the appointment of agents for Railway ticket reservation but the hon. Minister has given a reply about Rail Travellers Service Agents. The duty of Rail travellers service agents is to provide tickets to those passengers who stand in the queue for reservation.

My question is whether the hon. Minister proposes to appoint agents on the pattern of private reservation agents of airlines?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : What type of agents you want to talk about.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Can you kindly repeat the question slowly?

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : There is a difference between the Rail Travellers' Service Agents and the Ticket Reservation Agents.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the duty of railway travellers agents is to provide tickets for those passenger who standing in a long queue. Does the hon. Minister want to appoint agents on the pattern of airlines agents?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know about the type of agents in airlines. But the agents who buy railway tickets, people used to buy ticket from them in an unauthorised manner and the railways used to take action against them. As per the directions of Supreme Court in 1985, for the convenience of such passengers who are unable to buy tickets in the queue, these agents have been appointed to procure tickets for them on their behalf. But the authority to sell tickets lies only with the railways and such tickets can only be sought by authorised agents.

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, while asking my second supplementary, I would like to tell that half of the passengers belong to Mumbai..... *(Interruptions)*

11.57 hrs.

At this stage, some slogans from the Public Gallery were heard

.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please asks the question.

.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : They will take care of it. I know of it. It happens.

.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is asking this question.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Half of the railway passengers in the country belong to Mumbai. If you happen to go to any of the railway stations you will find very long queue of passengers standing to buy tickets. One has to stand in waiting in the queue for hours together. So my question is whether then hon. Minister proposes to appoint railway travellers service agents for current booking railway tickets in Mumbai.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Whenever such requirements are felt, the railways make advertisements for appointment of such agents.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Railways whether it is a fact that the people of Jammu-Kashmir and particularly the people of eastern States where railways have not reached fully in the whole state have to face lots of difficulties in procuring tickets.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What can I do? Please ask the question now. Time is not there.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether any booking office is proposed to be set up in those areas where the railway station are at a long distance so that people of such areas may get railway ticket and reservation easily. For example in Jammu-Kashmir there are areas like Doda, Sri Nagar Valley, Leh, Poonch, Rojouri but there is only one railway station i.e. in Jammu only. Due to this people from distant areas have to face lots of difficulties in procuring tickets by coming to Jammu. Does he propose to open railway ticket booking counters in distant areas so that people may buy railway ticket easily.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Such ticket booking counters are already being opened and the area where railways have not reached so far in North Eastern States there also reservation facilities have been provided.

12.00 hrs.

We have also made arrangements for computerised ticket booking in Kashmir. We would also provide ticket-booking facility in the place which the hon. member has mentioned here, I request him to kindly send us the proposal in regard to those places and we shall look into that.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Internet Users

*326. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI SI :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that thousands of internet users in the country have been making international phone calls through the internet telephone system for the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of losses to the exchequer during each of the last three years till date; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to check such losses of revenue?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Extensive use of Internet Telephony is not possible at present in India due to technical constraints and high costs. The voice which can be derived is uncommercial & unreliable and requires use of costly equipment. This is further restricted due to legal bindings on the Internet users against any misuse.

(b) Internet Services were started only in August, 1995 on a limited scale. It is not possible to estimate possible revenue loss on this account. The loss, however, is expected to be a small one.

(c) At the application stage the Internet user is made to sign an agreement giving a commitment for not using Internet Telephony. His connection can be disconnected for violation of agreement.

Increase in Compensation Amount

*327 DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the compensation to be paid to the victims of rail accidents including incidents like sabotage, bomb blast etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of accidents due to sabotage during 1997;

(d) whether the Government have referred any case of sabotage for CBI inquiry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Keeping in view the rise in Consumer Price Index, a proposal is under consideration to increase the amount of compensation to be paid to the dependents of dead and injured rail passengers and platform ticket holders who are involved in train accidents or untoward incidents as defined under Sections 124 and 124-A of the Railways Act, 1989.

(c) Due to sabotage five derailments have taken place during 1997.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Interest Rate on Loans for Wind Energy Projects

*328. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total loan given for setting up Wind Energy Projects during the Eighth Plan;

(b) whether the interest rate has been reduced on the loan so given;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the date from which the reduced rate of interest are likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-

CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) A total loan amount of Rs. 461.25 crores was provided by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources, for setting up wind power projects during the Eighth Five Year Plan. In addition, other Financial Institutions and Commercial banks also provide loans for commercial wind power projects.

(b) to (d) IREDA have revised their interest rate for wind power projects, sanctioned on or after 7.6.97. The details of interest rates for wind power projects are given below :

Scheme	Interest Rate (p.a.) Exclusive of Interest Tax	Revised Interest Rate (p.a.) Exclusive of Interest Tax
1. Project Financing		
(a) International Funds	16.5%	15.5%
(b) IREDA Funds	17.0%	16.0%
2. Equipment Financing	17.0%	17.0%

FICCI Report on Telecom

*329. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any report from the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the future of Telecommunication and information technology in India;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The Report has been received on 6th August, 1997. The Report deals with various aspects of development of the telecom sector in India. It enunciates a strategy for the development of the telecom sector in the country covering both services and manufacturing by following a four point strategy, namely:

(a) a international vision and developing a global mindset;

(b) Increasing substantially the telecom market in India;

(c) Developing global levels of competitiveness by the industry; and

(d) Enlightened and imaginative policy framework by the Government.

In the light of this basic approach it has made various recommendations concerning the development of the telecom sector in India.

(c) Appropriate inputs from the Report will be kept in view while formulating the future telecom policies of the Department.

Allocation of Gas to Power Stations

*330. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allocated gas to power stations in Delhi and Gujarat after the Anta Stage-II was conceived;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Anta Stage-II gas based thermal station of NTPC is likely to get gas allocations;

(d) whether the gas allocation for the existing Anta GTPS is adequate to operate it as base load station as per policy of Department of Power; and

(e) if not, the time by which the additional allocation of gas is likely to be made for stage-I and also for stage-II ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The gas allocations for the Bawana projects of Delhi Vidyut Board and the Gandhar project of Gujarat Electricity Board and the Gandhar project of NTPC were made simultaneously with the allocation of gas for the Anta Stage II project of NTPC, which was given an allocation of 0.25 MMSCMD of gas.

(c) to (e) The gas projected to be available along the HBJ pipeline is fully allocated and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is not in a position to make further allocations immediately for Anta I or Anta II projects.

Science and Technology Parks

*331. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop "Science and Technology" Parks to promote applied research by pooling scientific talent in universities and technological institutes/ research laboratories; and

(b) If so, the details of the action plan drawn up therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K.

ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Department of Science and Technology has a scheme known as "Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park (STEP)". Under the scheme, the knowledge capital available in technical institutions/universities are made use of for developing entrepreneurs among S & T persons. The STEPs are jointly supported by the Department of Science and Technology, the all-India Financial Institutions, State Governments and the host institutions. STEPs provide infrastructural and technical support for innovation and entrepreneurship. Eleven STEPs have been established and the scheme is proposed to be continued in the 9th Five Year Plan.

Train Accidents

*332. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents which took place due to the collision of trains and buses at railway level crossings during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of people killed in these accidents;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into such cases;

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

(e) the scheme formulated by the Government to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Information is as under :

	94-95	95-96	96-97
Number of accidents	6	10	12
Number of persons killed	1	31	100

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Out of 28 accidents, 7 were due to failure of railway staff and 21 due to the negligence of bus drivers.

(e) Some of the steps being taken to improve safety at level crossings are as under :

(1) Provision of road signs, speed breakers/rumble strips on approaches of level crossings to alert the road users for reducing the speed of their vehicles.

(2) Provision of whistle boards along the tracks on approaches to level crossings to remind the train driver about cautioning the road users by blowing the whistles.

(3) Level crossing gates having very high traffic density are being progressively interlocked with signals on a

- planned basis. In addition, telephones are also being gradually provided at all manned level crossing gates.
- (4) Surprise checks and night inspections are regularly conducted to check the alertness of gatemen.
- (5) Joint ambush checks with civil authorities are conducted to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989.
- (6) Publicity campaigns are periodically launched through various media like quickies on TV, radio, cinema slides, posters, newspaper advertisements and street plays etc. Involvement of village panchayats in the railways, public awareness programmes is also being done.
- (7) State Governments are requested from time to time to exercise strict control while issuing driving licenses, especially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles.

Corruption Cases

*333. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of the Ministry in 1995-96;
- (b) the number of officers involved in the above cases gradewise;
- (c) the number of complaints received for corruption and dishonesty during 1995-96 and the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the vigilance initiate action *suo moto* against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt; and
- (e) whether the Ministry have any review of the functioning of powers of the Vigilance Section under their control and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) During 1995-96, 26,651 number of cases pertaining to corruption, dishonesty and disproportionate assets were investigated by Vigilance Department of the Ministry of Railways.

(b) 356 gazetted officers were involved in the cases investigated. The gradewise break-up of officers involved is as under :

- (i) Joint Secretary Level and above40
- (ii) Junior Administrative Grade/
Selection Grade officers98

- (iii) Senior Scale officers102
- (iv) Junior Scale officers116

(c) A total of 9258 complaints were received during 1995-96 out of which 3467 were investigated, 4305 were filed as no verifiable details were available and 1432 sent to other Departments for action as no vigilance angle was involved. The balance 54 complaints were carried forward to next year as investigation could not be completed during 1995-96.

(d) Yes, Sir. Preventive checks and decoy checks are conducted against staff and officers of doubtful integrity.

(e) The functioning of the Vigilance Wing of the Railways is reviewed every month by the Board and every quarter by Central Vigilance Commission. There has been no recent review of the powers of Vigilance Wing.

Central Assistance under A.R.W.S.P.

*334. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have asked the States to prepare a concrete action plan to merit Central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP);
- (b) if so, the annual outlay approved for 1997-98, therefor;
- (c) the total target set for covering habitations both under the ARWSP and Union Territories sector Minimum Needs Programme;
- (d) the names of States that have drawn the action plan on water, so far; and
- (e) the total amount sanctioned and released under this plan, State-wise, particularly to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The annual allocation approved for 1997-98 under the ARWSP is Rs. 1126.90 crore.

(c) The total target 1997-98 is to provide safe drinking water facilities to 90454 habitations.

(d) All the States have prepared the Action Plan for providing safe drinking water facilities to Not Covered and Partially Covered habitations.

(e) The State-wise details of the total amount sanctioned and released for 1997-98 are given in the Statement.

Statement

*Allocation and Release under ARWSP during
1997-98*

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Allocation	Release
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7964.00	3982.00
2.	Arunchal Pradesh	1444.00	722.00
3.	Assam	2438.00	1219.00
4.	Bihar	9380.00	0.00
5.	Goa	227.00	113.50
6.	Gujarat	4987.00	2336.00
7.	Haryana	2736.00	1368.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1596.00	798.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4431.00	2215.00
10.	Karnataka	7325.00	3662.00
11.	Kerala	3724.00	1862.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8817.00	4708.50
13.	Maharashtra	10602.00	5301.00
14.	Manipur	529.00	264.50
15.	Meghalaya	568.00	284.00
16.	Mizoram	406.00	203.00
17.	Nagaland	422.00	0.00
18.	Orissa	4173.00	2086.50
19.	Punjab	1330.00	665.00
20.	Rajasthan	11863.00	5931.50
21.	Sikkim	372.00	186.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	6314.00	3157.00
23.	Tripura	503.00	251.50
24.	Uttar Pradesh	14775.00	7387.00
25.	West Bengal	5704.00	2852.00
26.	A. & N. Islands	12.50	0.00
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	12.50	0.00

1	2	3	4
28.	Daman & Diu	12.50	0.00
29.	Delhi	5.00	0.00
30.	Lakshadweep	12.50	0.00
31.	Pondicherry	5.00	0.00
Total		112690.00	51556.50

Development of Railway Facilities

*335. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI A. SAMPATH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the development of railway facilities in some States, particularly in Kerala are not upto the mark to satisfy the needs of the passengers;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to develop railway facilities in those States; and

(c) the fund allocated and released for the development of railway facilities during each of the last three years and current year so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Railway facilities are being developed keeping in view the operational requirements of the Railways and the needs of passenger and freight traffic. Severe paucity of funds is a major constraint in the development of facilities to the extent required. On-going works relating to doublings, construction of new lines and railway electrification in progress in Kerala are given below :

1. Angamali-Sabarimala new line
2. Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tirchendur-gauge conversion
3. Shoranur-Managalore doubling
4. Kuttipuram-Guruvayoor doubling
5. Quilon-Trivandrum doubling
6. Railway Electrification-Erode-Palghat-Ernakulam including Cochin Harbour terminus
7. Kottayam-Enumeli New Line in Supplementary Demands for Railways 1997-98.

New trains have also been introduced to serve the State of Kerala from time to time. Recent effort in this connection has been the H. Nizamuddin-Cochin Express once a week and extension of Howrah-Cochin Express to Tiruvananthapuram.

(c) Indian Railways do not maintain account of funds allocated/released for the provision of Railway facilities on "State" basis. Projects are sanctioned on a zonal basis. Expenditure incurred on doublings, which can be clearly identified for the State of Kerala, is given below :

1994-95	Rs. 14.00 crores
1995-96	Rs. 43.00 crores
1996-97	Rs. 63.00 crores
1997-98	Rs. 65.00 crores.

Accident Claims

*336. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- the average time taken by the claim tribunals to settle the claims;
- the details of cases lying pending for more than one to three years;
- the reasons for the delay in their settlement; and
- the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) about 10 months.

(b)

Name of the Bench	Number of case lying pending for more than one to three years as on 1.7.97
Delhi	2
Lucknow	20
Gorakhpur	15
Chennai	6
Secunderabad	1
Ernakulam	2
Bangalore	5
Bhopal	6
Total	57

(c) Even though top priority is given by the Tribunal to the disposal of accident claims cases, delays occur because of :-

- Non-attendance by the applicants or their counsels;
- Adjournments sought by the applicants/their counsel for producing their witnesses or other evidence;
- Non-availability of heirship title with the claimants.

- Transfer of claims cases from one bench to the other, sought by the claimants.
- Dispute about guardianship of minor claimants.

(d) Following steps are being taken for speedy disposal of claims of passengers :-

I. Administrative Action

- Instructions have been issued to all zonal railways that as soon as a passenger train accident or untoward incident takes place all particulars of injured and killed may be obtained, claim application forms sent to claimants, and the record should also be made available to the concerned bench of Railway Claims Tribunal.
- When claims are filled and put up for hearing, the railways should give all possible assistance to the tribunal for speedy settlement.
- Written statements are to be filed by the railways in such cases within 30 days after receipt of notice from RCT.
- Chief Claims Officers have been empowered to sanction decreed amount upto Rs. 2 lakhs without prior finance concurrence.
- After the decretal amount of claim has been sanctioned, railways have to ensure that cheques are issued and dispatched within a period of 15 days.

II. Action by the Tribunal

- Top priority is given to the disposal of accident claims cases.
- Circuit benches are held from time to time at stations other than headquarters of the bench for convenience of claimants;
- Members from one bench are deputed to other benches whenever required due to non-availability of a member at that bench;
- Requests of claimants are allowed for transfer of cases from one bench to the other near to their residence for their convenience.
- Adjournments are not ordinarily granted to the parties.

Indecent Programmes and Advertisement on Cable Network

*337. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- whether there is a provision for the appointment of officers by the State Governments under the Cable TV Network (Regulation) for the monitoring/checking of the programmes transmitted/retransmitted by the Cable TV Networks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the indecent programmes and advertisements still being telecast over the Cable TV Network?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Sections 11, 18 and 19 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 provides for an authorised officer by the State Government not below the rank of a Group 'A' officer of the Central Government. The functions of the authorised officer are :

- (i) Seizure of equipment being used by unregistered cable operators in contravention of Section 3 of the Act.
- (ii) Making complaints in writing to the court for taking cognizance of any offence punishable under the Act.
- (iii) Prohibiting any cable operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any particular programme if it is likely to promote, on grounds of religion, race, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, linguistic or regional groups or castes of communities or which is likely to disturb the public tranquility.

(c) Section 5 and 6 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 provides that all the programmes and advertisements transmitted or re-transmitted through a cable service should conform to the prescribed codes. However, free to air foreign satellite channels have been exempted from compliance with programme and advertisement codes. Most of the foreign satellite channels available, today, in India are free to air and all of them, including pay channels, are uplinked from outside the country. Thus the existing laws do not provide for an effective regulation over these channels. In order to regulate the foreign satellite channels and bring them within the ambit of Indian laws and regulations. Government have already introduced a broadcasting bill in the Parliament..

Films Produced by NFDC for Children

*338. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of films produced by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) for children during 1994, 1995 and 1996;

(b) whether all the above films produced by NFDC during above period were in Hindi;

(c) if so, whether the Government also propose to produce films for children in regional languages; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) has not produced any films for children during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996. The Corporation however, produced feature films in various regional languages. Children's films are produced by National Centre of Films for Children and Young People (N'CYP) in Hindi and regional languages. During the years 1994, 1995 and 1996, 3 feature films, 1 TV serial (13 episodes), 2 short animation films and 1 puppet animation TV serial (17 episodes) were produced by N'CYP. Out of these, one feature film was in Marathi. Further 6 feature films and 1 short film were dubbed in regional languages.

Delay in Disbursement of Matured Amount of National Savings

*339. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that inordinate delay is taking place in the post offices to disburse the matured amount of National Savings to the investors;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the speedy disbursement;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the limit of remittance of recurring deposit collections to the post offices by the MPKBY agents from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 50,000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Payments under various National Savings Schemes are generally made in time. A few complaints have however, been received about delays in payment of the matured amounts.

(b) As an ongoing mechanism, the following steps are taken;

(i) Immediate enquiries are made into the complaints and remedial measures are taken promptly.

(ii) Surprise checks are made by the field staff to see that there is no delay in making payments to the investors;

(iii) Instructions are issued from time to time to curb delays in the disbursement of matured amounts to the investors.

(c) No, Sir. No such proposal has been considered so far.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Mini Cement Plants by NRDC

*340. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Agreements executed by National Research Development Corporation for setting up of Mini Cement plants during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether NRDC has appointed some consultants for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the present status of cement plants for which Agreements have been executed;

(e) whether NRDC has terminated some Agreements and black-listed any consultant;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken to ensure smooth functioning of such cement plants for which machinery etc. were supplied by NRDC approved consultant and fabricator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) has not executed any agreement during 1995-96 and 1996-97 for setting up of mini cement plants.

(b) and (c) NRDC has appointed six consultants and four fabricators for setting up of mini cement plants prior to 1995-96. The consultants are M/s. Paulsons Limited, Madras; M/s. Usha Mini Plant Corporation, New Delhi; M/s. Ganesh Industrial Service Agency, Ahmedabad; M/s. Jayems Engineering Co. Ltd., New Delhi; M/s. UAL Technologies, New Delhi and M/s. FACT Engineering & Design Organisation, Udyogmandal, Cochin. The fabricators are M/s. Laxmi Engineering Works, Udaipur; M/s. Minitch Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi; M/s. Jayems Perkim Pvt. Ltd., Bombay and M/s. Usha Mill Associates Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi.

(d) A total of 29 mini cement plants have been licensed by NRDC in the country during 1976-91, based on the know how developed by Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Jorhat, many of which are running successfully. According to the available information, 3 plants out of the 29 plants for which agreements have been executed by NRDC have reported problems.

(e) and (f) NRDC terminated the agreement with one consultant viz. M/s. Usha Mini Plants Corporation, New Delhi on 1.2.1989. All the State Financial Institutions have been advised by NRDC not to finance any mini cement plant where M/s. Usha Mini Plants Corporation, New Delhi has been chosen as a consultant by the client.

(g) NRDC has examined the performance of its various licensed mini cement plants and deputed scientists at its own cost, as and when reported, to suggest solutions for ensuring their smooth functioning, although it was not obligatory on the part of NRDC to provide such services.

[Translation]

Abolition of Contract System

3527. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to abolish the contract system to check the incidence of crime in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Railways have not recommended abolition of contract system because there is no report to indicate that contract system is contributing to increase in crime.

[English]

Power Projects

3528. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government has intimated to the Andhra Pradesh that the Gadgil formula is coming in the way of Rs. 4,000 crore NTPC power project proposed to be set up in Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, whether Prime Minister had earlier given assurance to the Chief Minister that green signal and final clearance for the construction of this project will be given soon; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not giving the clearance to this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The setting up of the Simhadri Thermal Power Project (2x500 MW) in Vishakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh by National Thermal Power Corporation has been approved by the Central Government at an estimated cost of Rs. 3650.79 crores in July, 1997.

[Translation]

Removal of Fish Plates

3529. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of removal of fish plates have occurred frequently during the last four months in Bina-Vidisha section in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for occurrence of same or the other problem and possibility of occurrence of accidents in Bina-Vidisha section;

(d) the details of the last accident that occurred on this section and the gravity of that accident; and

(e) the action taken by the Central Railway in order to improve the position of rail lines in this section?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Only one case of suspected removal of fish plates occurred in Bina-Vidisha Section in Madhya Pradesh during the last four months.

(b) to (d) On 16.6.97 at about 1.35 hrs. engine and 13 coaches of train No. 2723Dn. Andhra Pradesh Express, derailed at K.M.No. 953/2-14 between Mandi Bamora and Kalhar Stations in Bina-Vidisha Section resulting in injury to 13 passengers. Civil Police, Pathari has registered a case on Crime No. 55/97 u/s 150 Railway Act and u/s 337 IPC on 16.6.97. The case is under investigation.

(e) A drive has been launched on Central Railway for welding of fish plated joint in a welded territory.

Natural Calamities

3530. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the parts of the country which were hit by the earthquake and where incidents of other natural calamities occurred in the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 so far;

(b) the extent of damage caused by these earthquakes and other natural calamities along with the nature of damage suffered; and

(c) the nature of assistance provided to compensate the victims of earthquakes in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The State Governments have reported the position for the year 1996-97 as follows:

(i) Heavy rains and floods affected parts of 21 States (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim) and the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

(ii) Cyclones affected the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Maharashtra and Gujarat; and

(iii) Parts of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra were affected by drought.

The information in respect of 1997-98, so far, has been reported as follows :

(i) Parts of 13 States (Arunchal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Punjab) have been affected by heavy rains and floods.

(ii) Parts of 5 states (Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh) were affected by hailstorms.

(iii) Jabalpur and adjoining areas of Madhya Pradesh, Parts of Himachal Pradesh and North East have been affected by moderate earthquakes.

(b) A Statement indicating the extent of damage due to various natural calamities during 1996-97 and 1997-98 so far, is given below :

Sl. No.	Damage	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Loss of Human lives	3789	844
2.	Loss of Animals (in lakhs)	2.06	0.15
3.	Population affected (in lakhs)	550.00	212.00
4.	Houses/Huts damaged (in lakhs)	23.68	4.40
5.	Cropped area affected (in lakh hectares)	130.00	27.89

(c) Government of India has released Rs. 40.42 crores to the Government of Madhya Pradesh during 1997-98 as the Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund for relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities. Rs. 45.26 crores were also released from the National Fund for Calamity Relief for relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of the earthquake of May, 1997.

Reserved Posts

3531. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of appointments made in the departments/undertakings under his Ministry during the last three years, category-wise;

(b) the post-wise number of candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Tribes among them;

(c) whether some posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Tribes have been lying vacant in the departments/undertakings under his Ministry at present;

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

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the government to fill up the said reserved posts;

(f) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up; and

(g) the reasons for the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

VSNL Deregulation

3532. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Swedish firm may gain from VSNL deregulation" appearing in "The Observer of Business and Politics", New Delhi dated July 18, 1997;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item is a despatch from Stockholm by one Mr. Alford de Tavares. The author has quoted extensively the views expressed by officers of Swedish Ministry of Trade, Ericsson (Swedish Telecom Giant), some Economic analysts and the Swedish Economic daily. The news item is based on the author's perception of VSNL status as one of the Navratnas and his anticipation of the course of future development/expansion of VSNL in the area of international telephone traffic.

(c) Since the views expressed in the Press Report reflect only the author's perception of boost to business interests of Swedish firms in India, including that of Ericsson following grant of Navratna status to VSNL; it does not call for any specific Govt. reaction.

Utilization of Resources for Rural Development

3533. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a shortfall in the utilisation of resources for providing self-employment opportunities to the educated unemployed weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has suggested for setting up of a high level Committee to evaluate the adequacy of the administrative arrangements for rural development; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure full utilisation of resources in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Statistics regarding the utilisation of funds for educated unemployed weaker sections of the society is not monitored separately by the Ministry.

(c) and (d) A committee was set up by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.R. Hashim, Member, Planning Commission, to review and rationalise the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Poverty Alleviation and Employment generation. The committee has submitted its report.

HPT and LPT in West Bengal

3534. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of HPT and LPT presently functioning in West Bengal, location-wise;

(b) the present area of their operation and coverage and the future plan of action for strengthening and modernising these transmitters;

(c) the number of Doordarshan Kendras functioning in the State;

(d) whether there is any plan to modernise these Kendras;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) 6 HPTs, 20 LPTs and 2 VLPTs are presently functioning in the State of West Bengal as per location-wise details given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) While TV service is presently available to an estimated 96.0% population and 95.4% area of the State, cent percent coverage, both area-wise and population-wise is expected to be achieved on commissioning of 5 HPT and 3 LPT/VLPT projects presently under implementation/envisaged to be set up in the State of West Bengal.

(c) to (f) While TV Studios for DD-I and DD-II at Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta and an interim Studio set up at Shantiniketan are presently functioning in West Bengal, Studio Centre at Jalpaiguri is technically ready and would be commissioned on sanction of staff by the competent authority. Studio (permanent set-up) at Shantiniketan is also presently under implementation. Augmentation/modernisation of Doordarshan Kendras by way of replacement of old equipment and introduction of new technology is a continuous activity taken up from time to time according to requirements of the particular Kendras.

Statement

Location-wise details of TV Transmitter projects presently Operational in West Bengal

HPT	Asansol
	Calcutta
	Calcutta (DD2)
	Calcutta (DD3)
	Kurseong
	Murshidabad
LPT	Alipurduar
	Balurghat
	Bardhaman
	Basanti
	Bishnupur
	Contai
	Darjeeling
	Farakka
	Jhargram
	Kalimpong
	Kalna
	Kharagpur
	Krishnagar
	Maldah
	Medinipur
	Puruliya
	Ranaghat
	Rayna
	Shantiniketan
	Murshidabad (DD2)
VLPT	Egra
	Jhalda

Telephone Connections in Calcutta

3535. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the several villages under Calcutta Telephones are yet to get telephone connections;

(b) if so, name of those villages; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide telephone connections in those villages?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of villages are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Cable Network is being developed to cover all these villages during 1997-98.

Statement*List of Villages*

Sl. No.	Name of Villages	Sl. No.	Name of Villages
1.	Khalisani	25.	Hotgacha
2.	Santoshpur	26.	Kamranga
3.	Raghudevpur	27.	Amre
4.	Ghosalchak	28.	Satghara
5.	Balarampota	29.	Basipota
6.	Jagadishpur	30.	Noapara
7.	Kalinagar	31.	Basai
8.	Mahisali	32.	Kotrang
9.	Baggachha	33.	Pandit Satghara
10.	Gangadaspur	34.	Simla
11.	Maheshpur	35.	Dakshin Rajyadharpur
12.	Dhamasa	36.	Bangihati
13.	Sahapur	37.	Sankhanagar
14.	Satgharia	38.	Dakshin Hazipur
15.	Beldubui	39.	Chhata Khejuria
16.	Ranihati	40.	Bera Khejuria
17.	Panchla	41.	Amodghata
18.	Raghudevhati	42.	Gajahanta
19.	Chak Strikrishna	43.	Alikhaja
20.	Monaharpur	44.	Benipur
21.	Nalpur Uttar	45.	Dhitora
22.	Ghoraghat	46.	Gourangapur
23.	Sandhipur	47.	Digra Mollickhati
24.	Mahisgot	48.	Hosenabad

Sl. No.	Name of Villages	Sl. No.	Name of Villages	Sl. No.	Name of Villages	Sl. No.	Name of Villages
49.	Jhanpa	71.	Raghunathpur	93.	Sibhugli	115.	Uttar Ramchandrapur
50.	Tarabihari	72.	Srikrishnapur	94.	Sanpukuria	116.	Moukhali
51.	Barrackpur Noapara	73.	Bamangachi	95.	Balarampur	117.	Jagatballavpur
52.	Dullara	74.	Jayanagar	96.	Chingripota	118.	Rajarampur
53.	Rajhat	75.	Mallickpur	97.	Adharmanik Almakhali	119.	Jamalpur
54.	Panchrakhi	76.	Uttar Kalyanpur	98.	Ramkrishna Chawk	120.	Benjanharia
55.	Amarpur	77.	Khadarbazar	99.	Rajarampur	121.	Parbati
56.	Jaggannathbati	78.	Dakshin Kalyanpur	100.	Uttar Kazirhat	122.	Bunali
57.	Maheshpur	79.	Dhopagachi	101.	Dakshin Kazirhat	123.	Mayabati
58.	Amdabad	80.	Baruipur	102.	Chamni	124.	Chandpur
59.	Ratul	81.	Subudhipur	103.	Dakshin Gouripur	125.	Chakbaasbaria
60.	Kamdebpur	82.	Beliaghata	104.	Gabbaria	126.	Chota Gangagolia
61.	Dogachia	83.	Gapalanagar	105.	Chakdhi	127.	Parbatipur
62.	Pariadanga	84.	Sonakhali	106.	Gangarampur	128.	Khangabaria
63.	Dharampur	85.	Sankharipota	107.	Bhabanipur	129.	Barangangolia
64.	Kulihanda	86.	Sonamukhi Krishna Nagar	108.	Jaya Chandipur	130.	Sapkhali
65.	Manuspur	87.	Bagpota	109.	Chandua	131.	Udayrampur
66.	Kajidanga	88.	Kalagachia	110.	Baratola	132.	Enayetnagar
67.	Naldanga	89.	Ganyagangadharpur	111.	Brindabanpur	133.	Dankeoraganga
68.	Ramchandrapur	90.	Ashuti	112.	Sarisa	134.	Uttar Gouripur
69.	Jayenpur	91.	Khanberia	113.	Pujali	135.	Jahanjhra
70.	Hogal Puria	92.	Rameshwarpur	114.	Kalipur		

Increase in Commuters

3536. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in Calcutta Suburban for considering the volume of increase in number of commuters;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to strengthen and modernise the existing infrastructure like power supply, signalling system, terminal facilities, lengthening of platforms for introduction of 12 coach EMU rakes;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide infrastructural facilities for the convenience of Calcutta suburban commuters?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) No such survey has been conducted. However, a techno-economic feasibility study for running of 12 coach EMU Trains on Suburban section of Calcutta was conducted by RITES in 1989 on anticipation that suburban passengers of Calcutta would increase to 451.69 millions by 1994-95 whereas the actual volume of suburban traffic of the area in 1996-97 was only 414.322 millions. Works have been taken in hand to strengthen and upgrade the suburban systems including Metro and circular Railway, to match growth of traffic.

Raising of Platform Level at Gadag Railway Station

3537. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the passengers are facing difficulties at Gadag railway station as the level of platform has not been raised after the gauge conversion;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to raise the level of platform;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation for opening of level crossing gate between Gadag-Betgeri during rainy season;

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

(e) whether there is the problem of water logging at railway over-bridge at Gadag; and

(f) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Raising of existing main platform has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 14.75 lakhs during 1997-98.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, Level crossing has been closed after commissioning of a Road Under Bridge as a pre-condition for construction of Road Under Bridge on cost sharing with Municipal Corporation. Level crossing cannot be opened from safety point of view.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The repairs to the road surface, drainage, etc. is the responsibility of the Municipal Council and Road Authority.

Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express in Kerala

3538. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express is originating or terminating in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce any of the above trains in Kerala particularly from Canannore to Ernakulam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2431/2432 Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express (weekly).

(c) and (d) 2431/2432 Rajdhani Express when diverted via Konkan Railway will also serve Calicut-Ernakulam-Trivandrum section.

[Translation]

Availability of Herbs

3539. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been conducted in regard to availability of herbs in forest and hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any efforts have been made by the Central Pharmaceutical and Aromatic Institute for meeting the demand of herbs in International Market and earning foreign exchange therefrom; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Botanical Survey of India has conducted surveys and prepared status reports for availability of the medicinal herbs in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Does to arise.

(c) and (d) Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed agro and processing technologies for diverse medicinal and aromatic plants which have been made available to farmers for commercial exploitation. Its efforts have lead to increased cultivation and processing of some medicinal and aromatic plants. Which besides meeting internal requirements are also exported, for example : Menthol Mint, which is now cultivated in about one lakh hectares in Uttar Pradesh producing about 9000 tonnes of oil valued at around Rs. 500 crore.

[English]

A.I.R. Station in West Bengal

3540. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of A.I.R. stations functioning at present in West Bengal and the capacity and area covered by each of these stations;

(b) whether any new station is proposed to be set up in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) The Statement indicating the details is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following New Radio Stations are being set up in the State of West Bengal : 1. Asansol :- 6 KW FM Transmitter (Relay Centre) 2. Shantiniketan :- 3 KW FM Transmitter with M.P. Studio.

Statement

All India Radio Stations presently functioning in the State of West Bengal

Sl. No.	Name of the Station	Power of the Transmitter	Approx. Area Covered Thousand Sq. Kms.	Expected Approx. Population covered (In Lakhs)
1. (i)	Calcutta "A"	100 KW MW Tr.	124.1	789.3
(ii)	Calcutta "B"	100 KW MW Tr.	80.0	595.6
(iii)	Calcutta "C"	20 KW MW Tr. (Vividh Bharati)	23.4	284.4
(iv)	Calcutta "D"	10 KW MW Tr. (Yuvvani)	17.9	270.8
(v)	Calcutta	10 KW MW Tr. Stereo Channel	1.8	110.3
(vi)	Calcutta	50 KW MW Tr.	About 800 Kms. in radius	
2.	Kurseong	20 KW MW Tr.	About 400 Kms. in radius	
3.	Siliguri	200 KW MW Tr.	35.5	175.6
4.	Murshidabad	6 KW MW Tr.	7.6	62.8

Survey for New Mainaguri-Jogigoppa Rail Line

3541. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct survey for Railway line from new Mainaguri to Jogigoppa via Changrabhanga, Mathabanga, New Coochbehar, Tufanganj and Golakganj (Dhubri);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A survey for construction of a new rail line from New Mainaguri-Mathabanga-New Coochbehar to Jogigoppa via Dhubri has been taken up.

(c) By 31.12.97.

Acquisition of Land

3542. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the land is at the disposal of the department for setting up of Post Offices in West Bengal circle, district-wise and location-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to construct Post Offices there; and

(c) the amount allocated by the Government for this purposes so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Intercity Express

3543. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the long standing demand of an intercity express train between Coimbatore and Bangalore in place of Shatabdi Express; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2677/2678 Coimbatore-Bangalore intercity Express has already been introduced with effect from 1.8.97.

[Translation]

Unauthorised Constructions

3544. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that illegal constructions are being carried out on large scale in Delhi on the land belongs to the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) if so, the number of such cases noticed and action taken thereon during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken of proposed to be taken to prevent illegal constructions in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the illegal constructions noticed and the action taken thereon by the Northern Telecom. Region (Mtce) New Delhi and the MTNL, New Delhi, are as per Statement.

(c) Boundary walls are being constructed and barbed wire fencing is also being done on vacant lands of the Department of Telecommunications in Delhi.

Statement

Sl. No.	Location	Controlling Field Unit	Status of Action Taken to remove the Illegal construction in each case
1.	Mukherjee Nagar	NTR (Mtce.) New Delhi	Slum wing and JJ Department of MCD has been requested for surveying and removal of illegal constructions.
2.	Behind Eastern Court	-Do-	Illegal construction has been removed on 24.4.97
3.	DIZ Area	-Do-	Rs. 4.30 crores have been sanctioned as relocation charges by DOT. This amount is to be deposited with slum wing of MCD on receipt of demand from the slum wing of MCD/DDA.
4.	Keshav Puram Lawrence Road	MTNL, New Delhi	Case taken up with the concerned authorities to get the unauthorised occupants evicted.
5.	J.L. Marg	-Do-	

*[English]***Construction of Railway Gates in Kerala**

3545. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to construct railway gates in between Calicut and Kannur on National Highway as well as railway over-bridges to help in easing the traffic flow; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 8 nos. of level crossings between Calicut and Cannanore across National Highway-17 on which Road Over Bridges are being considered on cost sharing basis. The State Govt. of Kerala was advised to sponsor Road over/Road under bridges at these locations which are within the criteria, for inclusion in Railway Works Programme. No such proposal has yet been received from State Government. Necessary action will be taken as and when firm proposals are received from the State Government.

Borrowing from Domestic Market

3546. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railway Finance Corporation has been borrowing from the domestic market at an interest rate of 16 or 17 per cent, which is higher than the rate of return i.e. of 12 to 15 per cent;

(b) if so, the source through which the interest at higher rate will be paid by the Indian Railway Finance Corporation; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to increase the internal resource generation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir. As only a small part of the funds raised by the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) through market borrowing bore interest rate of 16 and 16.5% per annum, the rate of return on funds raised during any financial year has been more than the weighted average cost of borrowing.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Extension of M.E.M.U. Rail Services**

3547. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the present position in regard to extending the M.E.M.U. rail service running between Baroda and Ratlam to Ujjain?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : The extension of MEMU service to Ujjain has been done w.e.f. 26.7.97.

*[English]***Demand for Metro Services**

3548. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any measures to fulfil the longstanding demand of the people of Bardhaman, Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia district to extend metro services in these areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) While satellite derived metro channel (DD-2) service is available throughout the country, including all the districts of West Bengal, terrestrially, the service is being initially extended to major cities/towns in the country depending on availability of resources and *inter se* priorities. In West Bengal, DD-2 service is presently

being relayed by an HPT at Calcutta and an LPT at Murshidabad. There are no approved schemes, at present, to set up DD-2 transmitters anywhere in Bardhaman, Birbhum, Bankura and Purulia districts of West Bengal.

Shortfall in Seating/Berth Capacity in Trains

3549. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any systematic assessment of the shortfall in seating/berth capacity in trains going from Delhi/New Delhi to Mumbai, Bangalore, Jammu Tawi, Calcutta, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati has been made;

(b) if so, the shortfall in seating/berth capacity of trains going to the above destinations from Delhi/New Delhi from May 1, 1997 to June 30, 1997 i.e. the estimated capacity plus the unsatisfied waiting lists separately for each destinations; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) the waiting list position of the trains is monitored on day-to-day basis. In order to clear the extra rush of traffic during the summer months, i.e. May and June, Railways ran a weekly special to Mumbai, tri-weekly to Calcutta and daily to Jammu Tawi in addition to the augmentation of regular services. Besides, regular service including the Rajdhani for Guwahati, Bhubaneswar and Bangalore were augmented to the extent justified and feasible. In case of heavy rush, occasional special trains were also run to these places during the period.

Broadcast of Indian Standard Time

3550. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the clocks being used at railway stations have since become obsolete in view of the introduction of Indian Standard Time through satellite INSAT by NPL, New Delhi; and

(b) the reasons for not introducing this system of indicating time by the Indian Railway at railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The clocks provided at stations are regularly adjusted and synchronised daily with the clock installed in the office of Section Controllers at a pre-determined time. The accuracy of clocks provided at Railway Stations is considered good enough for the purpose of day to day train operations. Introduction of Indian Standard Time through satellite INSAT, which gives an accuracy of 5 micro seconds, is not considered necessary for the train operations at the moment.

[Translation]

Conversion of Passenger Trains into EMU

3551. SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert all the passenger trains into EMU;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Non-availability of infrastructure necessary for EMU trains, operational and resource constraints.

[English]

Violation of Safety Rules

3552. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a complaint regarding rampant corruption and violation of safety rules was submitted by the then Divisional President of All India Station Masters' Association to Chief Vigilance Officer, Eastern Railway, Calcutta;

(b) whether facts of the said complaint had been probed into by the Vigilance Section; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Expansion of Refinery's Capacity by NALCO

3553. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will be Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) to improve its performance;

(b) the details of debts position of NALCO as on March 31, 1997;

(c) the time by which the above public sector company is expected to achieve Zero debt status;

(d) whether the company has completed its first phase of expansion programme;

- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the expected date of its second phase of expansion programme;
- (g) whether it also had a proposal to increase bauxite mining; and
- (h) if so, the steps taken by the NALCO in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) During the last three years the performance of NALCO against the targets set by the Govt. has been rated as excellent.

(b) and (c) As on 31st March, 1997 the outstanding loan was of the order of Japanese Yen 20 Billions. The entire loan is repayable by NALCO on 30th September, 1998.

(d) to (h) The first phase of expansion involving expansion of capacity of bauxite mines from 2.4 MTPY to 4.8 MTPY and alumina refinery capacity from 0.8 MTPY to 1.575 MTPY at an investment of Rs. 1664.80 crores is under implementation by the company. The scheduled period of completion is 51 months from the date of Govt. approval i.e. 18th December, 1996. The proposal for second phase of expansion relating to expansion of capacity of aluminium smelter and captive power plant has met the pre-PIB clearance.

Outstanding Amount

3554. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the arrears of bills outstanding and due to the Government at present by STD/ISD/PCOs in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the total arrears of bills outstanding and due to the Government at present by STD/ISD/PCOs of entire Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts of Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to recover the arrears of bills outstanding?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The information has been called for and the same will be laid down on the Table of the House.

Restoration of Pension

3555. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6300 dated the 15th May, 1997 and state :

- (a) the progress made in processing of the 2 applications for the restoration of pension to the officers of the former Delhi Telephones (now MTNL);

(b) the Pensionary benefit and Dearness Relief sanctioned in each case;

(c) if not, the stage at which the matter stands at present and the number of such applications still pending in the Office of the Chief General Manager, (MTNL) Delhi Telephones, New Delhi; and

- (d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) In terms of relevant Rules/Orders, the restoration of pension is to be done after a period of 15 years. This period will be calculated from the date on which they received payment of commutation value. Since both the applicants have not secured eligibility condition for commutation value, they have been informed accordingly.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) Admissibility of restoration of pension of Shri M.C. Vasudeva and Shri N.K. Aggarwal will be on 26.12.1999 and 22.10.1998 respectively. Amongst this category of officers one application of Shri D.B. Wahli, is pending for want of necessary clarification from the nodal Ministry.

(d) As soon as these cases become admissible as per Rules.

Donations made by SAIL

3556. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news regarding the donations made by SAIL to various organisations appearing in "The Pioneer" dated March 28, 1997;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the donations were part of SAIL's budgets for either publicity or social development projects; and
- (d) if not, the reaction of the Government to the donations so made, unauthorisedly causing financial loss to the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) SAIL being one of the largest public sector undertakings is very often approached for donations. Accordingly, Board of Directors of SAIL provide in SAIL's budget, certain amount for donations in order to give financial help for medical, educational, cultural and sports promotional activities etc.

During the last three years, i.e. 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97, donations totalling Rs. 567.35 lakhs were given. 57 organisations were granted donation by the SAIL Board, in the aforesaid period, from the budget.

[Translation]

Power Stations in Gujarat

3557. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of power stations in Gujarat at present;

(b) the total generation of power during the last two years, power station-wise;

(c) whether the Government have contemplated or propose to increase the capacity of power generation in the said state;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH):

(a) and (b) the total number of power stations in Gujarat is 19 including 3 in Central Sector. Station-wise energy generation in Gujarat during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is given in Statement attached.

(c) to (e) The details of projects under execution in Gujarat which will augment the power generation in the State after commissioning is given below;

Sl. No.	Project	Capacity (MW)	Commissioning schedule Original/Revised
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On-going Projects :

1.	Kadana PSS	68	1985-86/1997-98
2.	Sardar Sarovar (Multi State) HEP	1450	1994-96/1998-02
3.	Gandhi Nagar TPS Unit 5	210	1997-98/—
4.	Hazira CCGT	515	1997-98/—
5.	Paguthan CCGT	655	9th Plan/—

Statement**Station-wise Energy Generation in Gujarat**

(in Million Units)

Name of the Station	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3

Thermal

Dhuvaran	2927	2997
Ukai	4390	4348

	1	2	3
Gandhi Nagar		4942	4200
Wanakbori		6943	7222
Sikka		1312	1542
Kutch Lignite		595	615
Utron		103	93
Utron GT		962	880
Dhuvaran GT		141	137
Hydro			
Ukai		477	520
Kadana		261	313
A.E.Co			
A.E.Co		200	121
Sabarmati		2194	2328
Vatwa GT		555	690
Hazira		-	824
GIPCL		1116	1068
K.A.P.S. (Nuclear)		2251	3136
NTPC			
Kawas GT		1962	1746
Gandhar GT		2375	2863

[English]

Ratio of Providing Telephone

3558. SHRI R. DEVADASS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the particular ratio of providing OYT, Non-OYT (Special) and Non-OYT (General) telephone connections is maintained while allotting telephone connections;

(b) if so, the ratio of providing telephone connections;

(c) whether the above ratio has been followed while providing telephone connections in Gurgaon;

(d) if so, the number of telephone connections provided in each category particularly to the persons enlisted after 1.1.96 in Gurgaon;

(e) whether the persons enlisted after June, 1996 in Non-OYT (General) category have been provided with telephone connections;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, and

[English]

(g) the time by which the connections are likely to be provided to the persons enlisted upto 31.1.96 in Gurgaon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sir, the existing ratio for providing telephone connections under various categories of registration is as follows :

OYT	40%
Non-OYT (Spl.)	20%
Non-OYT (Gen.)	40%

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details of telephone connections provided in each category in Gurgaon registered after 1.1.96 are given below:

OYT	2917
Non-OYT (Spl.)	726
Non-OYT (Gen.)	NIL

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Not applicable in view of (e) above.

(g) The connections in Non-OYT General Category already released upto 1.1.96. The connections upto 31.1.96 are likely to be released within two months after proposed expansion subject to technical feasibility.

[Translation]

Agreement with World Bank for Improvement in Power Sector

3559. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Haryana Government has signed any agreement with the World Bank for bringing about improvement in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions of the agreement;

(c) whether said agreement is in the interest of the State; and

(d) if so, how and the manner in which it is likely to be in the interest of the State after its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Improvement of Railway Stations

3560. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the measures taken to improve the railway stations and platforms at Bibinagar, Nalgonda Chityala, Miryal Guda of Nalgonda district during the last two years till date?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Improvements to railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken wherever so warranted by growth in traffic. Amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled has already been provided at Bibinagar, Nalgonda, Chityala, Miryal Guda railway stations. As a measure of further improvement provision of cover of platform at Bibinagar and extension & raising of platform at Nalgonda stations have been taken up.

Gauge Conversion from Naupada-Gunupur

3561. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds provided by the Government for the conversion of Naupada-Gunupur narrow gauge line into broad gauge line (S.E. Railway) since its approval; and

(b) the funds provided for techno-economic survey of broad gauge line from Gunupur to Rayagada to connect the missing link so far and the progress of the work thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The work has been included in the budget at a cost of Rs. 47 crores with a token outlay of Rs. 1 lakh in 1997-98. The work is to be taken up after the requisite clearance have been obtained.

(b) The survey has been completed as such no outlay is required in current year.

Privatisation of Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station

3562. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the three parts — generation-transmission-distribution of the power plant BTPS (Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station) are going to be handed over to the private hands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment of likely impacts of this agreement on the consumers has been made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Diesel Loco Wheels

3563. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number and cost of Diesel Loco Wheels;
- (b) whether Durgapur or Yelhanka wheel plants can produce D.L. wheels; and
- (c) if so, the investment for Indian wheel plants is required to produce diesel loco wheels in India?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PAWSWAN) : (a) (i) Approximate annual requirement of BG loco wheels is — 22000 nos. and the total value is Rs. 58 crores (approx.).

(ii) Approximate annual requirement of MG loco wheels is — 1700 nos. and the total value is Rs. 4 crores (approx.).

(b) Loco wheels are produced by Durgapur Steel Plant in small quantity. They supplied 597 wheels in 96-97. As per specification these wheels are required to be manufactured by forging and rolling process. Yelhanka wheel plant does not have this technology.

(c) Development of an alternate source is under consideration.

Non-Refundable Charges In Doordarshan

3564. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION and BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Doordarshan is charging a non-refundable amount of Rs. 5000/- from the producers/copy right-holders of national award winning feature films as consideration of telecasting the same at the National Channel;
- (b) whether the Doordarshan is not informing the producers/copy right-holders about the fate of their applications particularly in case of rejection; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Since April, 1997 Doordarshan has started charging Rs. 5000/- as processing fee alongwith fresh applications of feature films for consideration of their telecast on the National Network.

(b) and (c) As a matter of policy, reasons of rejection of proposals at the concept stage are not intimated to the producers/copy right-holders.

Extension of Rail Line upto Dangori

3565. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a proposal for extension of railway line from Makum to Dangori in Tinsukia district of Assam was conceded

and declared by his Ministry during the last week of May, 1997;

- (b) if so, the status of the project and the time by which it is likely to be commissioned;
- (c) whether survey for this 30 km stretch was completed during the Eighth Plan period;
- (d) the status of the gauge conversion of Rangia-Murkong Selek portion of the Northeast Frontier Railway; and
- (e) the reasons for delay in the survey of the said segment?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) A metro gauge railway line already exists from Makum to Dangori in Tinsukia district. The question, it is presumed, relates to the conversion of this section to broad gauge. The conversion work has been sanctioned and would be taken up later this year after completion of the Mariani-Furkating and Simalguri-Moranhat branch line sections of NF Railway. The work would be completed in the financial year 1998-99.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The survey for gauge conversion of Rangia-Murkong Selek has been taken up.

(e) There has been no delay. The section is considerably long (523 kms). NF Railway has a sizeable survey work load as a result of the Govt.'s policy to develop railway network in the NE region. The survey is expected to be completed during the calendar year 1998.

Cost of Pantograph

3566. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the cost of imported pantograph as well as indigenous pantograph;
- (b) whether all ABB engines pantograph have been replaced by indigenous pantograph;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the fate of imported pantographs?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The cost of imported pantograph provided on ABB locomotives is 40,000 Swiss Francs excluding import duties and the cost of indigenous pantograph provided on CLW built locomotives is Rs. 65,000/- excluding duties/taxes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Initially 52 Secheron make imported pantographs were provided on 10 passenger and 16 freight ABB locomotives. As a result of some problems faced on imported pantographs, 15 imported pantographs have been replaced by indigenous pantographs. The balance 37 imported

pantographs continue to be in service. ABB have since carried out modification of 9 imported pantographs which are on service trials and the performance is being monitored.

Government Directives for Defective Telephones

3567. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any directives has been issued by the Government in regard to set the defective telephones right within two days after receipt of complaints and if the defect is not removed in a week, then the rent for such period should not be charged from the subscribers; and

(b) if so, details of such telephones in Jammu of which the defect have not been removed for more than a week during the period of January 1997 to June 1997?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir, as per existing instructions faulty telephones should be set right within 40 hours of the complaints.

Rebate in rentals is admissible when local telephone services remain interrupted/suspended continuously for 7 days or more due to departmental reasons.

(b) Month-wise details of telephones in Jammu which remained faulty for more than 7 days during Jan'97 to June'97 are given as below:-

Month	No. of telephones remained faulty for more than 7 days
January 97	201
February 97	153
March 97	492
April 97	369
May 97	171
June 97	147
Total	1533

Construction of Unauthorised Stalls

3568. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that unauthorised stalls are constructed on the level-crossings of the local stations in Howrah and Sealdah Divisions of Eastern Railway which is the restricted zone for constructing any structure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these structures are obstructing the vicinity and thus causing accidents; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard to avoid accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are such constructions mainly at some of the level crossings adjacent to suburban stations in Sealdah and Howrah Divisions of Eastern Railway.

(c) No accident occurred in Sealdah and Howrah Divisions of Eastern Railway due to obstruction by unauthorised construction at level crossings.

(d) Action to remove the unauthorised structures is taken under Public premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 which is a continuous process.

Extension of Nilambur-Shoranur Push Pull Train

3569. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding the extension of the Nilambur-Shoranur Push Pull train from Shoranur upto Palghat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Some representations have been received in this regard. However there is no proposal at present to extend Nilambur-Shoranur DMU train upto Palghat due to certain operational constraints.

Coverage of Swaran Jayanti Rathayatra

3570. CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA :
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

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

(a) whether any coverage to Shri L.K. Advani's Swaran Jayanti Rathayatra has been telecast and broadcast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government adopts the same policy about the activities of other political parties; and

(d) if so, the details of the policy being followed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir. Both All India Radio and Doordarshan adequately covered the Swaran Jayanti Rathayatra undertaken by the B.J.P. President, Shri L.K. Advani in their national as well as regional bulletins.

(b) Such information is not kept centrally in a compiled form.

(c) and (d) the activities of different political parties are covered by All India Radio and Doordarshan in their news bulletins based on the news worthiness.

N.T.P.C.

3571. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the process of rehabilitation of villagers in the Singrauli area of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) project has been found to be incomplete even when it was started after a decade; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). The rehabilitation and resettlement of the villagers affected by thermal power projects of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in Singrauli area viz., Singrauli, Vindhyachal and Rihand Super Thermal Power projects has been completed except in case of the ash dyke areas which are being developed in phases depending upon the project requirements. The details are as follows :-

Singrauli Super Thermal Power Project

Rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected people has been completed. A new ash disposal site will be required after the existing pond is filled up. Land for this has been identified and compensation paid to the villagers.

Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project Stage-I

Resettlement and rehabilitation of the affected villagers has been completed except in the ash dyke area where 31 people, still occupying the land, are being persuaded to shift.

Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project Stage-II

Land was acquired in 1985-88 and compensation paid to the villagers in 1985-88. The ash dyke portion was not got vacated as the land was not immediately required. At present, the construction work is in progress and the land for ash dyke is required. Most of the villagers have now shifted and resettled. The remaining villagers are being persuaded to vacate the area and will be rehabilitated and resettled as per the company's policy.

Rihand Super Thermal Power Project, Stage-I

Land was acquired in 1982-89 and was divided into two parts. One part comprised the main plant and township while the other comprised ash dyke area. The villagers affected by the setting up of the main plant and township were resettled and rehabilitated.

The ash dyke area was predominantly forest land and there was delay in getting the forest clearance. Therefore, alternate area in Mithini village was acquired by NTPC. Almost

all the villagers have been resettled. Construction work in the ash dyke area is in progress.

[Translation]

Handing over Anpara Power Station

3572. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed to hand over Anpara Power Station of Uttar Pradesh to Hyundai Heavy Industries Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The main power producing unit at Anpara, consisting of 3x210 MW Anpara 'A' and 2x500 MW Anpara 'B' are being operated by U.P. State Electricity Board. However, the 2x500 MW Anpara 'C' thermal power project, an extension of Anpara 'A' and 'B' in the Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh, has been decided to be implemented by the private sector by Government of Uttar Pradesh. It is now to be built, owned and operated by M/s. Hyundai Heavy Industries Ltd., South Korea, which was selected through international competitive bidding. The letter of intent was issued by Government of Uttar Pradesh on 10.7.1996 and Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 14.8.1996 between Government of Uttar Pradesh and M/s. Hyundai Heavy Industries. The action of Government of Uttar Pradesh to implement the Anpara 'C' thermal power project by M/s. Hyundai Heavy Industries Ltd. is in line with the private power policy of Government of India.

Study on Expenses of Irrigation

3573. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the comparative study on expenses of irrigation by diesel run pump sets and power pump sets used by farmers has been carried out;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the power shortage in Bihar on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Study carried out by using different pumping system for the same lift conditions revealed that the cost of pumping per 100 cubic meter of water was higher for the diesel pump as compared to electric pump.

(c) Various measures being taken to improve the availability of power in Bihar including the expediting the commissioning of new generating capacity, maximising the generation from the existing capacity, implementation of renovation and modernisation programme, reduction in T & D losses, effective load management and energy conservation measures, arranging power from neighbouring States/systems and encouraging private sector participation in power generation etc.

[English]

Mumbai Urban Transport Project

3574. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Paswan's dept. blamed for derailing project" appearing in 'The Statesman' dated June 30, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in the matter with the World Bank Authorities for reconsideration; and

(e) the details of strategy finalised by Railways in consultation with the State Government of Maharashtra to provide relief to Mumbai commuters by undertaking phase-II project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Railways is not responsible for delay in the project. Government of Maharashtra approached Ministry of Railways to consider rail augmentation plan for a comprehensive Urban Transport Project which could be taken with World Bank assistance. In this connection World Bank have given advance from Project Preparatory Fund for certain project preparatory studies for road and rail component of the said project. The road component studies are being dealt by Government of Maharashtra and the rail component studies are being dealt by Ministry of Railways. Two of the rail component studies are over and the third study is likely to be completed by the September 30.

The decision for seeking a World Bank loan will be taken only after the Project Preparatory Studies are over. Railways have also decided that in view of the conditionalities associated with World Bank assistance, the rail component will be executed even without World Bank assistance. Based on the requirement of funds of MUTP-II and keeping in view the physical limitations in executing such works as also the ability to incur expenditure, specially in Mumbai area, it is felt that fund availability of Rs. 300 crores per annum on a sustained basis should be able to meet the requirement.

Such an amount will be raised through additional Budgetary Support of Rs. 200 crores per annum under MTP

Plan Head, and levy of surcharge on suburban services and commercial exploitation of land. The successful and timely implementation of the project in Mumbai area is heavily dependent on Rehabilitation & Resettlement aspect satisfactorily settled in time, for which the State Govt. has to take necessary action including implementation plan.

World Bank have not withdrawn finally from funding the project. World Bank in their communication dated 20.3.97 have advised that they would be willing to review their decision and consider Bank's assistance, if projects are developed where there would be an upfront commitment by the concerned parties and a clear institution implementation capability. Thereafter, in view of the good progress made by the project preparatory studies, the World Bank reviewed their earlier decision of not extending the currency of project preparatory fund advance beyond 30th June and extended it upto 30th Sept. '97.

(e) It has been decided to set up Mumbai Rail Development Corporation as a wholly Government owned Company under the Companies Act 1956 under the Ministry of Railways with equity participation by Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra. The functions of Mumbai Rail Development Corporation, among others, will be :

(1) Develop co-ordinated plans for the rail components to be included in MUTP-II and other planned investments in Mumbai suburban rail services and execute the resulting infrastructure projects.

(2) Integrate urban development plans for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region with rail capacity plans and proposed investments.

(3) Co-ordinate and ensure improvement of track drainage and the removal of encroachments and trespassers from the railway's right-of-way and station approaches.

(4) Execute specified projects for the commercial development of railway land and apportion the net income in the ratio of 1:1:1 for Railway Projects in Mumbai area, Maharashtra and elsewhere in the country respectively. These would be done in consultation with Ministry of Railways & Government of Maharashtra respectively as the case may be.

Programmes for Inspiration of Youth

3575. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Doordarshan (DD) has commissioned any programme to inspire youth to join the territorial Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether steps have also been taken by DD to improve the image of Territorial Army; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan has commissioned a serial of 13 episodes entitled 'Adarsh' produced by Wing Commander A.S. Bedi.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan has also telecast following programmes in this connection:

Sl. No.	Programme	Date of Telecast
1.	Message on Territorial Army	9.10.94
2.	Message by Chief of Territorial Army	8.10.95
3.	Territorial Army	9.10.96
4.	Special programme on Defence Services (Civil Defence and Home Guards in Service of the Nation)	21.6.97

[Translation]

Improvement in Reservation System

3576. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set-up a five member Committee to examine the issues of improving the working of reservation system and other arrangements relating to the summer rush;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the main recommendations of the committee and the extent to which the present system is likely to be amended;

(e) whether it has been found that no railway tickets are being issued by the Railways even after one month gap; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee has been set-up to examine the issues regarding improving the working of the reservation system and other arrangements relating to summer rush on Indian Railways. A statement showing the details of the composition and terms of reference is attached.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The report is under examination by Railway Board.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Composition

- (i) Additional Member (C&IS), Railway Board — Chairman
- (ii) Executive Director, Passenger Amenities, Railway Board.
- (iii) Executive Director, Vigilance (T), Railway Board
- (iv) Chief Commercial Manager (G), Northern Railway
- (v) Chief Vigilance Officer (T), Northern Railway.
- (vi) Executive Director (Coaching), Railway Board.

Terms of Reference

- (i) To conduct a random study of reservations made for trains in Delhi Area for journeys during the month of May and June (up to 10th), 1997 to detect irregularities, if any, regarding cornering of berths and suggest corrective action.
- (ii) To review arrangements for checking activities of unauthorised travel agents, viz. touts, in Delhi Area and suggest steps that need to be taken to make the drive against touts etc. more effective.
- (iii) To examine passengers amenities provided in various reservation offices in Delhi Area and suggest improvement in amenities for persons waiting to purchase tickets.
- (iv) To examine whether present arrangements of running special trains and attaching additional coaches to meet peak demand during summer vacations are satisfactory and suggest improvements, if any.
- (v) To examine other measures that may be taken to alleviate difficulties faced by passengers during the rush period such as extension of reservation working hours, extension of advance reservation period, extent of waiting list that should be accepted, management of queue etc.

[English]

Transfer of Cinema from I & B to Culture

3577. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that cinema is under the Ministry of Culture in most parts of the world;

(b) whether there is a demand by some popular film producers to shift cinema to the Ministry of Culture; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) While the position in this regard varies from country to country, this Ministry has not received any demand by popular film producers to shift the subject of cinema to the Department of Culture.

(c) Does not arise.

Payment as A.I.R. Lift Charges to Indian Air Force

3578. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry owes certain amount to the Indian Air Force for Airlift charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for non-payment of the dues; and

(d) the time by which this amount is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Defence (Air Headquarters) has preferred claims to the tune of Rs. 10,55,22,373 on account of airlift charges pertaining this Ministry. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 10,53,97,052 pertains to Doordarshan. An amount of Rs. 1,19,344 pertains to Films Division and Rs. 227 to DAVP. Bills to the tune of Rs. 5,750 which are said to have been sent, have not been received.

(c) Doordarshan have been requesting Ministry of Defence to reconsider the matter and to charge airlifting charges on concessional rates, as the amount billed was felt to be high. Person(s) who travelled were apparently neither engaged by Films Division nor DAVP. The matter has accordingly been taken up with Air Headquarters.

(d) The payment will be made as soon as the issue is mutually settled.

Nutrition Standard of People

3579. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural development programmes have made any significant impact on the nutrition standard of the people;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard in tribal, rural and urban slum areas; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) None of the Programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment directly aims at improving the nutrition standard of the people. However, the results of latest repeat survey conducted by National Nutrition monitoring Bureau of Indian Council of Medical Research in 10 States of the Country indicated that the nutrition status of rural children improved significantly.

Shankar Guruswamy Committee

3580. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the reaction of the Government on Shankar Guruswamy Committee on power transmission; and

(b) the details regarding the present status on action taken on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Committee of Experts constituted by the Government of India under Shri D. Sankaraguruswamy has submitted its report in July, 1997. The implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts can only be taken after the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997 is passed by Parliament. The Bill is now under consideration by the Standing Committee on Energy.

Technological Problem in Steel Industry

3581. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major technological problems faced by the Steel Industry;

(b) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. propose to offer research and development projects on a contract basis to outside contractors; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The level of technology available in Indian Steel Industry is still below the international level. However, the situation is gradually improving with the newer companies adopting the latest technologies and modernisation of the SAIL plants.

(b) The R & D Centre of SAIL is primarily working for the Steel Plants and Units of SAIL including its subsidiaries. However, some R & D projects are also undertaken for outside parties on mutually agreed terms and conditions.

(c) During 1996-97 seven assignments have taken up for organisations outside SAIL. Details are as under :

Sl. No.	Assignment Title	Organisation
1.	Testing of Coal Samples	Sesa Kembla, Goa.
2.	Pilot Scale testing of Foreign coal samples.	VSP, Visakhapatnam.
3.	Testing of coal Samples.	Friends coal, Dhanbad.
4.	Testing of Rust Preventive Oil Samples.	HPCL, Bombay.
5.	Testing of 4 Rust Preventive Oil Samples.	IDC Ltd. R & D Faridabad.
6.	Consultancy for Caliberation of CSR-CRI Equipments.	Sesa Kembla, Goa
7.	Decrepiation test of SMS Grade Limestone samples.	RSMD Jodhpur.

Limited number of Assignments are pursued for outside parties, because the in-house requirement of R & D in SAIL itself is quite substantial. However, depending upon the requests from outside parties, such arrangements are taken up to the extent possible.

Joint Venture Railway Services

3582. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a joint venture Railway Services is being introduced in Goa Sector;

(b) if so, the details of passenger amenities and expenditure incurred;

(c) whether the Government propose to examine the feasibility of introducing such services from Mangolpuri to New Delhi Railway Station:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Certain services with cost sharing arrangement between Goa Government and Konkan Railway Corporation are being proposed including on Karwar-Pernam section. Konkan Railway Corporation has also accepted the offer of M/s. Patil Tours & Travel Pvt. Ltd. For ownership, marketing and management of Tourist Train for Mumbai-Goa-Madgaon Circuit for a period of 15 years.

(c) to (e) No joint Venture train services are proposed between Mangolpuri and New Delhi due to technical reasons.

Subsidy on Liquid Fuel

3583. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to withdraw subsidy on liquid fuel imports required for proposed power plants;

(b) whether the withdrawal of subsidy will push up power rates effecting the common man; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) Pricing of liquid fuel imports for power plants would be outside the administered pricing mechanism and would not be linked up with Oil Pool Account. The Prices would be based on international prices, and would not have any element of subsidy. A Planning Commission study had shown that at the locations studied, liquid fuel based power plants would be at the more expensive end of the available options. However, these plants can be commissioned within a much shorter time compared to power plants based on conventional fuels.

Captive Thermal Power Stations

3584. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of contracts awarded for setting up captive thermal power stations of 10 to 20 MW in the mining areas of the country;

(b) whether these are based on the use of washeries rejects as fuel or on normal coal;

(c) if so, the estimated capital required for investment on these projects;

(d) the progress made so far in setting up the captive thermal power stations in the various mining areas; and

(e) the reasons for delay in taking up the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The names of contracts awarded for setting up captive thermal power stations of 10 to 20 MW in the mining areas of the country by M/s Coal India Limited are as given below :

Sl. No.	Site	Capacity (MW)	Awarded to
1	2	3	4
1.	Rajrappa	1x10	M/s DLF Power Ltd.
2.	Bhojudih	1x10	-do-
3.	Gidi	1x10	-do-
4.	Madhuband	2x10	-do-

1	2	3	4
5.	Gidi (Extn.)	1x10	M/s Daya Technical Services Pvt. Ltd.
6.	Sudamdih	2x10	-do-
7.	Dugda	2x10	-do-
8.	Piparwar	2x10	M/s Daya Engin. Works

(b) All these are based on fuel as washery rejects/low Gross Calorific Value Coal.

(c) The estimated capital requirement for projects are Rs. 35.00 crores each for Rajrappa, Bhojudih and Gidi, Rs. 37.5 crores for Gidi (Extension) and Rs. 75.00 crores each for Madhuband, Sudamdih, Dugda and Piparwar project.

(d) For Rajrappa and Gidi projects, Civil works are in progress and major equipments have been ordered, for Madhuband project, activities like soil testing and levelling of site have been started, for Piparwar and Gidi (Extension) projects, parties have been asked to take possession of land and for Bhojudih, Dugda and Sudamdih projects, these plants can be set up after getting permission from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) for wheeling out power from DVC grid.

(e) As per section 18 of the DVC Act, permission is to be obtained from DVC for setting up captive power plants in their command area. DVC gave permission for setting up of captive power plants at Rajrappa, Gidi, Bhojudih, and Madhuband in June, 1996, but did not give permission for wheeling out surplus power. This required further discussion and re-negotiation with the entrepreneurs. Further, the entrepreneurs had to undertake hydrological surveys for driving tubewells to provide the required water.

[Translation]

Termination of Services of Temporary Employees by SAIL

3585. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Ltd. Delhi is terminating the services of its temporary employees without serving any prior notices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the category-wise number of employees whose services have been terminated so far; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) Depending upon its requirements, Steel Authority of India Limited, Delhi, engages a few persons on a temporary basis,

by contract for specified periods, from time to time. On completion of the specified period of contract, the same lapses unless renewed.

[English]

Financial Assistance to Socio-Educational Development Centre

3586. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) for providing financial Assistance to socio-educational development centres;

(b) the institutes in Andhra Pradesh that received the financial assistance from CAPART during the last two years;

(c) whether some irregularities have been noticed in their working; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) CAPART provides financial assistance to voluntary organisations having at least three years experience after registration as a society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 or under the corresponding State Act, or as a Trust registered under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or the Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920, for undertaking rural development projects as per its guidelines.

(b) During the last two years, the number of voluntary organisations of Andhra Pradesh assisted by CAPART and the number of projects sanctioned to these voluntary organisations were as under:-

Year	No. of Voluntary organisations assisted	No. of Projects sanctioned
1995-96	219	255
1996-97	316	365

Note : Provisional.

(c) and (d) Some of the voluntary organisations assisted by CAPART in Andhra Pradesh have come to adverse notice of CAPART. As on 15.7.1997, CAPART has blacklisted 23 such voluntary organisations in Andhra Pradesh.

Probe into Affairs of NISCOM

3587. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has urged the CBI to thoroughly probe into the affairs of National Institute of Science Communications;

(b) if so, whether the work has since been taken up by CBI; and

(c) the nature of complaints made and the extent to which irregularities in the National Institute of Science Communications have been curbed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) Irregularities in the matter of procurement of printing material, purchase of office furniture, recruitment/assessment promotions were alleged at National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM), a constituent of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Assistance of anti-corruption branch, CBI was sought in the matter, who after examination advised CSIR to investigate the matter departmentally and seek their assistance, if required. A one man committee headed by a retired Secretary to Govt. of India has been appointed for detailed examination of the allegations.

[Translation]

Rural Management Institutes

3588. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Rural Management Institutes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from Bihar in July 1996 for setting up of Rural Management Institute on the lines of Anand (Gujarat); and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration either in this Ministry or in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. However, in terms of the All India Council for Technical Education Act, any institution imparting training in management requires permission of the Council for its establishment.

(c) and (d) A reference dated 12.7.1996 in this regard was received from the Minister for Cooperation, Information and Public Relations, Minorities Welfare and Art, Culture, Youth Affairs, Government of Bihar addressed to the then Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, who in turn had forwarded that latter to the Union Minister of State for Agriculture. Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture has informed that Department is not contemplating setting up Rural Management Institute anywhere in the country including Bihar.

[English]

Land Reforms

3589. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of implementation of land reforms as assessed/reported by the State Governments in the latest conference in terms of targets set, State-wise;

(b) the details of progress made in this regard during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of special and fresh initiatives taken by the Government during the last year for effective implementation of the land reforms and the results achieved therefrom; and

(d) the action plan formulated by the Government for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Targets are set, State-wise for distribution of ceiling surplus land only, not by a resolution of any conference but on certain principles, lately on the basis of net area available for distribution as reported by the States in the Fourth Quarterly Progress Report of the preceding year. However, the Conference of the Revenue Ministers/Secretaries of the States are held from time to time, the latest of which was held on 28.1.97 which *inter-alia* assessed the status of implementation of land reforms including distribution of ceiling surplus land.

(b) Progress made in distribution of ceiling surplus land during the last 3 years, with State-wise break-up is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) During the last year, all major issues pertaining to land reforms including the two special agenda under the Common Minimum Programme were taken up for effective deliberation and implementation through time-bound programmes in the meetings of the Revenue Secretaries held on 26th and 27th November, 1996 and also in the meeting of the Revenue Ministers held on 28th January, 1997. As per the recommendations of the aforesaid conferences, the State Governments are taking necessary steps for speedy implementation of various land reform measures.

(d) During the current year, State-wise target for distribution of ceiling surplus land have already been fixed and communicated to respective States. For strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updation of Land Records the Budgetary allocation of Rs. 18.80 crores have been made.

In Addition, for supporting the ongoing programme of computerisation of land records as well as computerisation of cadastral maps, an amount of Rs. 20 crore have been allocated for the current financial year. Some reputed institutions/organisations including National Institutes have been engaged for independent evaluation and assessment of the existing tenancy laws, laws relating to restoration of tribal land etc.,

with the objective of preparing model legislation for plugging the loopholes of the existing legislation, which is an important agenda of the Common Minimum Programme of the Government.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Year 1994-95		Year 1995-96		Year 1996-97	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1.	Andhra Pr.	103180	13002	7578	10773	9000	3427
2.	Assam	57280	8359	38040	3228	28570	3163
3.	Bihar	94000	4156	4515	5816	3300	1841
4.	Gujarat	40270	4499	1600	1530	1600	1892
5.	Haryana	2380	285	4483	189	1460	534
6.	Himachal Pr.	1970	0	4183	0	NF	
7.	J & K	6000	0	5575	0	NF	
8.	Karnataka	32000	717	NF		8160	937
9.	Kerala	9230	239	1992	171	2620	185
10.	Madhya Pr.	50000	200	922	85	9260	280
11.	Maharashtra	14250	739	238	471	520	421
12.	Manipur	50	0	3	0	NF	
13.	Orissa	5680	1069	696	833	870	956
14.	Punjab	15180	96	80	50	50	277
15.	Rajasthan	35750	6579	8190	8898	5050	3444
16.	Tamil Nadu	5330	5346	102	3354	1320	3173
17.	Tripura	60	0	NF		10	0
18.	Uttar Prad.	56970	11249	947	5624	5000	4870
19.	West Bengal	32990	5267	98	10788	NF	
20.	D & N Haveli	690	125	343	76	340	0
21.	Delhi	460	0	NF		NF	
22.	Pondicherry	140	0	31	0	100	0
		563860	61927	79616	51886	77230	25402

NF : Targets not fixed mainly on the ground that, as per the report of the State Governments, there was not net ceiling surplus land available for distribution free from all encumbrances.

Ispat Group

3590. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn

to the news-item captioned "Ispat Group juggles its funds" appearing in the Indian Express, dated July 19, 1977;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Merger of Poverty Alleviation and Employment Scheme

3591. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to merge poverty alleviation programme and employment oriented programmes and to allocate more funds for it;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the amended programme is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the poverty alleviation programmes and employment oriented programmes; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to remove the shortcomings in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Government propose to revamp and redesign various Centrally Sponsored poverty alleviation and rural employment programmes.

(c) and (d) Various programmes implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment are reviewed through monitoring mechanism which, *inter-alia*, consists of obtaining periodical progress reports/returns, financial returns/audit reports, intensive field inspections, reviews and monitoring by Committees and by senior officers. Besides, the Government regularly reviews implementation of programmes in various States through the Central Level Coordination Committees, State Level Coordination Committees and at the district level by the governing body of District Rural Development Agencies.

Conversion of Railway Line

3592. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to convert railway line between Bareilly Junction and Izzatnagar city workshop;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the conversion work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Telecast of Regional Programmes

3593. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to increase the time for telecast of regional programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Post Office in Uttar Pradesh

3594. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the areas of land acquired for the construction of postal office buildings in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) whether the acquired land is being used for other purposes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The area of land acquired for the construction of post office buildings during the last 3 years district-wise in Uttar Pradesh are as follows :

Sl. No.	Place	Distt.	Area	Year
1.	Wadda	Pithoragarh	1200 m ²	1994
2.	Suhagnagar	Firojabad	850 m ²	1994
3.	Bageshwar	Almora	586.43 m ²	1995
4.	Tetari Bazar	Siddarthnagar	7967.84 m ²	1996
5.	Sirauli Gaushpur	Barabanki	1554.72 m ²	1996
6.	Ram Nagar	Barabanki	1554.72 m ²	1996

(b) No.

(c) Not applicable.

Extraction of Iron Ore Mines in Madhya Pradesh

3595. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of iron ore extracted each month from iron ore mines of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the royalty provided to Madhya Pradesh on iron ore during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase royalty on iron ore to State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) As per Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Nagpur, the quantity of iron ore extracted each month, during 1996-97 from iron ore mines of Madhya Pradesh is given at Statement-I.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The royalty rates on iron ore have been recently revised and notified in the Gazette of India, notification *vide* Part II, Section 3, Sub Section (i) No. 156, dated 11.4.97. The rates of royalty in respect of iron ore as per the Gazette of India, dated 11.4.97 are at Statement-II.

Statement-I

Iron Ore Production in Madhya Pradesh during April-1996 to March 1997 (Month-wise)

Month	(Qty. in thousand tonnes)		
	Production		
	Total	Lumps	Fines ¹
April 1996	1489	807	682
May	1395	764	631
June	1393	789	604
July	1220	658	562
August	1364	690	674
September	1299	664	635
October	1571	796	775
November	1393	769	624
December	1452	824	628
January 1997	1382	818	564
February	1305	712	593
March	1545	773	772
Total 1996-97	16808	9064	7744

¹ Figures relate to despatches for internal consumption/exports.

Statement-II

Rates of Royalty in respect of Iron Ore as per the Gazette of India dt. 11.4.97

Iron Ore	Rates (Rs./Tonnes)
1. Lumps	
(a) 65% Fe or more	21.50
(b) 62% Fe or more but less than 65% Fe	12.00
(c) 60% Fe or more but less than 62% Fe	08.50
(d) Less than 60% Fe	06.00
2. Fines (including inter-alia, natural fines produced incidental to mining and sizing of lumpy ore)	
(a) 65% Fe or more	15.50
(b) 62% Fe or more but less than 65% Fe	08.50
(c) Less than 62% Fe	06.00
3. Concentrates prepared by beneficiation and/or concentrating of low grade Ore containing 40% Fe or less	
	02.50

[English]

Ranganadi Hydro Electric Project

3596. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether once the Ranganadi Hydro Electric Project of NEEPCO is commissioned water would be discharged or diverted to Dikrong river;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of the danger of vast thickly populated areas of Lakhimpur and Sonitpur districts being seriously affected by floods and erosion; and

(c) if so, the steps contemplated by the Government to prevent the man-made calamity resulting inevitably from the said diversion of water to Dikrong river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The Hydro Electric Project is being implemented by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO) in Arunachal Pradesh with generation capacity of 405 MW. The project envisages inter-basin transfer of water from Ranganadi river to Dikrong river due to discharge of 160 cumecs of tail-race water from the power house when operated at its full capacity. Model studies conducted by Central

Water and Power Research Station, Pune, at the instance of NEEPCO, has revealed that the rise in water level will be between 7-12 cm when power house operates at its full capacity. The effect of the rise in the water due to additional discharge from the power station is very marginal in comparison to the observed peak flood of 2500 CUMECS of the river Dikrong. The incremental discharge of 160 CUMECS is therefore not likely to cause any damage in the lower reach of Dikrong river not will pose any danger to the population in the area. NEEPCO has carried out a joint survey with the Flood Control Department and Irrigation Department of Government of Assam to assess the flood protection work of Dikrong river from the downstream of Banderdewa bridge upto the confluence of river Dikrong and Subansiri. Based on the actual survey, the flood protection work as existing without transfer of 160 CUMECS of water from Ranganadi Basin to Dikrong Basin is not sufficient to retain the observed 2500 CUMECS discharge of Dikrong River during the peak flood season. NEEPCO has, however, intimated to Government of Assam that any additional protection measures, if required due to additional discharge of 160 CUMECS of water from power House will be fully funded by them against the project cost.

[Translation]

Non-Delivery of Letters

3597. SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the total distribution system has come to such a pass in Darbhanga, Bihar that even the registered letters are not reaching their destination, what to talk of ordinary letters;

(b) if so, whether any complaints have been received about the registered letters and ordinary letters not reaching their destination under the present postal distribution system in Darbhanga; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) No, Sir, the distribution of mails in Darbhanga is generally satisfactory. However, occasional instances of delay to mails may occur due to various reasons such as cancellation/late running of mail carrying buses, trains and planes, natural calamities, sudden and exceptional increase in the volume of mail like Corporate and Greetings mail, inadequacy of delivery staff etc.

(b) There are complaints about non-delivery/delayed delivery of registered and ordinary mail. However, such complaints are negligible compared to the volume of mail handled.

(c) The complaints received are enquired into and appropriate action is taken against the officials at fault.

*[English]***Direct Train from Gandhidham to New Delhi**

3598. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to run a direct train from Gandhidham to New Delhi via Ahmedabad-Nadiad-Godhra to meet the persistent demand as a stop gap arrangement;

(b) if so, the time by which this train is likely to be introduced;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

*[Translation]***Shortage of Postmen**

3599. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the postal delivery in Vikas Kunj and Loni area of Ghaziabad District is unsatisfactory due to the shortage of postmen; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government for smooth postal delivery in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) The delivery of mail in Vikas Kunj and Loni area of U.P. is generally satisfactory despite shortage of postmen. There is justification for additional posts of postmen but due to ban on creation of posts, new posts of postmen cannot be created.

(b) The work is being managed with the help of existing staff.

Broadcast of Programme in Madhya Pradesh on F.M. Band

3600. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the programmes broadcast by All India Radio, Betul in Madhya Pradesh are received on F.M. band only;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that F.M. band is not fitted in radio sets available in Betul District;

(c) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide F.M. Band radio sets to the Panchayats and schools;

(d) number of hours radio programmes are broadcast from the above station;

(e) whether the Government propose to start broadcasting of programmes in Korku language for Korku people residing in Betul district; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Radio receivers having both AM/FM Bands are manufactured within the country and are easily available in the open market all over the country now.

(c) There is no approved scheme for supply of FM Band receivers to schools and Panchayats.

(d) Betul station relays Vividh Bharati Service between 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. and broadcasts locally originated programmes from 5.00 p.m. to 9.15 p.m. Regional News from Bhopal and National News from Delhi are also relayed during these hours.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Not applicable.

*[English]***Financial Assistance to U.P. for Rural Housing**

3601. LT. GEN. PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh had sent a proposal in July, 1996 to the Union Government regarding development of rural housing sites and allotment of the same to economically weaker and houseless families seeking financial assistance to implement the said scheme; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**Gauge Conversion between
Jabalpur and Gondia**

3602. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Jabalpur-Gondia rail line into broad gauge; and

(b) If so, the time by when it is likely to be converted?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The work is expected to be completed in about 5 years time subject to availability of resources.

Beautification of Railway Stations

3603. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any plan for beautification of Bachhbara, Teghra, Barauni, Tialkh, Begusarai, Lakho, Lakhminiyan, Sahebpur Kamal and Khagariya Stations in North-Eastern Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Railways do not undertake any beautification works as such. However, works to provide adequate amenities to the passengers and for the proper upkeep and maintenance of the stations are taken up regularly wherever warranted. Recently, works of improvement and remodelling of station building at Khagariya, extension of platform shelter and extension of reservation office at Barauni, provision of foot-over bridge at Begusarai have been taken up.

[English]

Opening of Taranga Hill-Mehsana Rail Line

3604. SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Taranga Hill-Mehsana railway line was closed due to commencement of conversion work of New Delhi-Ahmedabad line from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge;

(b) whether this line has not been opened even after the completion of conversion work of Delhi-Ahmedabad line;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which Taranga-Mehsana rail line is likely to be reopened ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Services could not be restored due to extensive damages caused to the railway track in the recent floods.

(d) It will take about two months time to restore the line.

[Translation]

**Telephone Exchanges in Hilly
Areas of Uttar Pradesh**

3605. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Telephone Exchanges set up in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh particularly during 1996-97, district-wise;

(b) the number of new Telephone Exchanges likely to be set up during 1997-98;

(c) whether the target of setting up of new Telephone Exchanges have not been achieved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) The number of telephone exchanges set up in hilly areas are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of Distt.	No. of Exchanges Set up	
		During 1996-97	Till 31.3.97
1.	Almora	6	37
2.	Pithoragarh	2	25
3.	Dehradun	3	26
4.	Nainital	3	24
5.	U.S. Nagar	1	36
6.	Chamoli	3	39
7.	Pauri	2	32
8.	Tehri	-	33
9.	Uttarkashi	1	12
Total		21	264

(b) 35

(c) Target fixed for setting up of new exchange have been achieved.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

*[English]***Railway Line between Kottur-Harihar**

3606. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) since when the work on Kottur-Harihar commenced;
- (b) the estimated cost of the above rail line;
- (c) the amount spent on the above rail line, so far;
- (d) the amount provided during 1997-98;
- (e) whether the work on above rail line has been slowed down;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the time by which above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The actual construction work has not yet commenced. Final Location Survey has just been completed.

- (b) Rs. 66 crs.
- (c) Rs. 24.9 lakhs
- (d) Rs. 5 crs.
- (e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The committee appointed by the Cabinet for review of projects has recommended freezing of this project. CCEA have been requested to review the decision. The work would be resumed once their approval for restarting the work is received.

(g) Will be decided after the work is taken up and will depend on the availability of resources.

Construction of Over-Bridges in Punjab

3607. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Railway over-bridges sanctioned for construction in Punjab, location-wise;
- (b) the financial allocation made for this purpose; and
- (c) the time by which construction works are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The following road over bridges have been sanctioned for construction in Punjab, on Cost Sharing Basis:

- (1) Ludhiana-Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 2A/2 on Ludhiana-Ferozpur section.
- (2) Ludhiana-Road Over Bridge in lieu of L.C. No. A-1 on Ludhiana-Dhuri line.
- (3) Kotkapura-Road Over Bridge in lieu of L.C. No. 25/B on Bhatinda-Ferozpur line.
- (4) Jalandhar-Road Over Bridge at Rama Mandi Chowk in lieu of L.C. No. 68/A on Ludhiana-Amritsar line.

(b) Total outlay provided during the year 97-98 for the bridges under construction is :

- (1) Ludhiana on Ludhiana-Ferozpur Section - 21.00 lakh
- (2) Ludhiana on Ludhiana-Dhuri Section - 24.00 lakh
- (3) Kotkapura - 25.00 lakh
- (4) Jalandhar - 25.00 lakh

(c) Works are under progress and completion will depend on completion of approaches by the State Government.

Introduction of Incentive Scheme by SAIL

3608. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has introduced incentive scheme for employees to boost sales and realisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken to overcome the slide down in profit ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) A reoriented Reward Scheme for the employees focussing mainly on boosting sales and realisation has been introduced in the Central Marketing Organisation (CMO) of SAIL w.e.f. June, 1997. This scheme is applicable both for executives and non-executives. It is based on monthly performance and the reward payment is also made on a monthly basis.

SAIL is taking steps on a continuous basis to improve its performance, which include modernisation and technological upgradation of its plants, improving techno-economic factors i.e. reduction in coke rate, energy consumption, metallic input, improvement in yield, captive power generation extensive customer contract, market oriented product-mix, improvement in quality, long term relationship with customers, leadership in service and customer satisfaction, strict control and monitoring of operating costs, higher productivity and greater autonomy to field officers, etc.

Expenditure on Maintenance

3609. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the expenditure incurred in the maintenance and beautification of Central Telegraph Office, New Delhi and T.R.C. building;

(b) whether there is a seepage in the I.R. building, Telegraphmen room causing difficulties for the staff to even sit;

(c) if so, whether the Government like to take action against the contractor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop the misuse of funds ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) (i) Expenditure incurred on main building and adjoining building to CTO during 96-97 on water proofing is Rs. 2,93,215.

(ii) Expenditure incurred during 1995-96 on Renovation of Public Counter is Rs. 1,30,545.

(iii) Expenditure on Beautification is NIL.

(iv) There is no TRC building. Telecommunication Engineering Centre (not TRC) is housed in a portion of Khurshid Lal Bhavan. The expenditure incurred on Water Proofing is Rs. 60,000 and on beautification is Rs. 6,600. The total expenditure on maintenance of TEC portion of Khurshid Lal Bhavan in 96-97 is Rs. 3,59,600.

(b) There is no seepage in the IR building. There is minor seepage in Telegraphmen room. There is no inconvenience for Telegraphmen to sit since another room has been provided to them.

(c) Since see page has been noticed for the first time, the question of action against the contractor does not arise.

(d) No Sir, there is no misuse of funds.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

3610. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices in Uttar Pradesh which do not have their own buildings District-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct new buildings for this purpose District-wise;

(c) if so, the place where these buildings are proposed to be constructed; and

(d) the amount allocated for this purpose during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

MMRD Act, 1957

3611. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's approval is sought under the Mines Mineral Regulation and Development Act, 1957 for granting a schedule mineral under Schedule-I of the Act;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has represented to the Union Government to delete Limestone and Bauxite from the Schedule-II list of the MMRD Act, 1957; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal for deletion of Limestone and Bauxite from Schedule I of the MM (R&D) Act, 1957, has been discussed in the meetings of the committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) with the Secretaries of State Governments, Industry, Indian Bureau of Mines etc. as members to review the Mining Rules and procedures etc. The terms of reference of the Committee inter-alia include review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/renewal of Prospecting Licences/ Mining Leases. The Committee is also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers to the State Governments regarding grant/renewal of prospecting Licences/Mining Leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining.

Closure of Units of Panki Thermal Power Station

3612. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Panki Thermal Power Station had to close down some of its generating units consequent upon administrative decision in regard to protection of environmental pollution;

(b) whether the Panki Thermal Power Station did not consider the consequences of lesser generation of electricity in the area;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps alongwith UPSEB to restore the generation and to take protective measures immediately; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) had to close down a generating unit of the Panki Power Station in compliance with a notice issued by the district authorities.

(c) and (d) Remedial action has been taken by UPSEB to repair a leakage in each pipeline. Efforts are being made by UPSEB to arrange funds for installation of electrostatic precipitators required for protection of air pollution.

Distribution of IAY Funds by CAPART

3613. SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of funds released to Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) for taking up housing programme during 1996-97 and 1997-98, State-wise; and

(b) the number of Non-Governmental Organisations applied to CAPART under this scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) For Rural Housing Programme, this Ministry has released Rs. 10.00 crores during 1996-97 and Rs. 6.52 crores during 1997-98 so far, to CAPART. While releasing funds to CAPART, this Ministry does not make State-wise allocation.

(b) A statement giving number of Non-Governmental Organisations, State-wise, which have applied to CAPART under Housing Programme during 1996-97 and 1997-98 (upto July, 1997) is enclosed.

Statement

Non-Governmental Organisations, State-wise, which have applied to CAPART under their Housing Programme during the last years 1996-97 and 1997-98 (up to July, 1997).

Sl. No.	State/U.T	Total No. of Non-Governmental Organisations	
		1996-97	1997-98 (upto July, 1997)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	466	61
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
3.	Assam	71	1

1	2	3	4
4.	Bihar	103	9
5.	Chandigarh	-	-
6.	Delhi	4	-
7.	Gujarat	17	-
8.	Haryana	20	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11	3
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	1
11.	Karnataka	59	17
12.	Kerala	53	3
13.	Madhya Pradesh	23	1
14.	Maharashtra	25	14
15.	Manipur	71	97
16.	Meghalaya	-	-
17.	Mizoram	13	-
18.	Nagaland	6	-
19.	Orissa	151	5
20.	Pondicherry	-	-
21.	Punjab	1	-
22.	Rajasthan	25	7
23.	Tamil Nadu	203	11
24.	Tripura	6	1
25.	Uttar Pradesh	135	12
26.	West Bengal	466	43
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-
28.	Goa	-	-
Total		1934	288

Note: Provisional.

**Work Orders placed with Heavy
Engineering by Railways**

3614. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of work orders placed with Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi by the Railways since 1994 and the amount involved therein;

(b) the amount charged by private parties for the same job;

(c) whether the production by private parties is as per the specifications of the Railways;

(d) if so, the manner in which it is certified;

(e) if there is no certification in this regard the reasons for placing orders with private parties;

(f) the loss incurred by the Railways as a result thereof;

(g) the names of officers responsible for the same;

(h) whether the Government propose to order a CBI enquiry in this affair; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No work order has been placed with Heavy Engineering Corporation since 1994. Work orders are placed by Railways only on their own Workshops and not on any outside firms whether in private or public sector.

(b) to (i) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Conversion of Passenger Train Into EMU Train

3615. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of converting Gaya-Dehri-on-Sone passenger train into EMU train and extending upon Garhwa under Eastern Railway, is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which Gaya-Garhwa Road EMU passenger service is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The matter is under examination.

[English]

Satellite Terminals

3616. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide telephone links to 100 villages using satellite terminals;

(b) if so, the pilot projects to be undertaken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to expand coverage of 10,000 villages in the country, provided it is successful;

(d) the number of INMARSAT terminals in India which are providing rural telephone;

(e) whether the INMARSAT Mini-M terminals are used for rural telephone project;

(f) if so, whether all the villages are likely to get phone links by using satellite terminals in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) and (b) The Government has envisaged a Pilot Project for linking 100 number of remote areas on franchise basis. This will be mainly used for rural and remote communication.

(c) to (g) Government is planning to provide Satellite based Public Telephone for villages which are not technically feasible on terrestrial media during Ninth Plan period. So far no INMARSAT Mini-M terminals have been deployed for Rural Telephone Project. However, there are about 100 numbers of INMARSAT-M terminals which are being used for communication purposes in various places by many organisation/individuals.

[Translation]

Introduction of Train

3617. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether not even a single train was added under the Eastern Railway last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether no proper facilities of trains, boarding and lodging existed for persons taking holy water from Sultanganj railway station (Bihar) during Shraavan month even after repeated requests;

(d) if so, the response therefor;

(e) whether passengers from Jasidih railway station try to board the train by all means because there is no special train, appropriate coaches and no quota in trains from there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No. 9 Express train (single) were introduced in Eastern Railway.

(c) and (d) Amenities have been provided on the station as per norms. However, during Mela period these facilities are suitably augmented. Moreover, Railway Officers/Staff are posted to attend to the problems of the pilgrims on the spot. Additional booking counters are opened and additional staff is also posted during such periods.

(e) and (f) For the rail journey of the pilgrims attending Shraavan Mela at Baidyanathdham Railways have extended the run of 5JK/6JK Kiul-Jamalpur Passenger upto Sultanganj and also two daily special trains are being run-one between Jasidih and Patna and another between Jasidih and Barauni during 21.7.97 to 20.8.97. Reservation quotas have been given by the trains stopping at Jasidih station.

Expenditure Incurred in Mining Sector

3618. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Ministry/Department in the mining sector during each of the last two years;

(b) the details of achievements made in this field and mines explored alongwith the value minerals extracted therefrom during the said period, year-wise; and

(c) the details of programmes being implemented during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The Plan Expenditure in mining sector by Geological Survey of India and the Indian Bureau of mines, the two subordinate organisations of the Ministry of Mines during the last two years was as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	GSI	IBM
1995-96	56.50	7.47
1996-97	82.00	8.20

The Ministry of Mines had also released Rs. 8.00 crores in 1995-96 and Rs. 7.00 crores in 1996-97 to Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. For doing promotional work in drilling and mining.

(b) During 1995-96, GSI covered 4732 Sq. kms. through ground surveys, 46,878 sq. kms. of marine surveys in the Exclusive Economic Zone and 86,518.06 metres of drilling for mineral exploration. GSI has established during 1995-96 additional reserves of 945 million tonnes of coal, 250 million tonnes of lignite, 0.43 million tonnes with 3.93% copper-lead-

zinc in Hesathu Belbathgan belt, Bihar, 8.7 million tonnes of manganese ore in Bonai Keonjhar belt of Orissa and 2.04 million tonnes of gold ore in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. In 1996-97, 23,600 Sq. kms. of marine survey in the Exclusive Economic Zone, Airborne multi-sensor survey of 4383 Lkm. (covering 4006 Sq. kms.), 1070.50 Sq. kms of large scale mapping, 10,695 Sq. kms. of detailed mapping and 41,896.06 metres of drilling were carried out by GSI. GSI has established additional 381 million tonnes of coal reserves, 1.45 million tonnes with 6.93% Lead+Zinc in Amtiyargard Block, Dehradun Distt., U.P., 0.7 million tonne of ore with 1.2% copper in Garara Block, Bhandara Distt., Maharashtra and 2.6 million tonnes of ore with 0.116% molybdenum in Velampati South Block of Harur Uttarangarai belt of Tamil Nadu.

During the year 1995-96, the Indian Bureau of Mines had conducted 2655 inspections of mines, approved 641 mining plans and 82 mining schemes and conducted 71 ore dressing investigations with 47,674 chemical analysis and 2358 mineralogical examinations. In the year 1996-97, IBM had conducted 2668 inspection of mines, approved 610 mining plans and 147 mining schemes and undertaken 71 Ore Dressing investigations, with 35,472 chemical analysis and 2435 mineralogical examinations.

During the last two years MECL had undertaken 11 projects in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Rajasthan establishing 69.99 million tonnes of copper ore and 5.61 million tonnes of gold ore.

(c) Exploration and mining is a continuous process. However, during 1997-98, GSI has a plan to undertake systematic geological mapping of 5800 Sq. kms. and 7200 Sq. kms. of specialised Thematic Mapping in the country besides large scale mapping of 3600 Sq. kms., detailed mapping of 53 Sq. kms. and drilling of 1,47,000 metres for coal, lignite and other minerals in the country. The I.B.M. has planned to inspect 2650 mines, and undertake 70 ore dressing investigations with 50,000 determination of radicals and 2300 mineralogical examination for beneficiation of low grade ores, in 1997-98. M.E.C.L. has also proposed to continue their drilling and mining programmes for coal, lignite, gold, copper, zinc-lead and molybdenum etc. during 1997-98.

[English]

Setting up of Power Generating Station in U.P.

3619. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal from US based company Enron to set up a power generating station in Uttar Pradesh was under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the location, cost, capacity share equity etc. of the proposed power project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH)
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise.

STD/ISD Booths in Kerala

3620. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths working in Kerala District-wise;

(b) whether there is any norms laid down in allotting booths, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the mushrooming for booths comes difficulties and hardships; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the SSA-wise information is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) STD PCOs are allotted by the STD PCO allotment committee, constituted one for each SSA, consisting of 2 official members and non-official members one each nominated by sitting Members of Parliament representing the SSA. Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural areas and Matric/High School pass for urban areas. Preference is given to the following categories of persons :

1. Handicapped including blind persons
2. SC/ST Applicants
3. Ex-Servicemen & War Widows.
4. Retired DOT employees or their dependents.
5. Dependents of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(c) and (d) Sir, while allotting new STD PCOs, it is ensured that average monthly earnings of the franchisees do not fall below Rs. 2000/-

Statement

No. of STD PCOs working in Kerala as on 30.6.97

Sl.No.	Name of SSA	No. of STD PCOs
1	2	3
1.	Trivandrum	971
2.	Quilon	646

1	2	3
3.	Pathanamthitta	699
4.	Alappuzha	504
5.	Kottayam	780
6.	Erankulam	2512
7.	Trichur	1092
8.	Palakkad	675
9.	Calicut	1700
10.	Kannur	857
Total		10436

Fixation Limit for IPFI in Power Sector

3621. SHRI VIJAY PATEL :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed limit of 40% of Indian Public Finance Institutes in power sector based on indigenous equipments;

(b) if so, whether any representations from any State Government have been received for relaxation of the limit and to exclude funding from Indian commercial banks while making aggregate exposure of IPFI within the permissible limit;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) The private power policy *inter alia* stipulates that an amount not exceeding 40% of the total outlay may come from Indian public financial institutions, but the remaining amount should be met from other sources. The Government of Gujarat had requested that Independent Power Producers (IPPs) sourcing equipment from indigenous suppliers should be exempted from this limit. This request is under consideration.

Provision of Electricity

3622. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to provide electricity to the rural far flung hilly tribal and remote areas; and

(b) If so, the details of the special programmes involved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The identification of villages for taking up the electrification works is undertaken by the concerned State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments. The electrification of far flung hill, tribal and remote villages is taken up both under REC funded and States Plan Programme. The Rural Electrification Corporation for 1997-98 propose to electrify 500 tribal villages under Tribal Sub-Plan. Besides electrification of other hilly and remote villages is covered under the normal programme.

Revival of AMPCe in Gujarat

3623. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal for revival of Centrally sponsored scheme under the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act, 1963;

(b) whether the State Government has also requested for financial assistance for the revival of about 171 marketing committees already set up under the Act;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government thereon and financial assistance proposed to be given to be State Government?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Programme on Golden Jubilee

3624. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :
SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :

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

(a) whether any committee has been constituted for the telecast of programmes relating to the golden Jubilee celebration of India's independence on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, terms of reference of the said committee;

(c) the funds spent on each episode of the commissioned programmes of Doordarshan;

(d) the reasons for selling the episodes of the commissioned programmes by some officers holding special posts in the Doordarshan;

(e) the amount in lakhs of rupees given to a particular person of the Human Resource Development Ministry to provide information on those events occurring between 1857 to 1947 which are lesser thrown; and

(f) the reasons and justification for providing such a huge amount under this head?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) A committee headed by the Director General, Doordarshan and consisting of all Deputy Directors General and Controllers of Programmes in Doordarshan has been formed to approve the themes and programmes relating to Golden Jubilee celebration of India's independence.

(c) The details are as under :

National Network Rs. 2.50 lakhs per episode

Regional Kendras Rs. 2.00 lakhs per episode

(d) There is no information available relating to sale of episodes of commissioned programmes by anybody.

(e) and (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discretionary Quota of Telephone Connection

3625. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the discretionary quota of telephone connections of all Members of Parliament has been scrapped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to restore this facility; and

(d) if so, by when this facility is likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Mobilisation of Funds

3626. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target for mobilisation of funds by the IRFC during the current year both from Domestic and Foreign Market;

(b) the steps taken in this regard by now;

(c) the targets and achievements during 1996-97 in this regard; and

(d) whether all necessary clearance have been given by the Finance Ministry for such mobilisation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) During the year 1997-98, IRFC is targeted to raise Rs. 2150 crore consisting of about Rs. 1610 crore domestic borrowing and Rs. 540 crore external borrowing.

(b) IRFC have issued taxable and tax-free bonds in the domestic market. IRFC has also raised US\$ 160 million through a Floating Rate Note issue in the International market.

(c) The target of raising Rs. 1850 crore during the year 1996-97 was achieved.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Introduction of Train between Faizabad and New Delhi

3627. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run a new train daily between Faizabad and New Delhi via Pratapgarh and Allahabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide the stoppages of trains running between Faizabad and Allahabad at each railway station;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the efforts made by the Government to provide a stoppage of trains at Dhirganj railway station falling in between Bareilly-Lucknow-Pratapgarh-Allahabad-Mughal Sarai route;

(f) whether all the arrangements for providing passenger amenities and booking of tickets at Dhirganj railway station are being made by the contractors;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government for not awarding the contracts to contractors in future keeping in view their bad performances?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a weekly express train between Muzaffarpur and Delhi via Faizabad, Lucknow and Moradabad has been introduced from 06.08.97.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise

(e) Provision of stoppages of additional trains at Dhirganj Railway station has been examined but not found justified.

(f) and (g) Dhirganj is a halt station where all passenger amenities except booking of tickets and cleanliness of platforms have been provided by the Railway. Booking of tickets and cleaning of platforms are being done by the contractor.

(h) The contracts are awarded only to the contractors whose past performance is satisfactory.

Religious Serials

3628. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the religious serials approved by Doordarshan for telecast during 1997-98; and

(b) the time by which these new religious serials are likely to be telecast and the number of days in a week alongwith the duration thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No religious serial has been approved during the year 1997-98.

(b) Does not arise.

Misappropriation of Funds

3629. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was misappropriation of funds of construction of buildings and other departmental works, such as staff quarters, in Ranchi, Dhanbad, Muzaffarpur and Jamshedpur Telecom district under Bihar Telecom circle;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Migration of Rural People from Madhya Pradesh

3630. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that most of the unemployed landless persons belonging to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes in Madhya Pradesh have to migrate to other States due to ever-increasing unemployment problem in the State; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurances Schemes (EAS) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) are major rural employment programmes being implemented by the Centre throughout the country including the State of Madhya Pradesh to provide employment to rural poor living below the poverty line. According to existing guidelines, preference is given to those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe communities.

Out of various employment programmes, assured employment of at least hundred days of unskilled manual work to rural poor who are in need of employment and seeking it during lean agricultural season is provided under EAS.

[English]

Kuttipuram-Guruvayur Railway Line

3631. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4099 on 19.12.1996 reg. Survey of Railway Line and state:

(a) whether the alignment of the Kuttipuram-Guruvayur railway line in Kerala has since been decided;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost and the total distance of the proposed line;

(d) the time by which the said line will be completed; and

(e) in case the alignment/results are not yet finalised, the reasons for the delay and the time by which they are expected to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The length of the alternative alignment vary from 30 km. to 50 km. and the cost from Rs. 68 crs. to Rs. 112 crs.

(d) During the 10th plan.

(e) There are four different alignment which have been recommended by the people representatives of the area. The relative merits and economics of these alignments are under examination in consultation with the Railway to determine the best alignment. The selection of alignment is likely to be completed within the next 2-3 months.

Doubling of Guntur-Vijayawada Rail Line

3632. SHRI K.S. RAYUDU :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to double railway line between Guntur and Vijayawada in view of increasing passenger traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to introduce a new train from Machilipatnam as requested by Railways mazdoor union;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railway Trade Unions at Vijayawada have urged the Railway authorities to divert iron ore traffic to Machilipatnam Port from Madras Port to reduce goods traffic in Madras; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The work of construction of third line between Vijayawada and Krishna Canal is currently in progress. The traffic on Krishna Canal-Guntur section has not yet reached the level, to justify its doubling.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir. In a Memorandum submitted to Hon'ble Minister of Railways on 5.7.97, South Central Railway Mazdoor Union of Vijayawada Division had suggested diversion of iron ore traffic to Machilipatnam port.

(f) As and when necessary infrastructure is developed at Machilipatnam to handle this traffic by Port authorities, Railways can move the traffic.

[Translation]

Task Force

3633. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited propose to set up a 'Task Force' for the disposal of pending O.B. and to improve fault-repairing service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above task force is likely to be set up and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir. A Task Force has already been set up in MTNL Delhi for the disposal of pending OB's and to improve upon fault repairing services.

(b) The Task Force has been set up under the Chairmanship of one General Manager with five officers of Dy. GM level as members of the Task Force.

Objective of the Task Force is :

- (i) to work out plans where maximum number of OB's can be implemented with minimum efforts;
- (ii) to suggest ways to improve upon the fault repair services.

(c) Sir, Task Force has already started functioning w.e.f. 4.7.1997.

[English]

Construction of New Buildings

3634. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct new buildings of the railway stations in Assam during 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Remodelling of station building at Rangiya has been taken up. Station buildings on new line between Guwahati Jogighopa have also been taken up.

Global Telecom Pact

3635. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made commitment to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for evolving a road map on the global telecom pact and Information Technology Agreements (IIA);

(b) if so, the details of the commitment made as per I.T.A. with WTO and details of action initiated in this regard;

(c) whether FICC have submitted a memorandum to the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken or proposed to be taken thereon; and

(e) the details of action plan for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Repairing of Railway Tracks

3636. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of railway tracks between Manipuri and Farrukhabad and between Shikohabad and Farrukhabad are very dilapidated;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to repair/renovate the above tracks;

(c) whether there is any proposal to electrify the above tracks;

(d) if so, the funds allocated therefor;

(e) whether there is any scheme for running of an Express train from Farrukhabad to Delhi; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Speed on Shikohabad-Mainpuri has been raised to 60 kmph after carrying out track works. For the balance length, renewal is being proposed in the future Works Programme depending on availability of funds.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Private Courier Service

3637. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the negligence of the postal department Private Courier Service has made its position strong but the Postal charges of reliable courier service is higher and charges of some couriers out of them is many times higher as compared to the speed post due to which people use cheaper courier service but they are not reliable as a result of which people have to face lot of difficulties;

(b) if so, whether action is being taken to streamline the speed post service of the postal department; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. Emergence of express communication needs all over the world is not due to the negligence of the Postal Department. The Speed Post Service is quite reliable and its rates are reasonable compared to other couriers. Postal Department has been focussing on the network development, technology input and business expansion of Speed Post in order to meet the express communication and distribution needs of the customers effectively. Its network & revenue is increasing consistently.

(b) and (c) Improvement, expansion and ensuring quality service in Speed Post is a continuous process. A separate Business Development Directorate within the Department has been set up to manage Speed Post on business lines.

[English]

Survey for New Rail Line between Dhulla and Indore

3638. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted recently for new rail line between Dhulla and Indore via Narona and Shirpur in Maharashtra;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) A survey for new BG line from Dhule to Nardana and its extension upto Shirpur, is currently in progress. There is no proposal for taking up a survey for a new line from Shirpur to Indore at present.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion between Ranchi and Lohardaga

3639. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provisions for gauge conversion between Ranchi and Lohardaga and to extend it upto Tori have been made in the supplementary Demands for 1996-97;

(b) If so, the details of the works undertaken in this direction upto July, 1997; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs clearance has been obtained and preliminary arrangements are being made for taking up the work. Rs. 10 crores has been provided in the budget 1997-98 for this work.

(c) The work is expected to be completed in about 10 years time subject to availability of resources.

[English]

Funding of Technology for Paper Industry

3640. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Technology Development Board (TDB) has approved a proposal to fund the Commercialisation of an Eco-friendly pulping technology for the paper industry;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of other ancillary industry likely to be helped therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Technology Development Board has received a proposal to fund the commercialisation of eco-friendly pulping technology for the paper industry from a Pune based private sector company. The proposal has gone through various stages of evaluation and the final decision is dependent upon the response of the applicant to the specific queries made by the Board.

(c) The proposal envisages recovery of by-products-lignin and hemicellulose, besides pith from effluent generated by the plant. There is, therefore, a possibility of growth of ancillaries based on lignin as raw material.

[Translation]

Construction of Broad Gauge Line from Ajmer to Ahmedabad

3641. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether laying of broad gauge line from Ajmer to Ahmedabad via Chittorgarh-Udaipur (Rajasthan) has been taken up; and

(b) If so, the time by when the construction work of this line has been started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Work has been taken up for Gauge conversion of Ajmer-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur at a cost of Rs. 262 crs.-Udaipur-Ahmedabad Gauge Conversion is not yet sanctioned. Tenders have been invited and actual work is expected to start by Oct.'97.

[English]

Promotion of Senior Technicians

3642. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA :
SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL :

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

(a) whether posts were reduced in the cadre of Sr. Engineering Assistant and Engineering Assistant which diminished the promotion chance of Senior Technicians;

(b) whether besides the above cut, people are still working and drawing salary in major stations like DDK Delhi etc.; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not promoting to Senior Technicians?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) As part of the general policy guidelines of the Government, 10% of posts in the Ministry and each of the attached and sub-ordinate offices etc., including those of Senior Engineering Assistants and Engineering Assistants, were abolished.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Promotions of Senior Technicians have not been effected due to non-availability of vacancies in the grade of Engineering Assistants, etc.

[Translation]

Telephone Demand in Gujarat

3643. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are demands for telephone connections in each district of Ahmedabad, Bhavanagar, Dholaka and Dhanduka of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the telephone connections sanctioned and installed in each of the above districts during 1994 till date;

(d) the time by which the remaining telephone connections are likely to be provided; and

(e) the target set for providing telephone connections in the above districts during August 1, 1997 to December 31, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Sir, the details of demands for telephone connections as on 31.7.97 in Ahmedabad Telecom District (including Dholaka and Dhandhuka Talukas) and Bhavanagar Telecom District are given in Statement-I.

(c) The information is given in Statement-II.

(d) The remaining waiting list as on 31.7.97 is likely to be cleared by and of March 1999 progressively subject to timely availability of materials and repurchase.

(e) The target set for providing telephone connection during 1.8.97 to 31.3.98 are as under :—

Ahmedabad Telecom Distt. : 46575 (including Dholaka & Dhandhuka Talukas)

Bhavanagar Telecom Distt. : 15110.

Plan for 1998-99 has not yet been finalised. However the balance waiting list as on 31.7. 97 in both districts is likely to be cleared by March 1999.

Statement-I

Name of Distt.	Working connections as on 31.7.97 (a)	Waiting List as on 31.7.97 (b)	Demand as on 31.7.97 (a+b)
1. Ahmedabad Telecom Distt (including Dholaka & Dhandhuka Talukas)	303186	54522	357708
2. Bhavanagar Telecom Distt.	34229	22044	56273

Statement-II

Name of Distt.	Telephone connections sanctioned & installed during	Waiting list as on 31.7.97
	1994-95 1995-96 1996-97	1.4.97 to 31.7.97
1. Ahmedabad Telecom Distt. (including Dholaka & Dhandhuka Talukas)	23660 36170 32216	3425 54522
2. Bhavanagar Telecom Distt.	4615 3549 3674	890 22044

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Nalanda

3644. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the capacity of telephone exchange at Nalanda is very limited and does not provide its subscribers with dynamic lock facility;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to expand its capacity;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which expansion work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. At present C-DOT 128P exchange is working at Nalanda. In such small size exchanges, the dynamic lock facility is not available due to technical reason.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. There is a plan to expand existing exchange at Nalanda to 256P by March 1998. This exchange will have the facility of dynamic lock.

Electrification of Villages in Rajasthan

3645. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the production of power in Rajasthan at present, plant-wise;
- (b) the total requirement of power in the State;
- (c) whether Government propose to set up new power projects during 1997-98 and 1998-99;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of villages likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The plant-wise production of power in Rajasthan during the period April to July, 1997 is given as under :

Power Plant	Power production (Million Units) during April, 97 to July, 97
RSEB	
<i>Thermal/Gas</i>	
Kota	1953
Ramgarh GT	81
RSEB (Thermal)	2034
<i>Hydro</i>	
R.P. Sagar	153
Jawahar Sagar	101
Mahi Bajaj	83
Small Hydro	2
RSEB (Hydro)	339
RSEB (Total)	2373
Anta Gas (NTPC)	884
RAPS Nuclear (NPC)	238
Total (Rajasthan)	3495

(b) The Total requirement of power in Rajasthan during July, 97 is given below :

Energy Requirement	=	1615 MU
Peak Demand	=	2600 MU

(c) to (e) Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Extension Unit 3 & 4 (440 MW) is under execution by Nuclear Power Corporation Ltd. in Rajasthan. Suratgarh TPS (250 MW) under State sector is scheduled to be commissioned during 1997-98 in Rajasthan. Rural electrification programmes are formulated on a year to year basis. The annual plan for the year 1997-98 is yet to be finalised by Planning Commission. However, REC has proposed to electrify 480 villages in Rajasthan under their financed schemes.

Disputed Dues of Central Sector Undertakings

3646. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the State Governments have objected the deductions of the disputed outstanding dues of Central Sector Undertakings from the Central plan assistance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government are affecting the recovery from the plan assistance of the disputed dues also; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs taken in its meeting held on 7th February, 1997, an amount of Rs. 8006.18 crores (Rs. 4345.53 crores as Principal and Rs. 3660.65 crores as Surcharge/Interest) of the Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Power in addition to the outstanding dues of the PSUs under the Ministries of Coal/Railways/Atomic Energy is to be deducted from the Central Plan Assistance payable to the States. The deduction is to be made upto a maximum of 15% of the Central Plan Assistance payable to the States annually irrespective of the number of years that it may take for recovery of the outstanding dues.

Land to Tillers

3647. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the total quantum of surplus land vested with the State Government and Union Territories as on date, State-wise;
- (b) the total quantum of land distributed among people during 1995-96 and 1996-97, State-wise;
- (c) the reaction of the Government towards the demand for land to the tillers; and
- (d) the targets of the Government for vesting surplus land in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Statement showing State-wise/UTs area of surplus land vested with the State since inception till March, 1997 and area distributed to the rural poor during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Land and its management is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government plays an advisory and coordinative role. However, all possible measures are being taken in association with the concerned State Governments to improve the access of land to the landless rural poor.

Statement

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Area Vested	Area Distributed	
			1995-96	1996-97
1.	Andhra Pradesh	636237	10773	3427
2.	Assam	575837	3228	3163
3.	Bihar	416529	5816	1841
4.	Gujarat	158046	1530	1892
5.	Haryana	85348	189	534
6.	Himachal Pradesh	281652	-	-
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	450000	-	-
8.	Karnataka	155026	-	937
9.	Kerala	94800	171	185
10.	Madhya Pradesh	299718	85	280
11.	Maharashtra	664352	471	421
12.	Manipur	1685	-	-
13.	Orissa	165726	833	958
14.	Punjab	105151	50	277
15.	Rajasthan	557879	8898	3444
16.	Tamil Nadu	171114	3354	3173
17.	Tripura	1944	-	-
18.	Uttar Pradesh	527036	5624	4870
19.	West Bengal	1224771	10788	-
20.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	9305	76	-
21.	Delhi	394	-	-
22.	Pondicherry	1160	-	-
Total		6583710	51886	25402

[Translation]

Delivery of Bills

3648. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "250 bijli bill gharon ki bajay sadakon par pade mile" appearing in the *Dainik Jagran* dated June 3, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(c) the action taken against the persons found guilty; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The postman at fault has been transferred from Vasundhara Enclave Post Office and charge-sheeted.

(d) The Delhi Circle is keeping a strict watch over the delivery staff to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

[English]

Employment Schemes in Orissa

3649. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented in Orissa presently for creating employment opportunities to rural people in the state; and

(b) the funds allocated to the State for this purpose during each of last three years and the achievements made thereunder, scheme-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), are the major employment schemes being implemented presently in the rural areas of the country including the State of Orissa. The aims of those schemes are to generate self employment by providing financial assistance for income generating assets and to develop technical skill to the rural poor under IRDP and wage employment under JRY & EAS to the rural poor families to cross the poverty line & for betterment of their lives.

(b) The funds allocated to the States of Orissa during last three years and the achievements made under these schemes viz. IRDP, JRY & EAS are as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

	Total Funds Allocated during			Achievements made during		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1. IRDP	67.69	67.64	67.64	1.40	1.21	0.91
	(Lakh families benefitted)					
2. JRY	291.28	306.43	140.93	604.51	678.31	314.19
	(Lakh mandays generated)					
3. EAS*	98.55*	143.25*	205.34*	281.24	311.06	439.36
	(Lakh mandays generated)					

* Since EAS is a demand driven scheme, no allocation is made. These are total release figures.

Rural Development Projects

3650. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some projects of Gujarat and western Rajasthan particularly in tribal areas relating to cleanliness, drinking water supply and development of rural and desert areas are pending with the Union Government for its approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the dates of their pendency;

(c) the funds allocated to these States to start work on these projects during the last three years and the names of projects and areas for which these funds have been allocated; and

(d) the time by which the pending projects of the States are likely to be cleared alongwith the reasons for delay in cleaning these projects?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Reinstatement of Casual Labourers in Lucknow Division

3651. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Additional General Manager (Public Grievances), Northern Railway has received complaints regarding the recruitment and reinstatement of the ex-casual labourers on the basis of fake documents in Lucknow division of Northern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the casual labourers are likely to be reinstated who were retrenched after serving continuously from 1984 to 1992 in Lucknow division;

(c) whether the Government propose to take necessary action against the employees/officers found guilty in the inquiry conducted in regard to the recruitment made on the basis of fake documents; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

P & T Development Work in Bihar

3652. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of developmental works proposed to be implemented in the field of Posts and Telecommunications during the current year in Bihar, district-wise;

(b) whether works started during the current year are still incomplete;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) following developmental works have been identified and planned for Bihar during 1997-98;

- (1) Opening of Five Departmental Sub Offices and 40 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and upgradation of infrastructural equipments in 350 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices. Details of EDBPOs sanctioned district-wise so far is given in the enclosed Statement-I.
- (2) Installation of 30 computer based multi purpose counter machines in 13 Post offices. List of Post Offices district-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-II.
- (3) Establishment of local area network in five Post Offices for saving Bank Work.
- (4) Computerisation of Savings Bank Control Organisation of four Head Post Offices.
- (5) Installation of 10 Extended Satellite Money Order Centres in selected post offices under Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) at Ranchi, Muzaffarpur and Patna.
- (6) Addition of net capacity of 75000 lines with a provision of giving 60,000 direct exchange lines and 12000 village public telephone in Bihar during 1997-98 List is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(b) and (c) Building projects at Barhasa, Dhanbad, Jamalpur and War could not be completed.

(d) Procedural delay involved in inter-departmental coordination.

Statement-I

*Details of Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices
District-wise sanctioned so far*

- (1) Paroria in Samastipur District.
- (2) Jhabri in Singhbhum District.
- (3) Mahua in Gopalganj District.
- (4) Songarhwa in Gopalganj District.
- (5) Jasso in Madhubani District.

Statement-II

Name of Post Office	No. of Multi Purpose counter machine installed	District
1	2	3
Bihar University SO	2	Muzaffarpur

1	2	3
Ramne SO	2	-do-
MIT	2	-do-
Darbhanga Medical College	2	Darbhanga
Loharia Sarai HO	3	-do-
Munger HO	3	Munger
Lakhi Sarai SO	2	Lakhi Sarai
Jamui SO	2	Jamui
Siwan HO	3	Siwan
Sitamarhi Bazar SO	2	Sitamarhi
Sheor SO	2	Sheor
Purnea HO	3	Purnea
Pusa SO	2	Samastipur

Statement-III

Telecom Commission has fixed targets for Bihar Circle for Bihar for 1997-98 for net capacity addition of 75,000 Lines, DELs 60,000 and VPTs 12,000. The Revenue District-wise distribution is indicated in the table below :

Sl. No.	SSA District	Revenue District	Development Plan for 1997-98				Net DELs	VPTs
			Upgrade MILT-64 & C128P to C256P	New C 256P Exch.	Capacity Addition Other Exch.	Net SW Cap.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. Arrah	Bhojpur		8	1	-	750	600	300
	Bukar		7	1	-	750	600	240
2. Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur		12	1	3000	1500	1200	300
	Banka		8	1	-	100	500	300
3. Chapra	Saran		13	1	2000	1500	1200	300
	Gopalganj		7	1	1000	700	500	210
	Siwan		11	-	5000	2500	1200	270
4. Darbhanga	Darbhanga		19	-	10,000	3350	2700	330
	Begusarai		12	1	1000	500	400	210
	Khagaria		13	1	-	875	700	1808
	Madhubani		16	-	6000	1000	800	180
	Samastipur		11	1	1000	750	600	180

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5. Daltonganj	Palamu	9	1	-	700	500	210	
	Garhwa	6	1	-	385	300	120	
6. Dumka	Dumka	6	1	-	250	200	240	
	Deoghar	4	1	-	440	350	150	
	Sahebganj	7	1	-	250	200	150	
	Pakur	5	1	1000	300	250	150	
	Godda	9	1	1000	250	200	150	
7. Dhanbad	Dhanbad	10	-	1000	2500	2000	300	
	Bokaro	5	1	1000	2725	2300	210	
8. Gaya	Gaya	8	1	4000	1125	900	180	
	Aurangabad	7	1	-	250	200	180	
	Jehanabad	4	1	-	250	200	180	
	Nawadah	4	1	-	250	200	180	
9. Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh	14	1	5000	740	550	240	
	Giridih	16	1	2000	700	500	180	
	Chatra	1	1	700	700	500	180	
	Koderma	8	1	-	200	150	180	
10. Jamshedpur	E. Singhbhum	7	-	20000	8000	6600	360	
	W. Singhbhum	7	1	2000	3375	2900	360	
11. Katihar	Katihar	7	1	-	750	600	150	
	Araria	6	1	-	500	400	150	
	Purnia	11	1	4000	1000	800	150	
	Kishanganj	6	1	-	675	700	150	
12. Munger	Munger	6	1	-	875	700	150	
	Lakhisarai	5	1	-	1125	900	180	
	Shekhpura	2	1	-	3000	4200	180	
	Jamui	7	1	1200	500	400	180	
13. Motihari	E. Champaran	14	1	3000	2300	1900	360	
	W. Champaran	13	1	-	875	700	300	
14. Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur	14	-	2500	3350	2700	300	
	Sitamarhi	9	1	1000	750	600	180	
	Vaishali	14	-	-	750	600	210	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Sheohar	5	1	-	700	500	210
15.	Patna	Patna	12	-	25000	12500	10000	300
		Nalanda	17	1	-	500	400	300
16.	Ranchi	Ranchi	15	1	-	2360	2000	240
		Gumla	6	1	-	500	400	180
		Lohardaga	5	1	-	375	300	180
17.	Saharsa	Saharsa	17	1	2000	625	400	300
		Supaul	10	1	-	250	200	150
		Madhepura	8	1	-	250	200	150
18.	Sasaram	Rohtas	8	1	-	500	400	300
		Bhabhua	9	-	-	200	300	120
Total			500	46	105400	175000	160000	12000

Status as on 31.7.1997 for (b), (c) & (d).

(b) Yes Sir, not all works targetted for 1997-98 have been completed yet. These will be completed during the period August, 97 to March, 1998. Where most of the materials are expected to be supplied.

(c) Achievements from April, 1997-July, 1997 are indicated below :

- (i) 35 C-128P exchanges and 4 MILT 64P upgraded to C-256P.
- (ii) Net Switching capacity addition ... 2156 L
- (iii) Net DEL(s) provided ... 7301 L
- (iv) VPT(s) provided ... 180
(Village Public Telephone)

(d) During the first half of the year progress is comparatively slow because of slow supply of logistics and also due to unfavourable weather condition throughout Bihar.

[English]

Losses and Profits Earned by Railways

3653. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the losses suffered/profits earned by South Central Railway and other Railways during the last three years, zone-wise;

(b) the achievements made by the South Central Zone

in respect of renewal of tracks and other development works during 1996-97;

(c) the details of the development works to be executed by the South Central zone in 1997-98; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The losses suffered/profits earned by South Central & other Zonal Railway during the last three years are as under:-

Railways	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
South Central	+175	+310	+331
Central	+593	+546	+455
Eastern	+100	+9	(-)34
Northern	+396	+552	+509
North Eastern	(-)420	(-)389	(-)459
N.F.	(-)213	(-)159	(-)376
Southern	(-)209	(-)178	(-)214
S.E.	(-)1282	+1398	+1305
Western	+1079	+1155	+1022

(b) The South Central Railway has carried out 213 km. (CTR Units) of track renewals during 1996-97.

During 1996-97, the following gauge conversions have been completed on South Central Railway :

(i) Nandyal-Guntakal section (136 kms.)

Completing conversion of entire route from Guntur to Guntakal.

(ii) Castlerock-Vasco section (85 kms.)

Completing conversion of entire route from Hospet Hubli-Goa.

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

(Rs. in crores)

Name of Project		kms.	Cost	Outlay 1997-98	Current Status
1	2	3	4	5	6

New Lines

1.	Peddapali-Karimnagar-Nizamabad	177	193.12	5.00	Work is in progress on phase-I of the project between Peddapalli and Karimnagar. The target date for completion is December, 1999. The second phase work between Karimnagar and Nizamabad will be taken up after completing the first phase and land becomes available.
2.	Nandyal-Yerraguntla	126	155.77	5.00	Final Location Survey and preparation of land acquisition plans and papers have been taken up. Work would be started once land becomes available.
3.	Kakinada-Kotipalli-Restoration of line	45	44	0.01	Work will be taken up after necessary clearances have been obtained and the State Government hands over the land (free of cost) in lieu of the land released by the dismantled line, which has since been heavily built up.
4.	Hubli-Ankola	164	480	1.00	Final Location Survey and preparation of plans and papers for land acquisition are in progress. Work will be taken up after land becomes available.
5.	Munirabad-Mehboobnagar	222	380	0.01	Preliminary works like Final Location Survey and preparation of plans and papers for land acquisition for the new line project, which has been cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently, have been taken up.
6.	Macherla-Nalgonda as the first phase	34	48	0.01	Included in Supplementary Budget, 1997-98. of Raichur-Macherla-Nalgonda new line Work to be taken up after requisite, clearances have been obtained.
7.	Gulbarga-Bidar	116	242	0.01	Included in Supplementary budget, 1997-98. Work to be taken up after requisite clearances have been obtained.

Gauge Conversion

1.	Bolarum-Secunderabad Dronachellam	331	283.43	53.00	Bolarum-Mahbubnagar section completed and opened to traffic. Work on remaining section from Mahbubnagar to Dronachellam section in progress and is targeted for completion by March, 1998.
2.	Guntur-Guntekal Kalluru	458	453.32	35.00	Guntur-Guntakal completed and commissioned to traffic. Guntakal-Kalluru section targeted for completion by 31.12.98.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati	104	72	15.00	Work in progress and is targetted for completion by 31.10.98.
4.	Mudkhad-Adilabad	162	110.95	36.83	Work being executed under Build-Own-Lease Transfer (BOLT) Scheme and is targetted for completion by December, 1998.
5.	Solapur (Hotgi) Gadag	300	208	31.10	The work is in progress and Hotgi-Bijapur section is targetted for completion by December, 1997. Rest of the section targetted for completion by March, 1998.
6.	Secunderabad-Mudkhed Jankampet-Bodhan	269	283.52	0.01	Work to be taken up after requisite clearances have been obtained.
7.	Dharmavaram-Pakala	227	200	0.01	Included in Supplementary Budget, 1997-98. Work to be taken up after requisite clearances have been obtained.
<i>Doubling</i>					
1.	Vijayawada-Krishna Canal (3rd line)	5	23.52	1.00	Detailed estimate under preparation. Work is targetted for completion by December, 1999.
2.	Vikarabad-Tandur	41.41	71.83	2.0	Tandur-Rukhmapur section commissioned for traffic. Work in progress on Rukhmapur-Vikarabad section. The entire work is targetted for completion in 1998-99
3.	Hospet-Guntakal	115	105.77	42.00 (under BOLT 0.01 under capital Fund)	Work to be executed under Build-own-Lease Transfer (BOLT) Scheme. BOLT bid documents are under preparation.
4.	Gudur-Renigunta	83	139.69	0.01	Project has recently been cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. Preliminary works like preparation of detailed estimate and tender papers are in progress.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Basic Telephone Services

3654. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the contract for telephone services in Indore has been awarded to Bharti Telecom, Company;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by his Ministry to make Indore telephones capable to stand in competition against the privatisation;

(c) whether Indore District Telecommunications has submitted any scheme in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Licence has been awarded to M/S Bharti Telenet Ltd. For providing Basic Telephone Service in Madhya Pradesh Telecom Circle including Indore telecom. District.

(b) Steps are being taken for modernisation and expansion of Indore Telephone Network.

(c) and (d) Indore Telephones has submitted a proposal for replacement of Electro-mechanical exchanges, provision of adequate equipment for telephone exchanges and access network, enhancement of transmission media, provision of adequate number of small C-DOT exchanges and digital MARR systems, computerisation of various services, introduction of Wireless in Local Loop Technology and improvement in Human Resource Development Policy.

*[English]***Setting up of Railway Crossing in Rajasthan**

3655. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new railway crossings set up in Rajasthan during 1995-96;

(b) whether there was direct rail service from Sri Ganganagar to Mumbai earlier which has now been discontinued;

(c) if so, whether the said service is proposed to be restored;

(d) whether the Government propose to start direct rail service from Anupgarh and Suratgarh to Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Nil.

(b) Three through coaches between Sri Ganganagar and Mumbai were discontinued when Mumbai-Firozpur Punjab Mail was converted into air brake.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***New Rail Line from Etawah to Mainpuri**

3656. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay a new rail line from Etawah to Mainpuri and to electrify it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the above line; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is however, no proposal to electrify this line.

(b) and (c) The construction work of this 60 kms. long line has been included in the Supplementary Budget 1997-98 at a cost of Rs. 120.00 crores with outlay of Rs. 10 lakhs during 1997-98. The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.

(d) The date of completion has not yet been decided.

*[English]***Anomalies in SAIL's Profit**

3657. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :
DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are anomalies in SAIL's profit projection;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) Accounts are drawn by SAIL in line with the requirement of the Companies Act as also the accounting policies of the company, and the same are duly audited by Company auditors and the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

*[Translation]***Posts reserved for Scheduled Tribes**

3658. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacancies of Scheduled Tribes lying vacant in his Ministry/Departments throughout the country State-wise and Category-wise;

(b) whether the persons other than working on these posts;

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

(d) the action being taken by the Government to fill up the entire backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The details of vacancies in Ministry and its subordinate offices is as under;

	Group "A"	Group "B"	Group "C"	Group "D"
1. Ministry of Mines (Secretariat proper)	-	3	2	-
2. Indian Bureau of Mines	3	-	3	-
3. Geological Survey of India	49	23	137	7

(b) No person other than Scheduled Tribe persons are working on these posts.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Action has already been initiated to fill up these vacancies.

[English]

**Mining Work with Modern Scientific
Technique in Mining Sector**

3659. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Mines where mining work is being performed with modern scientific techniques during the last three years;

(b) the expenditure incurred on each mine work;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred for this work during the present financial year and the target set therefor; and

(d) the amount likely to be spend on the modernisation work of the mines situated in the districts of Kachh and Saurashtra region?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) As per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and Mineral Conservation & Development Rules, 1988 framed thereunder, no mining lease is granted in respect of major minerals unless the mining plan for the mine is duly approved by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) to ensure scientific development of the mines and conservation of minerals. As per information available, there were about 348 and 347 working 'A' Category mechanised mines during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively, where mining operations were performed more or less by modern scientific techniques. The figure of such mines for the year 1996-97 and the list of such mines are being collected.

(b) to (d) Details of information on expenditure incurred and proposed to be incurred by mine owners are not collected by the Central Government.

[Translation]

MARR Telephone Towers

3660. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangements are being made to install M.A.R.R. tower telephones in the districts of Deoria, Mau, Ballia, Azamgarh and Gorakhpur in Eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the village selected in each of the development blocks for M.A.R.R. tower telephone;

(c) the total villages and development blocks in each of the above district in which M.A.R.R. tower telephone have been provided;

(d) whether such M.A.R.R. tower telephones are in operation;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government would contemplate providing M.A.R.R. tower telephone in the villages as per the list submitted by the Members of Parliament; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The number of Blocks and number of villages provided with tower telephone as on 31.7.97 in these districts are as follows:

District	Block (Nos.)	MARR Tower Telephones (Nos.)
Deoria	29	360
Padrauna		
Mal	09	169
Gorakhpur	19	276
Azamgarh	21	367
Ballia	17	261

(d) Majority of them are in working condition. Faulty equipments are being attended to regularly.

(e) Due to defects developed in course of operation of these systems like faults in Base Stations, subscriber remote equipment, solar panel battery etc.

(f) and (g) Government is having policy to install such public Telephones at a place which can be easily accessed by the general public. Views of MPs are taken into consideration if they are within the guidelines of the Department.

Statement

No. of Selected Villages in Each Block

Block Name	Villages Nos.
1	2
<i>District - DEORIA</i>	
Gauri Bazar	28
Rudrapur	40
Patherdewa	15
Rampur Karkhana	15
Desai Deoria	25
Deoria Sadar	7
Salempur	22

1	2	1	2
Bhagalpur	25	Mohammadpur	7
Bhaluwani	7	Tahwarpur	33
Lar	25	Billariganj	5
Barhaj	5	Azamgarh	23
Bhatni	20	Harraiya	11
Bhatpar Rani	12	Maharajganj	1
Bankata	18	Koysa	5
<i>District - MAU</i>		Ahroula	4
Mau	5	Martinganj	28
Mohmadabad	41	Powai	9
Ranipur	35	Phoolpur	20
Kopa Ganj	10	Thekma	25
Chosi	20	Tarwa	20
Fatehpur Mandaw	10	Lalganj	20
Paradaha	13	Mahnagar	25
Ratanpura	10	<i>District - GORAKHPUR</i>	
Dohrighat	10	Bansgaon	10
<i>District - BALIA</i>		Khajni	10
Nawa Nagar	5	Uruwa	10
Reoti	5	Barhalganj	10
Siyar	9	Gola	10
Belhari	8	Gagaha	10
Pandaha	11	Kauri Ram	5
Maniyar	8	Belghat	10
Nagra	11	Pipraich	10
Garwar	10	Bharahat	5
Bairia	9	Sardar Nagar	5
Rasra	12	Brahmpur	10
<i>District - AZAMGARH</i>		Sahjanwa	10
Palhani	10	Poli	5
Mirzapur	3	Kohrabar	10
Rani Ki Sarai	7	Piprauli	5
Jahanaganj	9	Chargawa	5
Sathyanw	6	Campierganj	5
		Jangla Kauria	5

*[English]***Railway Projects in Orissa**

3661. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated cost of new projects announced in the Railway budget for Orissa;

(b) the projects for which technical sanction has been given;

(c) the projects which are awaiting technical sanction; and

(d) the amount provided for these projects during the current budget?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The cost of new projects in Orissa announced in the Budget 1997-98 and Supplementary Budget 1997-98 is Rs. 501.86 crores.

(b) and (c) Detailed estimates for the projects are yet to be sanctioned:—

1. Angul-Sukinda Road	New Line
2. Nergundi-Cuttack Paradeep-Raghunathpur	Doubling
3. Lanjigarh-Titlagarh	Doubling
4. Rahama-Paradeep	Doubling
5. Naupada-Gunupur	Gauge Conversion

(d) The amount provided for these projects in the Budget 1997-98 and Supplementary Budget is Rs. 23 lakhs.

BALCO

3662. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the lease of the mine located at Khurkhury Dadar in Distt. Mandia of M.P. released to Bharat Aluminium Company is proposed to be withdrawn during 1998-99;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has also been prepared by the Government for regularization of workers and other labourers working therein;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the BALCO has applied to the Government for the mining of Bauxite in Hazari Dadar; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not granting permission to the said company so far?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) At Khurkhury Dadar, District Mandla of MP, BALCO has a residential/office establishment which looks after operation of mining leases of bauxite situated at Raktidadar and Nanhoodadar. These mining leases have been granted to BALCO upto 12 September, 1999.

(b) and (c) With the depleting reserves of Bauxite at the Raktidadar and Nanhoodadar mines, the requirement of workers and labourers has gone down. However, at the time of closure of these mines, BALCO has plans to re-deploy company's workers in other new mines like Manipat in the District Surguja, etc.

(d) and (e) BALCO was granted mining lease for bauxite in April, 1977 in the Hazaridadar area in Mandla district which was valid for 10 years. However, in November, 1986, when BALCO submitted application for renewal on mining lease, it was rejected by the State Govt. on the ground that the area in question falls in the forest area. BALCO went in appeal in December, 1989 against the order of the State Govt. and the Central Govt. Tribunal by its order dated 10th January, 1990 set aside the order of State Govt. and advised the State Govt. to decide the renewal of lease on merits.

Laying of Diversion Rail Line in Vijayawada Yard .

3663. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lay a diversion line in Vijayawada yard and to remove Satyanaranapuram railway line;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 10 lakhs in 1997-98.

(c) By March, 1999.

*[Translation]***Panchayati Raj System**

3664. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision for giving more powers to Panchayats and propose to make amendments in the law accordingly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The State Governments and UT Administrations have been requested

to give adequate powers and functions to the Panchayats as envisaged in Part IX of the Constitution. Since the existing laws are adequate for the purpose, amendment in the law is not proposed.

Development of non-Conventional Energy Sources

3665. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made for the development of non-conventional energy sources in the country and to explore their further possibilities;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise; and

(c) the achievements made so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry has taken steps for assessing the potentials of various non-conventional energy sources in the country. Potentials of improved chulhas and biogas plants which have been estimated State-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement-I. Broad estimates of potentials of various non-conventional energy sources which have been made on country-wide basis, are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The State-wise cumulative achievements under various non-conventional energy programmes, upto 31.3.97 are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I

State-wise potentials for Biogas and Improved Chulha in the country

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Biogas (Nos. in lakhs)	Improved Chulha (Nos. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.65	97.08
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.075	1.50
3.	Assam	3.77	36.00
4.	Bihar	9.39	123.83
5.	Goa	0.08	1.17
6.	Gujarat	5.54	50.72
7.	Haryana	3.00	20.61
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1.25	8.53
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.28	11.75
10.	Karnataka	6.80	60.76
11.	Kerala	1.50	40.73

	1	2	3	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh		14.91	101.58
13.	Maharashtra		8.97	96.50
14.	Manipur		0.38	2.64
15.	Meghalaya		0.24	2.54
16.	Mizoram		0.022	0.73
17.	Nagaland		0.067	2.01
18.	Orissa		6.05	54.55
19.	Punjab		4.11	25.38
20.	Rajasthan		9.15	55.54
21.	Sikkim		0.073	0.73
22.	Tamil Nadu		6.15	80.16
23.	Tripura		0.28	4.65
24.	Uttar Pradesh		20.21	187.45
25.	West Bengal		6.95	98.72
26.	Andaman & Nicobar		0.022	0.40
27.	Chandigarh		0.014	0.66
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		0.02	0.25
29.	Daman & Diu		-	0.10
30.	Delhi		0.12	9.06
31.	Lakshadweep		-	0.10
32.	Pondicherry		0.043	0.59

Statement II

Country-wide potentials of various non-conventional energy sources

Source/Technology	Estimated Potential
Biogas Plants	12 Million Nos.
Improved Chulha	120 Million Nos.
Biomass/Bioenergy	17,000 MW
Small Hydro Power	10,000 MW
Wind Power	20,000 MW
Solar Energy	20 MW/KM ²
Ocean Energy	78,000 MW
Urban & Industrial Waste	1700 MW

Statement III (A)

State-wise cumulative Achievements upto March, 1997 under programmes on Biogas, Improved Chulha and Biomass Gasifiers.

Sl. No.	State/UT	Biogas Plants (Nos.)	Improved Chulhas (Lakh Nos.)	Biomass Gasifiers (KW)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	216314	20.85	6004
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	306	0.31	180
3.	Assam	23425	2.59	23
4.	Bihar	97189	8.96	20
5.	Goa	2600	1.05	22
6.	Gujarat	301282	9.65	3596
7.	Haryana	32765	8.46	964
8.	Himachal Pradesh	39326	5.97	7
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1493	3.19	120
10.	Karnataka	214679	11.27	2329
11.	Kerala	49869	6.23	615
12.	Madhya Pradesh	133043	22.70	4689
13.	Maharashtra	594014	17.47	2312
14.	Manipur	1220	0.57	
15.	Meghalaya	449	0.12	
16.	Mizoram	1329	0.26	
17.	Nagaland	658	0.13	
18.	Orissa	132318	12.79	62
19.	Punjab	37016	9.12	660
20.	Rajasthan	61376	22.48	218
21.	Sikkim	1807	0.46	
22.	Tamil Nadu	189452	19.80	433
23.	Tripura	675	0.20	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	291689	30.22	511
25.	West Bengal	113101	10.25	500
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	125	0.28	167

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Chandigarh	97	0.19	
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	165	0.11	
29.	Daman & Diu		0.01	
30.	Delhi	671	2.42	74
31.	Lakshadweep		0.05	
32.	Pondicherry	539	0.27	
Total		25,38,992	228.43	23,506

Statement III (B)

State-wise Cumulative Installed Capacity of Small Hydro Power (Upto-3 MW Capacity) and Wind Power Projects upto 31.03.1997

Sl. No.	State	Small Hydro Power (MW)	Wind Power (MW)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.01	54.290
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.15	-
3.	Assam	2.20	-
4.	Bihar	0.04	-
5.	Goa	-	-
6.	Gujarat	2.00	146.810
7.	Haryana	0.20	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9.49	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4.37	-
10.	Karnataka	10.10	5.845
11.	Kerala	3.52	2.025
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3.25	9.590
13.	Maharashtra	4.32	5.370
14.	Manipur	4.10	-
15.	Meghalaya	1.51	-
16.	Mizoram	5.36	-
17.	Nagaland	3.17	-
18.	Orissa	1.26	1.100
19.	Punjab	3.90	-
20.	Rajasthan	4.30	-

1	2	3	4
21. Sikkim		9.25	-
22. Tamil Nadu		4.75	676.155
23. Tripura		1.01	-
24. Uttar Pradesh		31.04	-
25. West Bengal		7.98	-
26. Andaman & Nicobar		-	-
27. Others		-	0.465
Total		144.28	901.650

Statement III (C)

State-wise Cumulative No. of Blocks Covered under Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP), Renewable Energy Park Projects and Urjagram Projects upto 31.3.1997

Sl. No.	State/UT	IREP Block (Nos.)	Energy Park Projects (Nos.)	Urjagram Projects (Nos.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	1	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	-	-
3.	Assam	19	-	1
4.	Bihar	16	-	9
5.	Goa	5	-	-
6.	Gujarat	25	-	22
7.	Haryana	29	-	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	41	-	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	16	-	2
10.	Karnataka	31	-	3
11.	Kerala	44	-	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	61	1	22
13.	Maharashtra	37	-	61
14.	Manipur	12	-	-
15.	Meghalaya	15	-	-
16.	Mizoram	9	-	-
17.	Nagaland	6	-	-

1	2	3	4
18. Orissa		16	- 17
19. Punjab		35	- 6
20. Rajasthan		32	- 8
21. Sikkim		4	- -
22. Tamil Nadu		21	- 34
23. Tripura		6	- 2
24. Uttar Pradesh		88	1 51
25. West Bengal		30	- 6
26. Andaman & Nicobar		5	- -
27. Chandigarh		1	- -
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		1	- -
29. Daman & Diu		1	- -
30. Delhi		5	1 -
31. Lakshadweep		1	- -
32. Pondicherry		6	- -
Total		660	4 256

Statement III (D)

Cumulative State-wise Installation of Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Systems upto 31.3.1997

Sl. No.	State/ Agency	SLS (Nos.)	HLS (Nos.)	SL CL/TVS (Nos.)	PP (Nos./ KWp)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2932	780	6114	4 4/17.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	720	52	1518	14 3/7.90
3.	Assam	98	764	175	43 2/2
4.	Bihar	619	6	20414	33 -
5.	Goa	30	31	-	4 2/1.70
6.	Gujarat	1564	370	4100	51 3/14
7.	Haryana	689	69	7940	68 5/24.30
8.	Himachal Pradesh	504	2934	8500	11 -

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	919	3761	2725	1	-
10.	Karnataka	441	-	300	14	-
11.	Kerala	598	1056	21715	43	4/4.74
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5427	100	6248	46	2/9
13.	Maharashtra	2941	72	3792	64	3/6.44
14.	Manipur	351	-	767	-	5/5
15.	Meghalaya	588	230	2155	-	13/30.52
16.	Mizoram	233	1901	560	4	-
17.	Nagaland	271	8	-	3	1/6
18.	Orissa	2068	256	1967	58	5/33.91
19.	Punjab	60	-	682	4	2/2
20.	Rajasthan	5545	1778	4500	115	24/162.15
21.	Sikkim	93	31	196	6	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	1940	50	2086	38	3/26
23.	Tripura	248	798	238	194	9/25
24.	Uttar Pradesh	470	35,585	28,250	50	63/419
25.	West Bengal	926	1308	2120	5	4/42.1
26.	A & N Islands	315	390	260	2	25/129.12
27.	Chandigarh					
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli					
29.	Daman & Diu					
30.	Delhi	371	-	4508	-	1/5
31.	Lakshadweep	564	-	460	-	1/25
32.	Pondicherry	2	-	215	-	-
Total		31.527	523301,31,190	875	184/999	

SLS	Street Lighting Systems
HLS	Home (domestic) Lighting Systems
SL	Solar lanterns
CL/TVS	Community Light/TV Systems
PP	Power Plants
KWp	Kilo Watt Peak

Statement III (E)*Cumulative State-wise Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Water Pumping Systems Installed upto 31.3.1997*

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Pumps
1.	Andhra Pradesh	380
2.	Assam	45
3.	Andaman & Nicobar	05
4.	Bihar	92
5.	Chandigarh	07
6.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	01
7.	Delhi	42
8.	Gujarat	19
9.	Goa	14
10.	Haryana	17
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1
12.	Jamu & Kashmir	15
13.	Karnataka	103
14.	Kerala	241
15.	Madhya Pradesh	15
16.	Maharashtra	114
17.	Manipur	01
18.	Mizoram	28
19.	Orissa	01
20.	Punjab	89
21.	Pondicherry	14
22.	Rajasthan	146
23.	Tamil Nadu	453
24.	Uttar Pradesh	66
25.	West Bengal	44
Total		1953

Stoppage of Gitanjali Express at Wardha Railway Station

3666. SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assurance was given to the people of Wardha to provide the stoppage of Gitanjali Express at Wardha railway station;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which a stoppage is likely to be provided at Wardha railway station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Stoppage of 2859/2860 Gitanjali Express at Wardha Jn. Has been examined but found neither operationally feasible nor desirable as existing trains are considered adequate to cater to the present level of traffic offering at this station.

[English]

White Paper on CERC

3667. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Working Group on Power (NWGP) has demanded a white paper from the Union Government on the proposed reforms in the Power Sector including the setting up of our independent regulatory body, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC);

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the Government's response thereto;

(c) whether NWGP has pointed out that without adequate planning the power sector has experienced a sluggish growth in the Eighth Plan;

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

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter by the Government to increase the budgetary support for the power sector and also to enhance the rate for PSUs in power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) Various agencies involved in the power sector including National Working Group on Power are urging the Government to expeditiously attend to the need of reforming and restructuring of the power sector including the State Electricity Boards. The Government have examined in detail the restructuring needs of the power sector and propose to introduce a bill to set up a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission in the Centre and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions in the States. Taking into account the changing

scenario in the power sector and the poor financial position of State Electricity Boards, Government have adopted a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power after extensive discussions with the State Governments. The action plan forms the basis for improving the performance of the power sector.

(e) Ninth plan Programmes is under finalisation. However, to accelerate the generation programme and to optimize the existing capacity, additional budgetary support to the public sector including Public Sector Undertakings has been proposed for 1997-98.

Introduction of Paper based Flooring

3668. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether R.D.S.O. has received any proposal to introduce paper based flooring laminates as substitute of wood/plywood;

(b) the details and the present status of the proposal;

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

(d) the other alternatives of wood/plywood being contemplated by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) M/s. Greenply Industries, Calcutta had offered paper based laminates as a replacement of wood based products. Samples were supplied for testing by firm in May '97. Test results thereof have been received recently and are under evaluation. Introduction of product would depend upon compliance with the laid criteria.

(d) Materials like natural fibre based laminates and cement based board are under study.

Wages to Telegraphists

3669. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have stopped the payment of increased hourly wage to the short duty Telegraphists at Central Telegraph Offices and Departmental Telegraph Offices;

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

(c) whether the Government have received representation for its restoration;

(d) if so the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telephone Exchange in Karnataka

3670. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the telephone exchanges opened during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 so far in Karnataka; and

(b) the details of the telephone exchanges proposed to be opened during 1997-98 alongwith capacity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The telephone exchanges opened are as under :-

Year	New	Replaced	Total
1994-95	61	224	285
1995-96	94	9	103
1996-97	85	107	192

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

Statement

Exchanges proposed to be opened during 1997-98

Sl. No.	Name of the SSA	Type Exchange	Capacity	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bangalore	OCB	10,000	
		AXE	47,000	
		CDOT SBM	3000	60,000
2.	Belgaum	OCB	12000	15080
		CDOT SBM	3000	
3.	Bellary	CDOT MBM	7500	8668
		CDOT SBM	1168	
4.	Bidar	CDOT MBM	500	500
5.	Gulbarga	E-10B	4000	5296
		CDOT SBM	1296	
6.	Raichur	CDOT MBM	500	2076
		CDOT SBM	1576	
7.	Uttara Kannada	CDOT MBM	3000	4576
		CDOT SBM	1576	
8.	Dakshina Kannada	MBM	3000	
		E-10B	5000	16296

1	2	3	4	5
		CDOT SBM	8296	
9.	Dharwad	OCB	7000	
		E-10B	2000	12296
		CDOT MBM	2000	
		CDOT SBM	1296	
10.	Mysore	OCB	10,000	
		CDOT MBM	2500	15796
		E-10B	2000	
		CDOT SBM	1296	
11.	Tumkur	CDOT MBM	2500	4772
		CDOT SBM	2272	
12.	Hassan	E-10B	3000	3000
13.	Kolar	CDOT SBM	2080	8080
		CDOT MBM	6000	
14.	Mandya	CDOT SBM	576	576
15.	Mercara	CDOT SBM	848	848
16.	Shimoga	OCB	8000	12216
		E-10B	1000	
		CDOT MBM	3000	
		CDOT SBM	216	
17.	Bijapur	E-10B	500	3856
		CDOT MBM	3000	
		CDOT SBM	356	
18.	Chikmagalur	CDOT SBM	1400	1400
19.	Davangere	OCB	8000	8576
		CDOT SBM	576	
Grand Total				183908
II. Small Exchanges by way of addition, upgradation, new provision and recycling				48532
Gross Total				232440

*[Translation]***Telephone Adalats in M.P.**

3671. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the dates on which the Telephone Adalats were held in each district of Chhateesgarh region in Madhya Pradesh during 1996 and upto 30th June, 1997;

(b) the number of cases received and settled in these adalats, district-wise; and

(c) the details of the relief provided to telephone subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Details on Telephone Adalats are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The details of relief provided to subscribers :

1. Telephone Instrument faulty	62
2. Excess Metering Calls Complaints	29
3. Cable/Line faulty	22
4. New Telephone Connection Complaints	35
5. Shifting	04
6. Miscellaneous	40
7. Cancelled/Rejected	21
Total	213

Statement

Details on Telephone Adalats held in various districts of Chhateesgarh region in Madhya Pradesh during 1996 and upto 30.6.97

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No. of Telephone Adalats held with dates	No. of cases received	No. of cases settled
1.	Bilaspur	1 on 26.6.96	11	11
2.	Durg	Nil	-	-
3.	Jagdalpur	Nil	-	-
4.	Raigarh	1 on 17.4.96	56	56
5.	Raipur	4 on 28.03.96 21.06.96 29.11.96 16.05.97	152	146
6.	Rajnandgaon	Nil	-	-
Total			219	213

Running of Summer Special trains

3672. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the passengers were unable to get seats in the trains despite the running of additional special trains;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any special scheme where-by all passengers could get berth during summer vacation in future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) A few passengers remained on the waiting list.

(b) and (c) Railways run special trains, attach extra coaches and introduce more trains every year to clear the additional rush particularly during summer.

*[English]***Railway Employee thrown by Maruti occupants**

3673. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether some Maruti occupants had thrown a railway employee manning the level crossing near Delhi before the running train killing him instantly recently;

(b) if so, whether the culprits have been apprehended;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them; and

(d) the safeguards the Governments propose to provide to the railway employees against such threats including ensuring their lives at cost of the railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On 22.6.97 some unidentified persons travelling in a Maruti car came to Railway Crossing Gate No. 569 near Asaoti Railway Station in Mathura-Delhi section (Haryana), assaulted the gateman named Sh. Munshi and threw him on the railway track in front of running train resulting in his death.

GRP/Faridabad has registered a case on crime No. 250 dated 22.6.97 u/s 302 IPC and took up investigation. So far the culprits have not been apprehended. The case is still under investigation by the GRP/Faridabad.

(d) Providing security to the Railway men and maintenance of law and order in railway premises is the responsibility of the State Government concerned.

*[Translation]***International Telegraph Office**

3674. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of personnel required for smooth functioning of International Telegraph Office, New Delhi;

(b) whether this office has adequate number of personnel to work in all the three shifts for operating FAX; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to conduct a study and posts requisite number of employees for its smooth functioning?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of personnel required for smooth functioning of International Telegraph Office, New Delhi is 56.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Required staff is already posted.

NTPC, Gujarat

3675. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC Plants in Gujarat have not been making full utilisation of their capacity due to short supply of gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Union Government for adequate supply of gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Kawas (645 MW) and Gandhar (648 MW) combined cycle gas based power projects of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in Gujarat are not operating at the optimum level because of shortage of gas supply. These power stations have been accorded gas linkage at a PLF of about 62% whereas these are capable of generating at higher load factors.

(c) While constantly pursuing with the relevant authorities for higher gas availability, gas turbines of the Kawas project have also been modified to run on dual fuel. Gas turbines at Gandhar are also being taken up for similar modifications.

*[English]***Rationalisation of Power Tariff**

3676. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPINH GAEKWAD: SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Electricity Boards and Undertakings have been asked to rationalise and raise power tariffs with a view to raise resources enough to provide for 40 thousand Mega Watt additional power capacity during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether some of the Electricity Boards and authorities have considerably increased the tariffs recently while others are announcing and implementing populist schemes including free distribution of power to different sections of the society; and

(d) if so, the steps are being taken to rationalise the tariff structure in such a way as to bring about measure of equity and uniformity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (CMNPP), finalised in the meetings of Chief Ministers held on 16th October and 3rd December, 1996, *inter-alia*, has recommended that determination of retail tariffs including wheeling charges etc. will be decided by State Electricity Regulatory Commission, which will ensure a minimum overall 3% rate of return to each utility with immediate effect. The Ninth Five Year Plan is under finalisation by the Planning Commission. Central Government is actively pursuing with the States for early implementation of CMNPP.

(c) During the year 1996-97, State Electricity Boards of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Meghalaya & Electricity Department of Goa have carried out upward revision in the tariff. The free electricity to Agriculture Sector is being supplied to Tamil Nadu. Some State Governments also declare, from time to time free/concessional agricultural tariff to small farmers using 5 HP pump sets.

(d) As per the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, State Electricity Boards/State Governments are empowered to fix the electricity tariff. During the Chief Ministers Conference it was also agreed that the tariff for agricultural sector will not be less than 50 paise/Kwh to be brought to 50% of the average cost in not more than 3 years.

Train Accidents

3677. SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of serious train accidents involving loss of human lives between May, 1996 to July, 1997;

(b) the compensation paid to the next of kin of the deceased and the injured; and

(c) the proceedings instituted against the senior officers of the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) During the period May, 1996 to July, 1997, there were 84 consequential train accidents attended with fatalities. They comprised of 11 collisions, 15 derailments, 18 manned level crossing accidents and 40 unmanned level crossing accidents.

(b) An amount of Rs. 50,000 as compensation and Rs. 19.75 lakhs as ex-gratia was paid to the victims of train accidents during this period.

(c) Appropriate punishments are imposed on personnel found responsible for accidents, the degree of which varies according to the magnitude of the lapse and the level of responsibility. These are subsequently reviewed at the General Manager's level to ensure the adequacy of the punishments.

[Translation]

Maheshwar Hydro Electric Project

3678. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the present state of construction of Maheshwar Hydro Electric Project in Madhya Pradesh and whether any agreement has been made with any private party for implementation of this project;

(b) if so, the name of the party and the terms and conditions;

(c) the state of Maheshwar Hydro-Electric Project at present and whether the Union Government have accorded its approval regarding environmental clearance;

(d) the cost of the project and whether the private party is in a position to bear this cost; and

(e) the time by which this project is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding to implement the Maheshwar Hydro Electric Project (10x40 MW) has been entered into between the Government of Madhya

Pradesh and M/s. Shree Maheshwar Hydel Power Corporation Limited. Various non-statutory and statutory clearances have already been obtained by the project promoters including clearance from environmental angle, subject to effective implementation of certain mitigative measures. The excavation work of the Power House is in progress.

(d) The project has been accorded Techno-Economic Clearance by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) at an estimated completed cost of US\$ 213.29 million + Rs. 812.09 crores. The final financial package indicating the source of funding has not yet been firmed up by the project promoters.

(e) The commissioning schedule of the project has been indicated as March to August, 2002.

[English]

Solid Waste Conversion Plant at Vijayawada

3679. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a solid waste conversion plant is coming up in Vijayawada to tap dormant energy from the municipal waste which is first of its kind in the country;

(b) if so, the main features of the proposed plant;

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

(d) the total expenditure likely to be involved;

(e) whether the Govt. propose to have another such plants in other districts also; and

(f) if so, the places where such plants are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The plant is expected to process 200 MT Municipal Solid Waste to produce 60 Tonnes per day of fuel pellets.

(c) The plant is expected to be set up by the end of financial year 1997-98.

(d) The estimated cost of the plant is Rs. 6.0 crores.

(e) and (f) Project Proposals for generation of energy from urban and industrial wastes including such plants, producing fuel pellets from municipal solid waste, are considered by the Ministry for grant of eligible fiscal & financial incentives under the National Programme on Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal and Industrial Wastes, upon receipt of such proposals from the project developers/promoters. However, no such proposal from any other district in Andhra Pradesh has been received in the Ministry.

Over-aged Coaches

3680. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that over-aged EMU coaches are more in Howrah, Sealdah and Kharagpur Divisions of Calcutta suburban in comparison to Mumbai suburban;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that due to over-aged coaches frequent break-down are taking place in Calcutta suburban section;

(c) if so, the steps taken to replace the over-aged coaches of Calcutta suburban section; and

(d) the number of new coaches supplied to Calcutta suburban during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The over-aged EMU stock has been programmed for replacement in a phased manner depending upon availability of new coaches from the manufacturers.

(d) No. of new coaches supplied to Eastern & South Eastern Railways during the last three years are as under:-

Year	ER	SE	Total
1994-95	33	20	53
1995-96	26	18	44
1996-97	119	42	161

Derailment of Hyderabad-New Delhi Express

3681. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 13 coaches of Hyderabad-New Delhi Express train derailed between Kalhar and Mandi Bamora stations of the Central Railway on June, 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the total number of passengers killed and injured;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the total loss suffered and the extent to which compensation was given to kith and kin of persons killed/injured in this accident?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The engine and 12 coaches trailing

immediately after the engine of 2723 Dn Secunderabad New Delhi A.P. Express derailed between Kalhar and Mandi Bamora stations on Bhopal-Bina section of Bhopal division of Central Railway on 16.6.1997. In this accident, 7 passengers sustained grievous injuries and 6 suffered simple injuries.

(c) and (d) The accident has been enquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety/Central Circle who has held unknown persons, who wilfully tampered with track and removed fish plates and displaced contiguous short rail in advance of switch expansion joints and continuously welded track thereby causing discontinuity in track alignment, responsible for the accident.

(e) Damage to railway property has been estimated at Rs. 44.75 lakhs. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal. No application has been filed by the Claimants so far in the concerned Railway Claims Tribunal. However, an amount of Rs. 36,500 as ex-gratia has been paid to the injured persons in this accident.

Construction of Foot Over Bridge at Garifa Railway Station

3682. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether platform shelter, foot-over-bridge, seating arrangements have been sanctioned for Garifa Railway station of Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons for not completing the above works; and

(c) the steps to be taken to complete the above works within a time bound period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) A platform shelter and a foot-over-bridge are sanctioned at Garifa at a cost of Rs. 4.23 lakhs & Rs. 7.32 lakhs respectively. These works are progressing as per schedule for completion by 31.3.98 as per target.

Adequate seating arrangement is available on platforms and in waiting hall.

(c) Does not arise.

Varanasi Telecom Scandal

3683. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "crores siphoned off in Varanasi Telecom Scandal" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated January 8, 1997;

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

- (c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the number of officials involved in the scandal and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item contains different cases like fraudulent collection and payment of telephone bills, illegal transfer of lines to unscrupulous PCO operators, misuse of residential service telephone etc. All such cases are investigated.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Departmental investigations have been conducted. On the basis of investigation three officials have been identified to be involved in the case of fraud involving collection and payment for telephone bills. Two of them have been issued chargesheets for major penalty under departmental rules and the case of issuing charge sheet to the third official is under process. Two cases of illegal transfer of lines/misuse by unscrupulous PCO operators have been referred to CBI for thorough investigation. During investigation one case of misuse of residential service telephone to the tune of Rs. 3 lakh by one telecom official was found and necessary action for recovery is being taken.

[Translation]

Sub Standard Essential Services

3634. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the sub standard essential services in Post, Telegraph and telecommunications areas in Gujarat circle ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the improvement in the essential services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Essential services of the Post, Telegraph and Telecommunication services in Gujarat are generally satisfactory. However, there are occasional instances of delays to mails due to various reasons like natural calamities, transpiration bottlenecks, receipt of sudden and exceptionally heavy volume of mails etc.

(b) Instructions are issued from time to time to the inspecting staff to make surprise visits and through an effective inspection process to monitor and improve mail, delivery arrangements and ensure proper financing of post offices. Transmission and delivery of mails, money orders, telegraph services, Telecommunication services are continuously

motored at various levels and corrective measures taken to remove deficiencies. In order to improve quality of services and to give adequate attention to public grievances counter operations in important post offices have been computerised and facilitation counters and Customer care Centres have been opened.

[English].

Use of Old and Dilapidated Coaches

3685. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that old and dilapidated compartments are being used for the trains in Kerala;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to replace these old bogies;

(c) whether there is any proposal to send new compartments bogies to the State of Kerala; and

(d) if so, the number of bogies proposed to be sent and the time by which they are likely to reach Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The coaches used on trains in Kerala are from a younger age group and none of these coaches is overaged. Age profile indicated that more than 70% of coaches running on trains in Kerala are well below mid life.

(b) to (d) About 160 new coaches have been inducted into Kerala region during the first quarter of 96-97. New coaches have been provided on important trains like Kerala Express, Netravati Express etc. Phased replacement of coaches running in Kerala will be continued subject to availability of resources.

Stoppage of Jodhpur Express

3686 . SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide stoppage of Jodhpur Express and Bokaro Shatabdi. Express trains at Raniganj and Himgiri Express at Durgapur;

(b) if so, the time by which the said stoppages are likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Availability of alternative services to cater to the present pattern and volume of traffic.

Gauge Conversion

3687. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3062 dated March 13, 1997 regarding gauge conversion and state :

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and
- (d) the time by which the said information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) A statement is enclosed.
- (c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement

Details of the proposals as received from the Government of Gujarat and the action taken thereon is given as under:-

Sl. No.	Project	Outlay in 1997-98 (Rs. in crs.)	Action taken
1	2	3	4
1.	Linking Gandhi Nagar with Delhi Ahmedabad BG line	-	A survey has been taken up.
2.	Gauge conversion of Rajkot - Veraval and its extension upto Kodinar/Somnath	13.00	Work is in progress for Rajkot Veraval portion A survey for extension of line upto Kodinar/ Somnath has been taken up.
3.	Gauge conversion of Surendra Nagar- Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dhasa- Mahuva with extension upto Pipavav	.01	Work would be taken up after the modalities for funding the project is tied up with the private parties.
4.	Gauge conversion of Viramgam Mehsana railway line (A part of Bhildi Viramgam project)	2.00	This work was taken up under BOLT. Due to failure of BOLT conversion is now planned to be taken up with Railways funds.
5.	Gauge conversion of Mehsana-Patan M G line (A part of Bhildi-Viramgam project)	-	The work on Mehsana Patan section has been frozen at present.
6.	Gauge conversion of Navlakhi Dahinsara Morbi-Wankaner and Dahinara - Maliya Miyana railway line	1.00	This work was planned under BOLT. Owing to very high lease charges and unacceptable conditions, it has been decided to take it up with railways funds.

1	2	3	4
7.	Gauge conversion of Gandhidham Bhuj-Nalia railway line	2.12	Work an Gandhidham Bhuj is in progress. A survey has been taken up for gauge conversion of Bhuj-Nalia section.
8.	Gauge conversion of Gandhidham Samakhiali-Santalpur-Palanpur MG line	-	A survey has been included in 1997-98 budget.
9.	Gauge Conversion of Dharangadhara Kuda Salt Siding.	.10	This work has been included in the Supplementary Budget 1997-98. Work is to be executed on cost sharing basis with the Government of Gujarat and Salt Department (Government of India).
10.	Gauge conversion of Bharuch-Dahej and Ankleshwar-Rajpipla NG line into BG.	-	Surveys for Gauge conversion of Bharuch Dahej and Ankleshwar-Rajpipla have been taken up. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the results of the survey becomes available.

Jelly Filled Cables

3688. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications have not been able to finalise the tender to purchase 250 lakh KM. of jelly filled cables even after 3-1/2 months after opening of the tenders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the Government's policy to invite tender prices with and without taxes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The tender for procurement of 350 lakh Conductor Kilometer comprising 230 lakh Conductor KMs. under cash & 120 lakh KM under deferred payment scheme was opened on 25.3.97. The same has since been finalised and advance purchase orders have been issued to the successful bidders on 17.7.97 under cash scheme.

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

(c) Tenders are invited calling for quotations including taxes with breakup of prices showing separately the taxes payable.

Operation from Jamtara Railway Station

3689. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chitra Colliery siding Jamtara Railway Station has commenced its operation from January 9, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Railways has suffered a loss of nearly Rs. One crore due to despatch of coal rakes without weighment keeping in view the availability of weigh bridge at Sitampur; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Chitra Colliery siding commenced its operation with effect from 8.1.1997.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Functioning of MARR System

3690. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of 2/15 and 4/30 Multi Access Rural Radio system which are at present effectively functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of 2/15 and 4/30 MARR which are at present effectively functioning in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medak districts of Andhra Pradesh and the names of villages benefitted under these systems with the details of their locations;

(c) whether there is any regular programme with follow-up action in regularly monitoring towards the expansion of these MARR to cover more and more villages in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of 2/15 & 4/30 Multi Access Rural Radio (MARR) systems functioning effectively in the country, State-wise, is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The number of 2/15 & 4/30 MARR systems functioning effectively in Hyderabad Ranga Reddy & Medak districts is as given below :

District	2/15	4/30
Hyderabad	Nil	Nil
Ranga Reddy	25	4
Medak	37	8

The names of the villages benefitted under these systems with the details of their locations is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) (i) All the villages are planned to be covered with telephone facility by the end of the Ninth Five Year plan.

(ii) The targets are set every year and in order to achieve more and more coverage of villages with telephone facility, timely supply of equipment and necessary accessories are monitored regularly. Achievement of targets are monitored.

(d) There are total 6,04,374 villages in the country and out of which 2,71,417 villages have been covered with telephone facility as on 31.7.1997.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom Circle	2/15	4/30
1.	A&N Island	-	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	681	94
3.	Assam	39	11
4.	Bihar	368	33
5.	Gujarat	468	81
6.	Haryana	143	30
7.	Himachal Pradesh	112	10
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	30	6
9.	Karnataka	272	33
10.	Kerala	-	30
11.	Maharashtra	781	57
12.	Madhya Pradesh	945	292
13.	North East	23	73
14.	Orissa	39	34
15.	Punjab	197	34
16.	Rajasthan	364	100
17.	Tamil Nadu	264	47
18.	Uttar Pradesh	806	137
19.	West Bengal	92	40

Computerisation of Land Records

3691. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM :
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a scheme for computerisation of Land Records and strengthening of Revenue Administration;

(b) whether updating of land Records is also being done in different States;

(c) the progress made in that regard so far, State-wise; and

(d) the quantum of funds sought by State Governments and released by the Union Government during 1996-97 and 1997-98 for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) State-wise progress with details of funds released during the year 1996-97 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA & ULR) and Computerisation of Land Records is enclosed as funds have not been released under these Schemes.

Statement

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States/UTs.	Funds released during the 1996-97	
		SRA & ULR	Computerisation of Land Records
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37.300	15.00
2.	Assam	-	80.00
3.	Goa	6.250	20.00
4.	Himachal Pradesh	148.925	60.00
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	193.000	-
6.	Karnataka	166.620	95.00
7.	Kerala	123.680	30.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	332.275	45.00
9.	Maharashtra	234.000	241.00
10.	Manipur	-	125.00
11.	Mizoram	26.500	60.00
12.	Orissa	-	270.00
13.	Punjab	53.900	75.00
14.	Rajasthan	63.785	210.00
15.	Sikkim	33.600	-

1	2	3	4
16.	Tamil Nadu	-	210.00
17.	Tripura	25.500	15.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	232.120	270.00
19.	West Bengal	200.000	180.00
Union Territories			
20.	Chandigarh	-	15.00
21.	Delhi	10.000	-
22.	Lakshadweep	12.210	-
23.	Pondicherry	14.910	-
All India		1914.575	2016.00

Upgradation of Meteorological Centre, Guwahati

3692. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have planned to upgrade the Meteorological Centre at Guwahati to a Regional Centre with all administrative and other facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Regional Centre at Guwahati is going to be a truncated centre; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER. K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) The Meteorological Centre at Guwahati has already been upgraded to Regional Meteorological Centre with its headquarters at Guwahati w.e.f. 1-4-1997 with all administrative, financial and technical powers. It is headed by a Deputy Director General of Meteorology and is a full-fledged Regional Meteorological Centre like IMD's five other Regional Meteorological Centres headquartered at Delhi, Calcutta, Nagpur, Bombay and Madras.

Damaged Microwave Tower

3693. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telecommunications link with Gunupur Main Exchange and other exchanges of Koraput District Engineering have been disrupted due to damage of Microwave Tower near Gumma-Laxmipuram;

(b) if so, the reasons for continuing with temporary alternative channels till date;

(c) the technical reasons for delay in providing optic fibre link with Gunupur Telephone Exchange after completion of cable work thereof;

(d) whether the monitoring of telecommunications system in DET Koraput, Orissa is done on time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Telecommunication links to Gunupur were disrupted due to blasting of a microwave repeater at Gumma by some extremists. The trunk service to Gunupur was, however, restored immediately by installing an 8 channel Open Wire carrier system. In June, 96 it was replaced by one MCPC-VSAT to provide STD service. An Optical Fibre link connecting Gunupur as a permanent arrangement was commissioned on 30.07.97 and is working satisfactorily.

(c) The delay in commissioning of the Optic Fibre connectivity was due to the following reasons:

- (i) In April '97 a 3 phase power feeding transformer at Gunupur OFC developed fault. It was replaced in June, 1997.
- (ii) An end link connecting the OFC station at Gunupur to Berhampur TAX was commissioned in July '97 to extend the circuits.
- (iii) There was delay in the construction of the building at Parlakhemundi, Gunupur and Ramanguda.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The operational Planning cell of CGMT Orissa closely monitors, through technical vigilance report, the working of exchanges, transmission systems in addition to the monitoring of the same by TDE Koraput himself.

1st/Ind Class Passes for Train Journeys

3694. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum pay scale required for getting 1st/Ind class passes for train journeys in the case of Railway Board employees;

(b) the minimum scale required for the same in other departments;

(c) the reasons for discrimination towards Railway Board employees in this regard;

(d) whether the Government allow the employees of Railway Board to opt for either multiple Ind class tickets or the single to and fro upper class tickets or passes as in the case of other departments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Eligibility for getting 1st Class pass on privilege account in Indian Railways including Railway Board employees is as follows :

I. Employees appointed prior to 01.08.1969

- (i) drawing pay of Rs. 1530/- or above provided the employees are in a scale the maximum of which is Rs. 2040/- or above.
- (ii) Nurses drawing pay of Rs. 1400/- or above and Lady Health Visitors drawing pay of Rs. 1230/- or above

II. Employees appointed on or after 01.08.1969 and not later than 31.03.1987

- (i) drawing pay of Rs. 1680/- or above provided they are in a scale the maximum of which is Rs. 2200/- or above.
- (ii) Nurses/Lady Health Visitors drawing pay of Rs. 1480/- or above

III. Employees appointed on or after 01.04.1987

Drawing pay of Rs. 2301/- or above or if they are in a scale the minimum of which is Rs. 2000/-.

IV. Eligibility for getting II Class Passes on privilege account in Indian Railways including Railway Board employees is as follows :

All Group 'C' and Group 'D' employees other than those mentioned above.

(b) There is no system of Passes in other Departments.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Mining in Maharashtra

3695. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of private sector companies in the country which have been permitted to undertake mining activities in Maharashtra;

(b) the terms and conditions laid down for permitting private sector companies to undertake mining activities;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the private sector companies are violating the norms and conditions of the Government and illegally conducting mining activities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Mining rights are granted by the concerned State Governments in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder. Mining activity in the country has historically been undertaken both, by public sector as well as private sector companies. The total No. of 60 companies in private sector have been permitted to under take mining activities in Maharashtra for minerals other than non atomic, non fuel and minor minerals. As per Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 mining rights can be given only to an Indian National or a company defined in sub-section (1) of section (3) of the Companies Act, 1956. Provided that in respect of any mineral specified in the First Schedule, no prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Indian Bureau of Mines enforces Mineral Conservation and Development Rules 1988 (MCDR) through regular inspecting and any violation of rule whenever observed and pointed out to the lessee for rectifications in the interest of systematic and scientific development of mines and protection of environment. In case of chronic defaulters of MCRD, 1988, cases are filed in the local courts against such companies if the violations have not been complied with within the stipulated time.

Amguri Power Project in Assam

3696. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Gas based Amguri Power Project in Assam and particulars of agencies entrusted with the work;
- (b) the reasons for delay in execution of the said project;
- (c) the quantum of gas committed by Oil Industry in the first MOU and the action initiated to ensure gas linkage;
- (d) the target fixed for commissioning of the project;
- (e) whether a proposal for installing the project with alternative fuel is under consideration; and
- (f) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) Work on the Amguri gas based power project in Assam has not yet been taken into hand. The Government of Assam has transferred the project to NTPC which has not yet been allocated the requisite gas for this project. The implementation of the project would be dependent upon a firm gas allocation being made for this project by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

(e) and (f) As of now an alternative fuel is not being considered for the project.

Marketing of Jute Products

3697. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry in consultation with the Textiles Ministry has prepared a comprehensive plan for diversification and marketing of jute products; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Rural Development Projects of Uttar Pradesh

3698. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some rural development projects of Uttar Pradesh particularly regarding Meerut Division are still lying pending for approval with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and the dates of their pendency;

(c) the estimated cost of each of these projects;

(d) the reasons for delay in granting approval to these projects; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :

(a) to (e) No rural development project is pending for approval with the Ministry so far as Uttar Pradesh State is concerned.

[English]

Provision of Finance by PFC on Lease In Delhi

3699. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation has explored/ exploring the possibilities of providing finance on lease for power project in National Capital Territory of Delhi;

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

(c) the total funds provided for the power projects in Delhi during the last three years, year-wise and details of achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) PFC has not received any proposal for financial assistance for lease for any project in the National Capital Region for Government of Delhi / DVB.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Transmission Capacity of AIR In West Bengal

3700. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the transmission capacity of different Akashwani Kendras in West Bengal;

(b) the amount disbursed for the development and modernisation of these Kendras during each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons for keeping some Kendras just as a relay station;

(d) whether all infrastructural facilities and equipments required for the broadcasting of other programmes are available at these Kendras;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the time by which it is likely to be provided; and

(g) the time by which the remaining stations are to be made regular Akashwani Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) The statement-I indicating the details is enclosed herewith.

(b) The statement-II indicating the details is enclosed herewith.

(c) All the four All India Radio Stations are fulfilled Stations. In addition, there is Transmitter Complex at Chinsurah (Mogra) for External Services.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. All the four Kendras are have studios with programme production, playback and receiving facilities.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Statement - I

At present four radio stations are functional in the State of West Bengal, as per details below :

1. Calcutta :

- (i) 100 KW MW Channel "A"
- (ii) 100 KW MW Channel "B"
- (iii) 20 KW MW Channel "C" (Vividh Bharati)

- (iv) 10 KW MW Yuv Vani
- (v) 50 KW SW Transmitter
- (vi) 10 KW FM Transmitter (Stereo)

- 2. Kurseong 20 KW SW Transmitter
- 3. Siliguri 200 KW MW Transmitter
- 4. Murshidabad 6 KW FM Transmitter

Statement - II

The details of expenditure incurred on modernization/development and also on operation and maintenance during each development and also on operation and maintenance during each of the last three years are given below :

(Figures in lakhs of Rupees)

Year	Development (Capital)	Operation & Maintenance (Revenue)
<i>Calcutta :</i>		
1994-95	181.97	516.54
1995-96	125.51	584.33
1996-97	82.45	650.37
<i>Kurseong :</i>		
1994-95	55.08	87.40
1995-96	12.37	103.07
1996-97	—	102.93
<i>Siliguri :</i>		
1994-95	15.58	70.03
1995-96	1.95	83.52
1996-97	40.20	138.57
<i>Murshidabad :</i>		
1994-95	—	22.03
1995-96	—	21.90
1996-97	—	28.56

Implantation of Lifting Barriers

3701. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of lifting barriers implanted throughout the country across the level crossing during the last three years, zone-wise;

- (b) the amount spent thereon during above period;
- (c) whether a large number of lifting barriers have not been functioning in different parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures taken to make these barriers operational?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No. of lifting barriers implanted throughout the country across level crossing during last three years and amount spent zone-wise is given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Number	Amount Spent	
CR	81	105.09 lakhs
ER	9	33.89 lakhs
NR	82	139.95 lakhs
NER	235	263.25 lakhs
NFR	10	23.27 lakhs
SR	123	183.10 lakhs
SCR	98	136.95 lakhs
SER	0	00
WR	45	71.00 lakhs
Total	683	956.50 lakhs

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise

Post Offices in H.P. and J & K

3702. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Branch Post Offices sanctioned and opened during 1995-96 and 1996-97 in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, district-wise;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir, which do not have Branch Post Offices, District-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide postal facilities in Gram Panchayats in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) (a) The number of Branch Post Offices

sanctioned and opened in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir in 1995-96 is nil and in 1996-97 district-wise as under:

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Branch Post Offices sanctioned	No. of Branch Post Offices opened
HIMACHAL PRADESH :			
1.	Hamirpur	2	2
2.	Kullu	1	1
3.	Kangra	7	7
4.	Lahul & Spiti	2	2
5.	Mandi	7	7
6.	Shimla	2	2
7.	Solan	1	1
8.	Sirmour	1	1

JAMMU & KASHMIR : NIL

(b) No. of Gram Panchayats which do not have post offices district-wise is as under :

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Gram Panchayats
1.	Anantnag	9
2.	Badgam	14
3.	Baramulla	13
4.	Doda	2
5.	Jammu	106
6.	Kargil	13
7.	Kathua	5
8.	Leh	13
9.	Kupwara	21
10.	Poonch	15
11.	Pulwama	4
12.	Rajouri	12
13.	Srinagar	12
14.	Udhampur	7
Total :		246

(c) Post Offices are opened on norm based justification subject to availability of resources and targets.

Funds Allocation to Orissa for Rural Sanitation

3703. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made to Orissa under the Central Rural Sanitation Programme during 1996-97 and 1997-98 till date indicating the amount actually utilized by the State Government so far;

(b) whether the State Government has sought additional allocation under the said programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YARRANNAIDU) : (a) The allocation of funds under Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme to Orissa and the expenditure during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
1996-97	241.00	302.60
1997-98	451.17	Nil

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of Road-under Bridge at Hubli

3704. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to construct road under bridge near Ashok Nagar level crossing at Hubli in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the steps taken to expedite above project ; and

(d) the time by which above bridge is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The work has already been sanctioned and detailed estimate has been prepared. Estimate for approaches is awaited from the Municipal Corporation of Hubli - Dharwad.

(d) Work will be taken up when necessary funds are made available by Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation.

[Translation]

Broadcast of Modern Technique in Agriculture Sector

3705. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a comprehensive scheme for broadcast of the information regarding obtaining maximum yield by using modern technique and scientific method in agriculture sector and with a view to earning more profit through food processing and removing unemployment thereby;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) All AIR Stations have already fixed time slots every day for dissemination of information regarding modern techniques and Scientific methods of agriculture and the benefits they entail. These programmes are broadcast in local languages/dialects. In the recent years, special programmes called "Farm Schools" have been introduced over All India radio. These programmes are planned in collaboration with experts from agriculture Universities with active participation of listeners.

[English]

Modernisation of Indian Railways

3706. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any step for modernisation of Indian Railways during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the fund spent thereon during above period zone-wise;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to draw any long term programme to modernise Indian Railways ; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Modernisation of Railway system is an on-going process. In this regard Ministry of Railways has undertaken various steps indicated as under:

(i) *Computerisation & information system*

1. Automated reservation status enquiry through Interactive Voice Response System.
2. Reservation Availability Position Information Display (RAPID)
3. Networking of the five main computer systems,

4. Installation of high speed telecommunication links between the five main Systems.

(ii) *Signal*

1. Route Relay Interlocking
2. Colour Light Signalling
3. Solid State Interlocking.
4. Audio Frequency Track Circuit
5. Block Proving by Axle Counter.

(iii) *Efficiency & Research*

1. Development of 2x25 KV system of electrification.
2. 3100 HP Diesel locomotive for freight operation.
3. 2300 HP high speed passenger locomotive
4. Diesel multiple units
5. Rail Buses
6. 3 tier AC sleeper coach
7. 5000 HP electric loco for passenger and freight operation.
8. Roof mounted AC Units.
9. Fuel efficient Diesel Locomotives
10. Microprocessor based Safety Signalling Equipment etc.

(iv) *Rolling Stock*

1. Indian Railways have entered into transfer of technology contracts for manufacture of high horse power diesel locomotives with M/s. General Motors, USA in DLW, Varanasi at a total cost of \$ 17.15 million and of modern light weight coaches with M/s Linke-Hofmann-Busch of Germany in RCF, Kapurthala.
2. Introduction of Air Brake coaching stock
3. Introduction of UIC vestibules on coaching stock
4. Introduction of Rail Buses and Diesel Multiple Units
5. Introduction of Bogie mounted brake system for coaching stock
6. Standardisation of maintenance procedures
7. Introduction of High Speed freight stock
8. Introduction of new design flat wagons for carrying containers

9. Introduction of roof mounted air conditioning package on coaching stock

10. Modernisation of Workshops.

(v) *Electrical Engineering*

Thirty three Nos. 3-phase drive AC Electric locomotives have been imported from M/s. ABB which are undergoing service trial.

(vi) *Civil Engineering*

The old rails are being replaced with heavier 52 KG/60 KG WR rails, wooden and metal sleepers with concrete sleepers. Maintenance of track is being done by sophisticated track machines to ensure better quality of track and lesser interference to movement of trains. The condition of track is being monitored regularly by running oscillograph car and recording cars.

(vii) *Telecommunications*

Gradual switching over from analog systems to digital systems which include digital microwave, digital electronic exchanges and optical fibre communication systems.

The expenditure incurred during the last three years zone-wise on the various projects of signalling, computerisation, workshop and sheds, track and telecommunications is as under:

Railway	Amount (in crores)
Central	656.00
Eastern	554.47
Northern	575.36
North Eastern	192.90
Northeast Frontier	132.89
Southern	285.12
South Central	487.65
South Eastern	834.05
Western	438.68

(c) and (d) The long term programme to modernise Indian Railways is given as under :

(i) Introduction of road railer system for carrying container with door to door service.

(ii) Designing of double Decker car carrier wagons.

(iii) Introduction of composite brake blocks for rolling stock.

(iv) Development and design of self steering track friendly bogie for freight stock.

(v) Development of microprocessor based control system for Diesel Locos.

(vi) Transfer of technology for 3 phase drive AC Electric locomotives has been taken from M/s. ABB for indigenous manufacture of these locomotives at CLW. The Prototype indigenous locomotive would be manufactured in 1997-98.

(vii) The track modernisation and renewals are being planned keeping in view the anticipated traffic and speed of trains. Accordingly, targets have been fixed for track renewals and modernisation for the IX Plan. The main objective of the IX plan for track planning will be to wipe out the arrears of track renewals on A, B & C routes, to carry out the current arising of track renewals on A, B, & C routes, to reduce the arrears on D & E routes, to cater for annual arising of track renewals to the extent of 3250 km, to replace metal sleepers on A, B, & C routes by concrete sleepers, renew the existing 90 R turnouts on running lines on A, B, & C routes, to weld 4 lacs joints p.a. by flash but welding process, and to extend mechanised track maintenance to cover about 50000 kms. by the end of the IX Plan as against 30000 kms. as on 1.4.97. In order to meet the above targets, funds to the tune of Rs. 13200 Cr. will be required. Actual progress will however, depend on the availability of funds for track renewal.

(viii) As a long term plan, Railways have decided to provide optic fibre communication in Railway Electrified area for control communication. Similarly, the existing underground telecom copper cable in Railway Electrified area shall be replaced by optic fibre cable as and when it becomes due for replacement.

(ix) The existing Electro mechanical exchanges are being replaced by digital electronic exchanges in a phased manner.

(x) Railways are replacing their old and worn out analog microwave communication systems by digital microwave systems for improving long distance administrative communication circuits and also for providing back upto control communication in case of failure to underground telecom cables.

(xi) Railways are introducing Universal Emergency Train Radio communication system between train, guard and the nearest station to enable immediate response in case of emergencies/accidents. The work has already been taken up as a pilot scheme, this will be extended to other sections.

(xii) Microprocessor based Public Address System informing passengers on platform about the status of the train running is being provided progressively at important station. Further, to provide visual display of train information on entrance gates and on platforms, electronic train display boards are being installed at important stations in phased manner.

(xiii) The easy to remember '131' enquiry telephones are also being provided progressively for train enquiry at important stations.

Capacity of Ramgarh GTPP

3707. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the planned capacity of Ramgarh GTPP was 160 MW;

(b) whether due to less allocation of natural gas, has led to sanction only one unit of 35.5 MW at Ramgarh GTPP;

(c) if so, the details of such projects in the country;

(d) whether the single unit of GT is uneconomical due to low thermal efficiency operation; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Union Government is likely to be allocated additional 5 to 10 lac cubic metre of gas per day for above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) had prepared a project report for 160 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant at Ramgarh (Jaisalmer District). However, based on the limited allocation of 0.55 MCMD, RSEB installed only one 35.5 MW GT unit at this station.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, additional 0.5 MCMD gas might be available by 2000-2001 which would allow RSEB to install a second 35.5 MW GT unit and also to go for a Combined Cycle operation of the power plant with the installation of another 35.5 MW for higher rating) steam turbine unit, using the exhausts to the two gas Turbines.

Corruption Cases

3708. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of the Ministry in 1995-96;

(b) the number of officers involved in the above, Grade-wise;

(c) the number of complaints received against corruption and dishonesty during 1995-96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Vigilance Department initiate action suo-moto against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt;

(e) whether the Ministry have made any review to the functioning of the powers of the vigilance section under their control; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) The number of such cases in the Ministry in which preliminary enquiry was ordered is 27.

(b) Group A - 29

Group B - 14

Group C - 08

(c) The number of such complaints received in the Ministry was 59, out of which preliminary enquiry was ordered in 27 cases. 28 complaints were filed as per provisions of Vigilance Manual and action on 4 complaints is in progress.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The review of functioning of powers of the Vigilance Section is a continuous process and is done in accordance with the provisions of the Vigilance Manual and other extant rules/procedures prescribed by Government from time to time.

[Translation]

Village Development in Chandigarh

3709. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chandigarh administration formulated any scheme for the development of villages during 1996-97 and if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated therefor;

(b) the funds spent on different developmental works and the number of works yet to be commenced; and

(c) the scheme formulated for the year 1997-98 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

The scheme-wise allocation made by Chandigarh administration during the year 1996-97 is as under :

Allocation of funds	
1. Crop Husbandry	Rs. 6.85 lakhs
2. Soil & Water Conservation	Rs. 3.30 lakhs
3. Development of villages	Rs. 50.00 lakhs
4. Strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions	Rs. 14.00 lakhs
5. Improvement of Sanitation and Cleanliness in villages	Rs. 26.10 lakhs
6. Training of Associates Women Workers	Rs. 0.35 lakhs
7. Matching grant to Panchayats for Development work	Rs. 1.50 lakhs

(b) Amount spent on the implementation on schemes namely Crop Husbandry, Soil & Water Conservation, strengthening for Panchayati Raj Institutions, Improvement of Sanitation and cleanliness in villages, Training of Associates Women Workers and Matching Grant to Panchayats for development of villages is concerned projects for the entire amount have been sanctioned and funds were placed at the disposal of executing agencies. These would be completed during the current year. The details of project sanctioned are indicated in the enclosed Statement. In addition to above, an amount of Rs. 27.32 lakhs were spent during the year 1996-97 under the M.P.'s Local Area Development Scheme and four following projects stand completed:

1. Construction of Rural Sport Stadium at village Dadumajra	Rs. 8.91,000.00
-do- village Maloya.	Rs. 7,07,200.00
-do- village Khuda Alisher.	Rs. 6,05,200.00
-do- village Burail	Rs. 5,29,000.00
	Rs. 27,32,400.00

(c) An outlay of Rs. 84.00 lakhs have been approved in the Annual plan 1997-98 to implement the following schemes:

1. Crop Husbandry	Rs. 5.00 lakhs
2. Soil & Water Conservation	Rs. 4.00 lakh
3. Strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions.	Rs. 73.50 lakhs
4. Training of Associate Women Workers	Rs. 0.30 lakhs
5. Promotion of Mahila Mandal	Rs. 0.80 lakhs
6. Training-Study Tours of official and non-officials	Rs. 0.40 lakhs
	Rs. 84.00 lakhs

Statement

Details of the Projects sanctioned during 1996-97 under the scheme development of villages

Sl. No.	Name of works	Name of Executing Agency	Funds Deposited
1	2	3	4
1.	Prov. of 16 nos. street light points in village Dadumajra	Executive Engineer Elect.Constr. Division.UT Chandigarh	Rs. 93,450/-

1	2	3	4
2.	Laying of RCC Storm water pipe line along road Kejheri, remaining amount of original estimate of Rs. 9,54,200/-	Administrator Panchayat Samiti, UT Chandigarh.	Rs. 43,700/- Rs. 43,700/-
3.	Dismantling/Constn. of laying of RCC storm water pipe line along sports stadium V. Dadumajra.	- do -	Rs. 9,39,500/-
	(ii) Laying of RCC Storm water pipe line along circular road in village Daria	- do -	Rs. 8,83,180
4.	Dismantling of /constn. of outfall drains level crossing & brick paving of streets at vill. Dadumajra	- do -	Rs. 9,20,7000/-
5.	Laying of RCC Storm water pipe line around circular road village Sarangpur. (Rs. 2,83, 500)	- do -	Rs. 4,61,400/-
	ii) Laying of RCC Storm water pipe line along the Phirni near sports-stadium for proper disposal of water in Khuda Alisher. (Rs. 1,77, 900/-).	- do -	
6.	Dismantling of constn. of outfall drains, level crossing and brick paving of streets at village Palsora, Chandigarh.	- do -	Rs. 5,69,850/-
7.	Laying of RCC Sewerage water pipe along circular road at village Raipur Khurd.	- do -	Rs. 5,55,500/-
8.	Dismantling/constn. of outfall drains level crossing/brick paving of streets at village Hallomajra, Part - I (Rs. 1,78,700/-) Part - B (Rs. 3,54,000/-)	- do -	Rs. 5,32,700/-
	Total Rs.		49,99,980/-

*[English]***Dry Fly Ash**

3710. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to permit utilisation of dry fly ash from Mumbai Suburban Electric Supply Limited company at Dabru in Thane district of Maharashtra has been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the complaints of pollution from dry fly ash; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) The fly ash generated at the Dahanu Thermal Power Station (2x250 MW) (TPS) of Mumbai Suburban Electric Supply Company Limited (MSES) is presently being disposed of in the form of slurry. MSES has however, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with another firm for setting up of a project using fly ash for manufacturing bricks and other building materials at a location close to Dahanu TPS. The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) to whom the proposal was submitted has referred it to the Dahanu Taluka Environmental Protection Authority, constituted by the Ministry consequent upon the orders of the Supreme Court for its consideration at appropriate decision.

To check the emission of fly ash, electrostatic precipitators (ESPs) have been installed at the two units of Dahanu TPS. The emission level is being monitored and is within the limits prescribed by the MOEF.

*[Translation]***Funds allocation under Old Age Pension Scheme**

3711. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the amount provided to various State Governments under old age pension scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount given to each of the pensioner by the Union Government and the State Governments;

(c) the number of old persons given such pension under this scheme, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the allocation made under this scheme; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (c) The National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) was launched with effect from 15th August, 1995. The amount released and number of persons benefited under NOAPS during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given the enclosed Statement I and II.

(b) The amount of old age pension provided to each pensioner by the Centre and each State Government has been indicated in the enclosed Statement - III.

(d) and (e) Due to scarcity of funds, there is no proposal at present to increase the allocation under NOAPS.

Statement - I*Amount released & persons benefited under NOAPS during 1995-96*

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Release	Benefit Reported
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2593.74	466000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.68	0
3.	Assam	195.83	35503
4.	Bihar	2109.72	463783
5.	Goa	6.09	447
6.	Gujarat	441.19	52651
7.	Haryana	209.75	37700
8.	Himachal Pradesh	64.56	5315
9.	J. & K.	147.86	14765
10.	Karnataka	870.28	NR
11.	Kerala	354.55	45037
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2736.86	136486
13.	Maharashtra	1380.46	11684
14.	Manipur	9.65	3103
15.	Meghalaya	9.06	641
16.	Mizoram	3.86	1400
17.	Nagaland	13.31	652
18.	Orissa	784.08	182914
19.	Punjab	202.23	36500
20.	Rajasthan	552.07	4059
21.	Sikkim	3.85	NR
22.	Tamilnadu	2179.81	306968
23.	Tripura	29.47	4746
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5727.83	954437
25.	West Bengal	976.31	353900

1	2	3	4
26.	A & N Islands	1.68	NR
27.	Chandigarh	3.59	NR
28.	D & N Haveli	0.85	300
29.	Daman & Diu	0.52	86
30.	NCT Delhi	52.4	NR
31.	Lakshadweep	0.30	0
32.	Pondicherry	4.16	0
Total		21670.61	3119077

NR : Not Reported.

Statement - II*Amount released & persons benefited under NOAPS during 1996-97*

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Release	No. of Benef.
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4315.02	514946
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.02	278
3.	Assam	340.17	44393
4.	Bihar	4275.06	652872
5.	Goa	9.94	1006
6.	Gujarat	828.57	102575
7.	Haryana	349.48	37700
8.	Himachal Pradesh	85.55	10657
9.	J. & K.	225.45	22719
10.	Karnataka	3873.75	692263
11.	Kerala	1045.08	77169
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3650.81	507931
13.	Maharashtra	128.27	40983
14.	Manipur	48.98	1971
15.	Meghalaya	63.27	4435
16.	Mizoram	18.85	1204
17.	Nagaland	42.88	2074

1	2	3	4
18. Orissa		2578.35	280760
19. Punjab		338.35	35429
20. Rajasthan		976.28	53176
21. Sikkim		11.30	800
22. Tamilnadu		2573.19	297636
23. Tripura		73.49	5987
24. Uttar Pradesh		9019.54	697828
25. West Bengal		2404.54	282639
26. A & N Islands		0.05	6
27. Chandigarh		9.79	NR
28. D & N Haveli		1.43	286
29. Daman & Diu		0.95	138
30. NCT Delhi		90.63	10253
31. Lakshadweep		0.48	98
32. Pondicherry		0.13	1500
Total		37381.65	4381712

NR : Not Reported.

Statement - III

The amount given to each pensioner by the Union Govt. & State Govts. under NOAPS

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Central Fund	State Fund	Total
1	2	3	4	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	75	NIL	75
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	75	75	150
3.	Assam	75	25	100
4.	Bihar	75	25	100
5.	Goa	75	NR	75
6.	Gujarat	75	125	200
7.	Haryana	75	25	100
8.	Himachal Pradesh	75	25	100
9.	J. & K.	75	150	200

1	2	3	4	5
10. Karnataka		75	NIL	75
11. Kerala		75	25	100
12. Madhya Pradesh		75	NIL	75
13. Maharashtra		75	25	100
14. Manipur		75	NR	75
15. Meghalaya		75	125	200
16. Mizoram		75	25	100
17. Nagaland		75	25	100
18. Orissa		75	25	100
19. Punjab		75	125	200
20. Rajasthan		75	25	100
21. Sikkim		75	25	100
22. Tamilnadu		75	25	100
23. Tripura		75	25	100
24. Uttar Pradesh		75	25 (Urban)	100
		75	50 (Rural)	125
25. West Bengal		75	25	100
26. A & N Islands		75	25	100
27. Chandigarh		75	25	100
28. D & N Haveli		75	NR	75
29. Daman & Diu		75	NIL	75
30. NCT Delhi		75	NIL	75
31. Lakshadweep		75	25	100
32. Pondicherry		75	25	100

NR : Not Reported

*[English]***Development of Women and Children**

3712. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any decline in the progress rate of Women and Child Development Schemes in rural areas of Gujarat during 1994-95, 1996-97 and 1997-98 so far; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and remedial steps proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The financial and physical progress for the above mentioned years is given below:—

Year	Target of group formation	No. of groups actually formed	Expenditure (Rs. in lacs)
1	2	3	4
1994-95	247	315	62.02
1995-96	1033	1092	263.79
1996-97	1033	1033	266.68
1997-98 (upto June, 1997)	1033	53	2.26

Indo-Japan Global Energy Reserves

3713. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Japan can work together as partners for ensuring reliable access to global energy reserves;

(b) if so, whether India and Japan have already done ground work towards maritime cooperation;

(c) if so, whether any agreement between India and Japan has been reached to tie-up and ensure energy security; and

(d) if so, the details of the agreement signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Surplus Persons in NHPC

3714. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have estimated about 5000 persons as surplus in the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation;

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

(c) the total amount of annual burden on the Corporation as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K.

ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) has about 5000 staff identified as surplus.

(b) The category-wise details of surplus manpower are as under :

Executives	-	Nil
Supervisors	-	466
Workmen	-	4530
Total		<u>4996</u>

(c) At present the direct cost (Basic pay + DA) of carrying the surplus manpower works out to approximately Rs. 33.50 crores per annum.

Increasing Demand of Power

3715. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the quantum of power utilised in agriculture sector, industrial sector, commercial sector, domestic consumption sector and Government institutions in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the percentage each of these sectors in the annual consumption and the assessment made regarding the demand of these sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) Details of year-wise quantum of power utilised by various categories of consumers and percentage to total consumption during 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as follows:

Sector	(In Billion Units)			
	1992-93 %age	1993-94 %age	1994-95 %age	1995-96 %age (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5
Agriculture	63.33	70.70	79.30	85.74
	—	—	—	—
	28.70	29.64	30.54	30.80
Industrial	90.17	94.50	100.13	105.29
	—	—	—	—
	40.86	39.61	38.56	37.83
Commercial	12.70	14.14	15.97	16.99
	—	—	—	—
	5.73	5.93	5.15	6.11

1	2	3	4	5
Domestic	39.71	43.34	47.92	52.54
	—	—	—	—
	18.00	18.17	18.46	18.87
Government	18.07	18.97	20.15	23.54
Institutions	—	—	—	—
	8.19	7.95	7.76	8.46

The data for the year 1996-97 has so far not become available.

Projections made in 15th Electric Power Survey for energy demand for various sectors for 2001-02 is as follows :

Sector	(Million Units)
Domestic	105585.52
Commercial	31558.72
Government Institutions	24426.35
Agriculture	108249.19
Industrial	175092.96
Other	4083.04

Post Offices Run by Private Persons

3716. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh which are being run by the Private persons, district-wise;

(b) the number of persons who are being paid salary by the Government and the amount of monthly salary thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take over such Post Offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There is no Post Office which is run by Private persons. Post Offices are manned either by Departmental employees of Extra departmental employees who are appointed by the Department.

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

Train Accidents

3717. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of train accidents which have occurred between Beena and Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh during

each of the last three years;

(b) the causes of the above accidents;

(c) the details of compensation provided to those killed and injured in these accidents; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that no such accidents take place in the said area in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Information is as under :

1994-95: 7 (Collision - 1, Derailments - 6)

1995-96: 1 (Level crossing)

1996-97: 8 (Derailments - 6, Level crossing -1 and fire in train - 1)

(b) Human failure and equipment failure.

(c) Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by the Railway claims Tribunal. However, an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 56,000/- has been paid to the dependents of killed and to the injured in these accidents.

(d) Some of the steps taken to prevent accidents are as under:

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

(ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human errors in causing accidents.

(iii) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

(iv) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph care and portable accelerometer are being progressively used.

(v) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

(vi) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

(vii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.

(viii) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

(ix) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

- (x) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of simulators for training of drivers.
- (xi) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.
- (xii) Performance of the staff connected with train operations is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.
- (xiii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

[English]

Gas Allocation to Pipavav Project

3718. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any commitment of gas allocation from Tapti Gas field to Pipavav project in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether allocation of gas has not so far been made;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the alternative arrangement Government propose to allocate gas to Pipavav power project from such other source?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) It was decided by the Central Government in 1989 to allocate Tapti gas to the Pipavav power project in Gujarat. At that time, there was a decision that the gas from Gandhar Gas field will be taken to Hazira and HBJ pipeline. Subsequently, at the request of Government of Gujarat, Gandhar gas was allocated to two power projects at Gandhar. Consequently, it was decided to take Tapti gas to Hazira and HBJ to meet existing commitments. Government of Gujarat has been advised to base the Pipavav project on alternative fuel.

[Translation]

Ban on 'Direct to Home' T.V. Service

3719. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

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

(a) whether 'Direct to Home' T.V. Service has been totally banned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time since when this ban has been imposed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) The Government have introduced the Broadcasting Bill, 1997 in Lok Sabha on 16.5.97, which, *inter-alia*, provides for regulation and licensing of Direct-to-Home television services. The Bill is currently under consideration of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. With a view to prevent preemption of the proposed broadcasting law by foreign entities, as may be passed by the Parliament in this regard, Ministry of Communications, Department to Telecommunication have issued a notification dated 16.7.97 prohibiting establishment, maintenance, operation and possession of equipments capable of received signal above the frequency band 4800 MHz.

Construction of Bridge over River Ganga in Patna

3720. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether provision has been made in 1997-98 Railway budget for the construction of a bridge in Patna over river Ganga;

(b) if so, the details of works undertaken in this direction upto July, 1997; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Final Location Survey and detailed investigations for this bridge have been taken up through M/s RITES.

(c) During the 10th Plan period subject to availability of resources.

Allocation of Liquid Fuel

3721. SHRI B.K. GADHVI :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for allocation of liquid fuel for various power projects in the States particularly in Kerala and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their requirement and the actual allocation made, project-wise; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to allocate liquid fuel as per requirements to all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Various States including Kerala and Gujarat have been requesting from time to time, for allocation of liquid fuel for various liquid fuel based power projects proposed to be set up in the respective States. In view of the proposals being far more than the availability of naphtha/liquid fuels, all the liquid fuel proposals were reviewed by the Government of India, and detailed guidelines were issued to the concerned states for recommending projects for liquid fuel linkage within the capacity (in MW) allocated to the respective states. Based on the recommendations of the concerned State Government provisional fuel linkages are issued. The details of the projects recommended by Governments of Gujarat and Kerala vide their letter dated 25.3.1997 and 3.4.1997 respectively and details of the projects issued provisional fuel linkage, so far, for these States are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of the projects recommended by Governments of Gujarat and Kerala vide their letter dated 25.3.1997 and 3.4.1997 respectively for fuel linkage and details of the projects issued provisional fuel linkage

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3

GUJARAT

1.	Pipavav Project	615
2.	AEC (Conversion) 30 MW*	30
3.	AEC (Expansion) 150 MW*	150
4.	GACL Captive/co-generation at Dahej*	90
5.	GNPC Captive/Co-generation at Bharuch*	31
6.	L&T Kovaya*	60
7.	Sanghi, Kutch*	52.5
8.	Search Chem. Ind., Jhagadia*	41
9.	Arvind Mills, Khatraj*	35
10.	Arvind Mills, Narord*	23
11.	Core Perental Healthcare*	19.2
12.	DCM Sriram, Jhagadia*	18
13.	Alembic Chemicals, Vadodara*	8
14.	Tributron Jagada*	4

GPCI projects (provisional fuel linkages for these projects would be issued in favour of the IPPS selected by the GPCL. Govt. of Gujarat has already sent recommendations for 510 MW which are under examination)

1	2	2
15.	Small Thermal at Chatral	100
16.	Small Thermal at Kerala	100
17.	Small Thermal at Jhagadia	50
18.	Small Thermal at Wankaner	50
19.	Small Thermal at Deodhar	60
20.	Small Thermal at Shaper	50
21.	Small Thermal at Savli	50
22.	Small Thermal at Idar	40
23.	Small Thermal at Dahej	50
24.	Small Thermal at Vagra	50
25.	Small Thermal at Sidhpur	50
26.	Small Thermal at Vasna	50
	Barge mounted plants (issue of provisional fuel linkage for these projects would be considered after State Government furnishes details regarding promoters).	
27.	Pipavav Barge Mounted Power Project	100
28.	Mul Dwarka Barge Mounted Power Project	100
29.	Dahej Barge Mounted Power Project	30
30.	Simar Barge Mounted Power Project	30
31.	Mandvi Barge Mounted Power Project	30
32.	Sikka-I Barge Mounted Power Project	100
33.	Sikka-II Barge Mounted Power Project	100
KERALA		
1.	BSES*	107
2.	LOK-EDL*	107
3.	Kannur Power Project *	513
4.	BPL	338
5.	WISE at Kanjikode	100
6.	Finolex at Manjeswaram	500
7.	Ensearch at Palaghat	330
8.	Kumar at Vizhinjan	330
9.	Siasin at Vypeen Island	650
10.	Kings International at Koothuparamba	53
11.	AGVL	105
12.	Eurocapital	130

* Projects for which provisional fuel linkages have been issued.

Daily running of Rajdhani Express

3722. SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the waiting list number in the Delhi-Bangalore trains runs into several hundred every day;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to run Rajdhani Express between Nizamuddin and Bangalore daily instead of bi-weekly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The number of passenger who remain on the waiting list after preparation of charts for Karnataka bound trains is on an average less than hundred per day.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Free Calls offer by Airtel

3723. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether no free calls will be given for the air time by Metro Cellular Operators;

(b) whether attention of the Government have been drawn on various newspaper advertisements and hoarding of Airtel advertising free air time to lure the customers; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken against Airtel (Bharati Cellular) for misleading their subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The Department of Telecommunications has fixed the ceiling tariffs to be collected by the Licensees of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service from their subscribers. The details of ceiling tariffs are given in the Statement enclosed. Within the Ceiling tariffs, the operators are free to charge lower tariffs. The companies offer different packages to their subscribers. However, these are not regulated by the Government as long as they are within the prescribed ceiling.

Statement***Ceiling Tariffs for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Tariff***

1. Monthly Rental for the Service	- Rs. 156/- per month
2. Security Deposit	- Rs. 3000/-
3. Installation Charges	- Rs. 1200/-

4. Call Charges :-

4.1 for calls originated by the Mobile Subscriber : Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call plus call charges as applicable for the fixed network for Local, STD, and ISD calls. For mobile to mobile calls within the same cellular service area, only air time charges will be levied.

4.2 for calls terminating on the Mobile subscriber : Airtime charge @ 10 seconds per unit call will be levied. No charge will be levied to the mobile subscriber if the mobile subscriber terminates an incoming call within 5 seconds.

5. Notes on tariff :

5.1. Call duration will be on air time basis for mobile subscribers.

5.2. The air time unit call shall be charged at unit rate applicable to the highest slab of the DOT's fixed net work (Rs. 1.40 per unit at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

5.3 Call charges for the air time during peak hours shall be fixed at rates not exceeding double the rates prescribed in para 4 above. Peak hours shall be restricted upto a maximum of 4 hours per day. Peak hour and airtime call charges during peak hours may be fixed by the Licensee in consultation with Telecom. Authority.

5.4 Call charges for the air time during Sundays and 3 National holidays (15th August, 26 January & 2nd October) shall be half the rates prescribed in para 4 above.

5.5 For calls from mobile subscriber to the fixed net work, the Licensee shall charge the mobile subscriber at the rates prescribed by the Telecom. Authority according to time and day of the call. Unit rate for such calls shall be the highest slab rate of the DOT's fixed net work (Rs. 1.40 at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

5.6 There are no free calls to be given in the air time.

5.7 For calls originating from the fixed net work to mobile, the mobile subscriber will be charged for the air time and DOT will not have to pay any access fee to the Cellular Operator. The air time charges will be collected by the Cellular Operator.

5.8 For mobile both caller and called party will be charged.

6. All tariff increase shall be subject to prior approval of the Telecom. Authority and /or its successor.

7. The rental does not include the cost of the subscriber's terminal equipment (mobile handset). The subscriber is free to buy the terminal equipment from any source.

*[Translation]***Construction of Doordarshan Relay Centres in U.P.**

3724. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of Doordarshan Kendras at Almorah at Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh has been completed;

(b) whether the telecast of programmes from the newly constructed Low Power Transmitters at Didihat, Jorasis, Ranikhet, Dharchula etc. is stopped; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) While a Low Power TV transmitters (LPT) at Pithoragarh and a Very Low Power TV transmitter (VLPT) at Almora are already operational, a scheme is presently under implementation to replace the existing VLPT at Almora by an LPT.

(b) and (c) Though all the TV transmitters in Almora and Pithoragarh districts, except the VLPT at Didihat, are functioning normally, regular transmission from the VLPT, Didihat has been temporarily affected due to power supply failure.

*[English]***Foreign and Domestic Private T.V. Telecast Channels**

3725. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

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

(a) whether the Government have evolved any regulatory authority on foreign and domestic private T.V. telecast channels operating in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) fee/commission, if any, which Government collects from these telecast channels; and

(d) the basis for fixation of such fee/commission?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Government have already introduced the Broadcasting Bill in the Parliament which provides for the establishment of an independent authority to be known as the Broadcasting Authority of India, for the purposes of facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in India including foreign and domestic private TV channels. The Bill is at present under the consideration of Joint Parliamentary Committee.

(c) These would be determined by the Broadcasting Authority of India as and when it is set up.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Steel by SAIL

3726. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the export of steel by SAIL during 1996-97 and 1997-98 upto June, 1997;

(b) the steps taken by SAIL to increase the profit;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve customer orientation and quality, improve asset utilisation and increase in export of SAIL;

(d) whether the delay in the commissioning of hot strip mill at Bokaro has affected the production performance of SAIL; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to complete it early?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) During 1996-97, SAIL exported 4.79 lakh tonnes of Steel while in 1997-98, up to June, 1997, 2 lakh tonnes of Steel and about 60,000 tonnes of Pig Iron were exported.

(b) and (c) SAIL is taking steps on a continuous basis to improve its performance, which include modernisation and technological upgradation of its plants, improving technological factors i.e. reduction in coke rate, energy consumption, metallic input, improvement in yield, captive power generation, extensive customer contact, market oriented product-mix, improvement in quality, long term relationship with customers, leadership in service and customer satisfaction, strict control and monitoring of operating costs, higher productivity and greater autonomy to field officers, etc. Besides, to increase exports, SAIL has adopted steps that include consistent export, sustained presence in identified market segments, value added exports, improved market intelligence, appointment of consignment agents overseas and development of warehousing and handling facilities etc.

(d) and (e) While the delay in carrying out modernisation jobs on the Hot Strip Mill (HSM) at Bokaro has affected the production performance, SAIL is taking steps to complete the HSM which include regular monitoring and coordination with the contracting agencies; providing necessary shut downs for execution; help in speeding up the supply of equipment and providing all necessary assistance to the contracting agencies etc.

Tariff Policies

3727. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tariff Policies of the Department of Telecom are to be revised;

(b) if so, whether this has become necessary because of the decreasing revenue per line;

(c) if so, the details of overall revenue per line per month upto January 31;

(d) whether there has been no increase in the tariffs since May, 1993; and

(e) if so, the time by when final decision for revising tariffs policy is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) Yes, Sir.

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

[*Translation*]

P & T Housing Welfare Society

3728. DR. BALI RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forestry department under his Ministry has not planted grass and trees in the parks near type I, II and III houses of the P & T Housing Welfare Society, Kalibari Marg, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Grass planting at Quarters type I, II and III has been done, process of planting of trees is in progress.

[*English*]

Merger of E.A.S. with Janmabhoomi in Andhra Pradesh

3729. SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has merged the Employment Assurance Scheme with Janmabhoomi Programme;

(b) the percentage of contributions made by the State Government as its share to the schemes like JRY, IAY, DWCRA during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) whether the Union Government are also aware that the selection of beneficiaries is done for the IAY, JRY, DWCRA on political considerations violating the Central guidelines in this regard; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to be taken to check violation of Central guidelines by State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YARRANNAIDU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Percentage contributions made by the State Govt. under Jawahar Rozagar Yojana (JRY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as follows:

Programme	Percentage contribution by state Govt. to total allocation	
	1995-96	1996-97
JRY	20.00	20.00
IAY	20.00	20.00
DWCRA	28.85	57.51

(c) and (d) There is no provision in the guidelines of the above programmes for selection of beneficiaries on political considerations. However, as and when cases of violation of Central guidelines are received, the same are immediately referred back to concerned State Govt. to take necessary action.

[*Translation*]

Postal facilities in Gram Panchayats

3730. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of gram panchayats in the country where post and telegraph facilities have not been provided so far;

(b) the number of post and telegraph offices opened during 1996-97, State-wise;

(c) whether any time bound plan has been formulated for providing the above mentioned facilities in each gram panchayat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of gram panchayats in the country, where post offices have not been provided so far is 109331. Postal Counter facilities and facility of delivery of mails are however, provided to all villages through the nearby post offices.

The information regarding number of Gram Panchayats in the country where telegraph facilities have not been provided so far is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.

(b) The information the number of post offices opened during 1996-97, postal circle-wise is given in the Statement - I enclosed. The information on the number of telegraph offices and combined offices opened during 1996-97, State-wise, is given in the statement-II enclosed.

(c) and (d) Post Offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of resources and targets.

There is no policy of the Department of Telecom to provide Telegraph facility in every Gram Panchayat, as it is provided on the basis of demand, and justification of volume of traffic.

Statement I

Details of number of Post Offices opened during 1996-97 (Postal-Circle-Wise).

Sl. No.	Name of Circles	No. of Post Offices opened during 1996-97
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12
2.	Assam	14
3.	Bihar	36
4.	Delhi	4
5.	Gujarat	34
6.	Haryana	3
7.	Himachal Pradesh	26
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	-
9.	Karnataka	27
10.	Kerala	6
11.	Madhya Pradesh	26
12.	Maharashtra	31
13.	North-East	6
14.	Orissa	12
15.	Punjab	11
16.	Rajasthan	18
17.	Tamil Nadu	10
18.	Uttar Pradesh	47
19.	West Bengal	5
Total :		328

Statement - II

Number of Post and telegraph Offices opened during 1996-97. State-wise.

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Telegraph Offices	No. of Combined Post & Telegraph Offices
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-
2.	Assam	-	-
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
4.	Bihar	-	-
5.	Delhi	1	-
6.	Gujarat	-	1
7.	Goa	-	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	-	15
9.	Haryana	-	-
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	20
11.	Kerala	-	-
12.	Karnataka	-	5
13.	Madhya Pradesh	-	139 (GPTd.)
14.	Maharashtra	1	1
15.	Manipur	-	-
16.	Meghalaya	-	-
17.	Mizoram	-	-
18.	Nagaland	-	-
19.	Orissa	1	238
20.	Punjab	-	-
21.	Rajasthan	-	8
22.	Sikkim	1	-
23.	Tamil Nadu	-	6
24.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-
25.	West Bengal	-	-

[English]

Intent Telephony System

3731. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) since when the Intent Telephony System introduced in Delhi;

(b) whether this system has been resulted in a loss of revenue worth crores of rupees since the year of its introduction;

(c) if so, the reasons led to the losses;

(d) whether the bottlenecks have been identified; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to plug the loop and avoid any loss of revenue?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, there is no Intent Telephony System in Telecommunications.

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of (a).

Telephone Connections to Doctors

3732. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time limit has been fixed by the Government to provide telephone connection to doctors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications from doctors pending with the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited for more than one year with reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Sir, doctors are being provided telephones under OYT as well Non-OYT, Special category registration. The time limit for provision of new Telephone connection is within 15 days of the issue of OB; subject to the area being technically feasible.

(c) Sir, only ten (10) cases (OBs) are pending for more than one year with MTNL Delhi. The pockets/area being technically not feasible due to non-availability of under ground cable pairs.

(d) Efforts are afoot to clear these cases progressively by Dec. 1997.

[Translation]

Electricity Generated through Non-conventional Energy Sources

3733. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of electricity generated through non-conventional energy sources in Maharashtra;

(b) the locations of non-conventional energy plants in the State;

(c) whether some such more plants are proposed to be set up in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of more electricity generation expected therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) A total capacity of about 23 MW has been installed in Maharashtra based on Non-Conventional Energy Sources. This includes a capacity of 5.37 MW from wind; 13.76 MW from biogas, biomass and bagasse cogeneration; 3.58 MW from small hydro; and 116 KW from solar energy. The locations of these projects are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Small Hydro projects of 8.7 MW capacity are under installation. Their locations are also given in the Statement enclosed.

Power projects based on non-conventional energy sources are taken up in the Govt. sector or as commercial projects. Further projects will depend upon the energy resource availability; techno-economic viability; and mobilisation of financial resources.

Statement

Location Details of Non-conventional Energy based Power Projects in Maharashtra

A. EXISTING PROJECTS

I. Bagasse cogeneration, biomass & biogas based power projects

Sl. No.	Name & Location	District	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri Datta Shatkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Taluka : Shirol	Kolhapur	1.5
2.	Jawahar Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Hapur Taluka : Hatkanagale	Kolhapur	1.5
3.	Deogiri Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Taluka : Phulambari	Aurangabad	1.5
4.	Mazalgaon Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Taluka : Mazalgaon	Beed	1.5
5.	Shri Adinath Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Jeur Taluka : Karmala	Solapur	1.5
6.	Chopda Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Taluka : Chopda	Jalgaon	1.5

1	2	3	4
7.	Warna Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Warnangar	Kolhapur	1.86
8.	Sangamna Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Sangammer	Ahmednagar	2.26
9.	Parasrampur Plantations Shahpur	Thane	0.5
10.	Armine Exports, Nagpur	Nagpur	0.1
11.	Golden Star Textile Mill, Jaysingpur	Kolhapur	0.04

II. Small Hydro Based Power Projects

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	District	Capacity (KW)
1.	Vaitarna Dam-Toe	Nasik	1500
2.	Yeoteshwar	Satara	75
3.	Dhom	Satara	2000

III. Wind Power based Projects

Sl. No.	Location	District	Capacity (MW)
1.	Deogarh	Sindhudurg	1.10
2.	Vijaydurg	Sindhudurg	1.50
3.	Chalkewadi	Satara	2.00
4.	Chalkewadi	Statara	0.77

IV. Solar Power based Projects

Sl. No.	Location	District	Capacity (KW)
1.	Walwahn Dam	Pune	110
2.	Morabunder Island	Elephanta	3.36
3.	Herawader	Raigarh	1.54
4.	Keraswadi	Raigarh	1.54

B. PROJECTS UNDER INSTALLATION

Small Hydro based Projects

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	District	Capacity (KW)
1.	Terawanmedhe	Sindhudurg	200
2.	Surya Right Bank Canal	Thane	750
3.	Mazalgaon	Beed	2250
4.	Karanjwan	Nasik	3000
5.	Bhivpuri Tail Race	Raigad	2500

[English]

Construction of Railway Quarters

3734. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway quarters constructed during the last two years in Lucknow and Agra Divisions;

(b) the number of Railway staff who had applied for quarters in these divisions and are still waiting the allotment for the last ten years and more; and

(c) the time by which the quarters are likely to be provided to those waiting for such a long period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Number of staff quarters constructed during last two years in Lucknow Division of North Eastern Railway is 16 and Lucknow Division of Northern Railway is 20. As regards Agra, no additional quarters have been constructed during last two years.

(b) In Lucknow Division of North Eastern Railway and Agra area of Central Railway, no employee is waiting for quarter for more than 10 years. In Lucknow Division of Northern Railway, 635 employees are waiting for houses for a period of ten years or more.

(c) Railways provide house to its staff for operational requirements and as a staff welfare measure. In view of the shortage of quarters in Railways, funds for construction on quarters have been increased in the last 3 years. With the increased allocation, it is expected that the housing situation would improve.

Expenditure on Indian Institute of Mass Communication

3735. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any branch of IIMC (Indian Institute of Mass Communication) is functioning in Kottayam, Kerala;

(b) if so, the amount spent on this branch;

(c) the total yearly allocation of funds to this branch approved by Planning Commission; and

(d) the latest position of the branch?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) An amount of Rs. 18.82 lakhs has been spent on this branch. The funds approved by Planning Commission for the Years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are Rs. 100.00 lakhs, 40.00 lakhs and Rs. 100.00 lakhs respectively. The branch has started functioning since 1995-96 and short term courses are

being organised. The Institute will be conducting following Short Term Courses during 1997; (i) Effective Public Relations and Publicity for State Information Officers and PROs, (ii) TV News Reporting for News Readers and Editors, correspondents of Doordarshan, and (iii) Economic Reporting for Indian Information Service Officers Correspondents and Producers.

Out of a total of about 10 acres of land earmarked for the construction of IIMC Building Project at Kottayam, only an area of 4.2 acres has been transferred to the Institute by the State Government. The rest of the land is yet to be transferred to IIMC.

Extension of Railway Line from Dullabcherra to Ranpur

3736. SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct a survey for new railway line from Dullabcherra to Ranpur in Karimganj-Dullabcherra Branch Section in Assam; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Train Service from Bombay to Kanniyakumari

3737. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide train service from Bombay to Kanniyakumari through the Konkan railway routes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Derailment of Goods Train

3738. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a goods train derailed at Dolomajra, 20 kms. from Ambala on July 11, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the loss suffered by the Railways due to this derailment;

(d) whether sabotage is suspected as the cause of the derailment of the goods train;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 11.7.1997 at 0018 hrs., 22 wagons of Dn Crack No. 14 goods train derailed at Dhola Majra Station of Delhi Division of Northern Railway.

(c) The loss suffered by the Railway due to this accident is Rs. 6.20 lakhs approximately.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Loan for Power Grid Corporation

3739. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation is negotiating with International Banks for obtaining syndicated loans;

(b) if so, the total international banks which have been approached for the loan;

(c) if so, whether this is the first time that a Central Government Undertaking is going for external commercial borrowings;

(d) if so, the total loan obtained so far; and

(e) the conditions on which this loan has been obtained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. POWERGRID have approached 31 International Banks for mobilising syndicated loans.

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

[Translation]

Height of Platforms in Bhusawal Division

3740. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the platforms which are not of prescribed height in Bhusawal division of Central Railway; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to increase the height of these platforms?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Height of platforms at different stations are determined as per norms based on the volume of passenger traffic and the number of trains halting. In Bhusawal division platforms at Jalamb and Yeotmal railway stations require raising. Work for the same will be included in future works programme of the Railways, subject to overall availability of resources.

*[English]***Revenue earned from Freight Traffic**

3741. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for increasing the Railways' revenue earning from freight traffic for the current financial year;

(b) whether the target has been achieved during the last three months (up to June, 1997);

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reasons behind giving concessional freight charges to private traders?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The target for revenue earning freight traffic has been kept at Rs. 19322 cr. in B.E. 1997-98.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The Railways have exceeded the target of Rs. 4541.58 cr. set for the quarter ending June, 1997 by Rs. 167.31 cr.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Concessions in freight charges are given to private traders by way of incentive for them to offer more traffic to rail and thereby to increase the Railway earnings.

*[Translation]***Appointment on Deputation Basis**

3742. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules laid down for the appointment of employees and officers in the vigilance department of Railways on deputation;

(b) the maximum tenure of deputation period of employees and officers in the vigilance department;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the deputation period of employees and officers serving for long period in the vigilance department;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The broad criteria for induction of an officer or an inspector to Vigilance Organisation is as under :

A person should have

(i) Adequate field experience.

(ii) Good track record.

(iii) Proven integrity beyond doubt.

(iv) No vigilance history.

(v) Good reputation.

All officers inducted to Vigilance Organisation are personnel selected by the Chief Vigilance Officer of the Ministry based on recommendation of CVO and GM of the Zonal Railways/PUs.

For Vigilance Inspectors on Zonal Railways screening of applications based on the broad criteria as mentioned is done at the level of Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of the Zonal Railway and a panel is formed out of the same. For filling up of the posts of Investigating Inspectors in the Board, applications are called for from suitable persons of different disciplines through CVOs of the Zonal Railways. Those recommended by the CVOs of the Zonal Railway are subjected to a written test-cum-interview by a selection committee.

(b) TENURE :

(i) The tenure of Vigilance Officers on Zonal Railways is 3 years. The extension beyond 3 years requires period approval of Railway Board. The normal tenure of officers working in Railway Board is, however, 5 years.

(ii) In case of Vigilance Inspectors, the normal tenure is 4 years extendible to 6 years by GMs of Railways and Production units. Extension beyond 6 years under certain specified conditions requires period approval from Railway Board.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) As a result of review, during last one year, 38 officers and 44 inspectors of Vigilance Organisation have been changed. Extension has been granted beyond the normal tenure to 64 Inspectors and 1 Officer.

(e) All efforts are made to repatriate the Inspectors on completion of their tenure by arranging selections. During last 1 year, 37 selections were conducted in which 86 Inspectors were empanelled. 10 selections are in process.

*[English]***Clearance of CRL Project**

3743. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given final clearance to Cochin Refinery Ltd. project as requested by the Kerala Government and the Kerala State Electricity Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The Union Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has accorded Stage - I Clearance to Cochin Refineries Ltd. for

preparation of a details feasibility report at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.50 Crores for setting up a 500 MW Power Generation Project at Ambaiamugal, Kerala.

Vacant Posts of SC/ST/OBC

3744. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :
SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT:
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

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

(a) the number of appointments made in the various Departments/Undertakings under his Ministry during the last three years till date, Post-wise and Category-wise;

(b) the number of posts reserved for SCs/STs/OBCs lying vacant in the entire country under his Ministry Category-wise and State-wise;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to clear the entire backlog; and

(d) the time by which the backlog is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

New Telephone Exchanges In Assam

3745. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in Assam;

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

(c) whether some of the exchanges in the State are also proposed to be expanded/modernised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise alongwith the estimated cost thereof during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of new telephone exchanges proposed to be commissioned during 1997-98 are given in the Statement I enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) the details have been given in the Statement II enclosed. Total estimated cost of expansions/modernisation is about Rs. 43.78

Statement - I

New Telephone Exchanges proposed to be Commissioned during 1997-98

Sl. No.	District	Location	Capacity	Type
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Barpeta	Barbari	256-P	C-DOT
2.	Barpeta	Belsore	256-P	C-DOT
3.	Barpeta	Morowa	256-P	C-DOT
4.	Bongoi	Gaobongai Gaon	256-P	C-DOT
5.	Cachar	Srikona	2000 RLU, E-10B	
6.	Cachar	Srikona	256-P	C-DOT
7.	Darrang	Dalgaon	256-P	C-DOT
8.	Dhemaji	Dholpur	256-P	C-DOT
9.	Dhemaji	Baivausha	256-P	C-DOT
10.	Dhubri	Bansbari	256-P	C-DOT
11.	Goalpara	Agia	256-P	C-DOT
12.	Goalpara	Moronai	256-P	C-DOT
13.	Goalpara	Rangiuli	256-P	C-DOT
14.	Golaghat	Chinatoli	256-P	C-DOT
15.	Golaghat	Dhekial	256-P	C-DOT
16.	Golaghat	Naharjan	256-P	C-DOT
17.	Golaghat	Naharjan	256-P	C-DOT
18.	Jorhat	Chinnamara	256-P	C-DOT
19.	Jorhat	Chungi	256-P	C-DOT
20.	Kamrup	Basisth Charial	2000	OCB-RSU
21.	Kamrup	Dispur	2000	OCB-RSU
22.	Kamrup	Kalapahar (GH)	5000	E-103
23.	Kamrup	Panbazar (GH)	4000	OCB-RSU
24.	Kamrup	Uluberi (GH)	3000	OCB-RSU
25.	Karbi	Anglbaitthallangshu	256-P	C-DOT
26.	Karbi	Anglkheoni	256-P	C-DOT
27.	Karim Ganj	Karim Ganj	3000	C-DOT
28.	Kokrajhar	Kachugaon	256-P	C-DOT
29.	Morigaon	Bhoragong	256-P	C-DOT

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Morigon	Bhurgondha	256-P	C-DOT
31.	Morigaon	Charaibhai	256-P	C-DOT
32.	Nagaon	Ambagan	256-P	C-DOT
33.	Nagaon	Choudhuri Bazar	256-P	C-DOT
34.	Nagaon	Doomdoomia	256-P	C-DOT
35.	Nagaon	Jhaklabanda	256-P	C-DOT
36.	Nagaon	Kucheri	256-P	C-DOT
37.	Nagaon	Nagoon	3000	C-DOT
38.	Nagaon	Palasoni	256-P	C-DOT
39.	Nagaon	Pathori	256-P	C-DOT
40.	Nagaon	Udali	256-P	C-DOT
41.	Nagaon	Urigaon	256-P	C-DOT
42.	Nalbari	Nusalpur	256-P	C-DOT
43.	Sibsagar	Bihubar	256-P	C-DOT
44.	Sibsagar	Geleki	256-P	C-DOT
45.	Sibsagar	Jajuii	256-P	C-DOT
46.	Sibsagar	Jhangi Jamguri	256-P	C-DOT
47.	Sibsagar	Khonamukh	256-P	C-DOT
48.	Sibsagar	Sibsagar	3000	C-DOT
49.	Sonitpur	Kalabari	256-P	C-DOT
50.	Sonitpur	Nappam	256-P	C-DOT
51.	Sonitpur	Tezpur	4000	E-10B
52.	Tinsukia	Tinsukia	1000	RLU, E-10B

Statement II**A. Proposed Expansions of Telephone Exchanges
in Assam 1997-98**

Sl. No.	District	Location	Capacity to be added	Type
1.	Barpeta	Howly	256-P	C-DOT
2.	Berpeta	Pathsala	400	C-DOT
3.	Bongaigaon	Nabhayapuri	256-P	C-DOT
4.	Cachar		256-P	C-DOT

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Cachar	Borkhola	256-P	C-DOT
6.	Darrang	Udalguri	296	C-DOT
7.	Dhubri	Agomoni	256-P	C-DOT
8.	Dhubri	Bilasipara	256-P	C-DOT
9.	Dhubri	Bogribari	256-P	C-DOT
10.	Dhubri	Gaunpur	256-P	C-DOT
11.	Dibrugarh	Kharupetia	328	C-DOT
12.	Dibrugarh	Moranghat	400	C-DOT
13.	Dibrugarh	Naharkatia	112	C-DOT
14.	Golaghat	Barpathar	256-P	C-DOT
15.	Golaghat	Sarupathar	256-P	C-DOT
16.	Hailakandialgapur		256-P	C-DOT
17.	Hailakandilala		400	C-DOT
18.	Jorhat	Kamalabari	256-P	C-DOT
19.	Kamrup	Panlaazar (GH)	2000	E-10B
20.	Kamrup	Rangia	608	C-DOT
21.	Kamrup	Ulubati	3000	RLU-E-10B
22.	Karimganj	Bazarghat	256-P	C-DOT
23.	Karimganj	Bazric-herra	256-P	C-DOT
24.	Karimganj	Braigram	256-P	C-DOT
25.	Karimganj	Nilambazar	256-P	C-DOT
26.	Morigaon	Moirabari	256-P	C-DOT
27.	Nagaon	Dhing	256-P	C-DOT
28.	Nagaon	Lanka	568	C-DOT
29.	Nagaon	Lumding	568	C-DOT
30.	Nagaon	Purani Godam	256-P	C-DOT
31.	Nalbari	Barama	256-P	C-DOT
32.	North Lakh	Bihpuria	256-P	C-DOT
33.	Sibsagar	Sonari	312	C-DOT
34.	Sonitpur	Dhekiajuli	448	C-DOT
35.	Sonitpur	Gorai Mari	256-P	C-DOT
36.	Tinsukia	Chapakhowa	256-P	C-DOT
37.	Tinsukia	Ledo	256-P	C-DOT

B. Proposed conversion of Electro-Mechanical Exchanges in Assam during 1997-98

Sl. No.	District	Location	Present Exch. Capacity Type	Proposed Capacity Type
1.	Kamrup	Rangia	200 MAX -II	1000 C-DOT
2.	Kamrup	Panbazar (GH)	4800 MAX-I	1000 E-10B Expansion and RLU's

With above conversions, all the telephone exchanges will be electronic.

Operational and Supervisory Manpower at New Delhi Railway Station

3746. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of operational and supervisory manpower sanctioned and available for maintenance of hygienic, sanitary; and cleanliness jobs at the New Delhi Railway Station;

(b) whether the Government are aware about bad and deplorable hygienic, sanitary and cleanliness conditions at almost all the platforms and on the railway lines of the New Delhi Railway Station; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The position is as given below :

Posts	Sanctioned strength	On roll
Sr. Chief Health Inspector	1	1
Sr. Health inspector	2	2
Health inspector	2	2
Safaiwalas	307	295

(b) and (c) To ensure proper cleanliness of New Delhi station, Commercial supervisors have been nominated and given specific areas for ensuring proper cleanliness of the platforms and railway lines. Divisional officers have been nominated to visit the station and monitor the cleanliness of the platforms and railway lines. A special cleanliness drive has also been launched with effect from 1.8.1997.

Reduction of Share of U.P.

3747. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of Uttar Pradesh from Central Sector

Power projects of Unchahar Thermal and Narora Atomic Power has been reduced by the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested the Union Government to restore the original share from the above projects;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(e) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has also requested the Union Government to give more power from Central Projects; and

(f) if so, the response of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) Government has decided that power supply to State Electricity Boards from Central Power Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) should be against advance payment or irrevocable Letter of Credit (LC). Due to failure on part of UPSEB to raise the Letter of Credit amount commensurate with the energy drawn from CPSUs. even after repeated requests made by the CEA and CPSUs, the allocation of U.P. in Unchahar Thermal Power Station and Narora Atomic Power Station was reduced in accordance to the LC amount.

(e) and (f) Uttar Pradesh has been allocated 15% of power from the unallocated power of the Central Sector Stations in the Northern Region. There has been no request for enhancement from this unallocated quota since then.

Mines closed in Madhya Pradesh

3748. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mines lying closed in Madhya Pradesh at present;

(b) whether the Government have taken any measures to reopen these mines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these mines are likely to be reopened?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) Mines may have to be closed by the lessee on techno-economic considerations. However, the question of closure of mines recently came up as a sequel to the interim order dated 12.12.96 of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 and Writ Petition (Civil) No. 171/96 As per the said order of Hon'ble Supreme Court, all ongoing activity within any forest in any State throughout the country, without the prior approval of the Central Govt., must cease forthwith. As per the information available, one mine was ordered to be

closed in Madhya Pradesh in pursuance to the interim orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court referred to above.

The Central Government after obtaining the opinion of learned Attorney General of India, issued suitable instructions to all the State Governments. Further, Hon'ble Supreme Court has resolved the issue regarding Forest clearances concerning mining vide orders dated 4.3.97 as per which the State Governments shall forward all complete pending applications within a period of 2 weeks to the Central Government for requisite decisions and applications received (or completed) hereafter would be forwarded within two weeks of their being received. Further the Central Government shall dispose of all such applications within six weeks of their being received. Where the grant of final forest clearance is delayed, the Central Government may consider the grant of working permissions as per existing practice.

[Translation]

Damage of Madan Mahal Reservation Centre due to Earthquake

3749. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAY be please to state :

(a) whether as a result of earthquake on May 22, 1997 Madan Mahal Reservation Centre of Central Railways has been damaged and since then it has not been repaired;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether heavy rush on reservation centre of Jabalpur railway station leads to manhandling among the passengers;

(d) if so, whether touts are also active for reservation and there is no GRP personnel on reservation centre to remove the difficulties of the passengers and the officers on these reservation centre also do not show any interest in this matter; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the earthquake, Madan Mahal Station Building has been damaged very badly. The Building requires to be re-built.

(c) No complaint regarding man-handling among the passenger has been received.

(d) and (e) GRP/RPF personnel are regularly deployed in Reservation Office to ensure proper queue. Regular checks are being conducted by the Railway Officers with the help of RPF & GRP to ensure that there is no tout and nefarious activity in the reservation office.

Private Security Personnel

3750. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the T.D.Ms. are entitled to appoint private Security Personnel;

(b) if not, whether a number of Security personnel are appointed by District Manager in Bareilly telecommunications office from July 1, 1996 to till date; and

(c) if so, the reasons for these appointments?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) No Private Security Personnel has been appointed by Telecom/District Manager, Bareilly from July 1, 1996 to till Date. However, Security jobs have been assigned to UP Sainik Kalyan Board, a U.P. Government Agency to guard all important Telecom, installations and assets in SSA Bareilly.

(c) Not applicable, in view of (b) above.

Waiting List for Telephone in Haryana

3751. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants on the waiting list for telephone connections in Haryana, district-wise;

(b) the duration with—in which the telephone connection is installed at the application and depositing the security money;

(c) the number of existing telephone connections at present and the number out of them functioning smoothly and the percentage of those lying out of order and the duration in which the out of order telephones are repaired, district-wise; and

(d) the number of telephone connection provided during 1996 and the target fixed in this regard for the year 1997, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Number of persons on the waiting list as on 31.7.1997 are as per the Statement - I enclosed.

(b) The average duration for provision of telephone connection, category wise, is as follows :

Category	Duration
Tatkal	15 days
OYT	1-6 months
Non-OYT (G)	1-2 Years.

However, expansion plans for Haryana have been worked out and efforts are being made to provide telephone early.

Presently after issue of work order, subject to technical feasibility, telephone are generally provided within 15 days.

(c) The information is being collected from the field units and will be placed on the table of the House.

(d) Telephone connections provided during 1996-97 and target fixed for 1997-98 are as per the Statement II enclosed.

Statement - I

Sl. No.	Name of Districts	Waiting List as on 31.7.97
1.	Sonepat	5,477
2.	Jind	2,086
3.	Rewari	3,379
4.	Mohindergarh	1,642
5.	Ambala	5,106
6.	Yamunanagar	4,131
7.	Panchkula	1,844
8.	Karnal	9,271
9.	Panipat	7,954
10.	Kaithal	4,074
11.	Kurukshetra	7,156
12.	Rohtak	3,119
13.	Bhiwani	3,902
14.	Faridabad	17,110
15.	Gurgaon	13,163
16.	Hissar	6,010
17.	Sirsa	4,807

Statement - II

Sl. No.	Name of Districts	Telephone Provided Connections During 1996-97	Target for Telephone Connections for 1997-98
1	2	3	4
1.	Sonepat	4,310	4,700
2.	Jind	1,788	1,900
3.	Rewari	411	1,500
4.	Mohindergarh	201	1,000
5.	Ambala	7,100	5,000
6.	Yamunanagar	4,050	3,000
7.	Panchkula	185	1,900
8.	Karnal	3,247	4,500

1	2	3	4
9.	Panipat	3,808	4,500
10.	Kaithal	1,600	3,300
11.	Kurukshetra	3,845	4,000
12.	Rohtak	4,594	4,000
13.	Bhiwani	3,913	2,800
14.	Faridabad	5,359	13,000
15.	Gurgaon	7,589	6,000
16.	Hissar	4,618	7,000
17.	Sirsa	4,182	4,900

[English]

Transit Facilities

3752. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of various irregularities being practiced and rampant corruption prevalent in Retiring Rooms, Guest Houses for transit facilities for the tourists at various locations;

(b) if so, the steps taken for upgrading these facilities and operating them efficiently;

(c) whether the Government are considering upward revision of rates for Railways accommodation for passengers/tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) A few complaints have been received about Retiring Rooms, Guest Houses are not available on Railways.

(b) The functioning of Retiring Rooms at stations are closely monitored. The facilities available in Retiring Rooms are improved from time to time by ensuring proper maintenance, replacement of old furniture by new ones in phased manner, supply of clean and good quality of linen etc.

(c) and (d) The charges of Retiring Rooms are revised periodically.

Acute Power Shortage in Kerala

3753. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :
SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Kerala is facing acute power shortage and solely depending upon hydro electric projects;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the 'Naphtha' allotted to Kerala is insufficient to meet the fuel requirements of thermal projects;

(c) whether the Government consider to enhance the Naphtha allotment;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government consider to enhance the allotment of diesel to Brahmpuram Power Project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The power supply position in Kerala during April to July, 1997, is given below :

Energy	April, 97-July, 97
Requirement	3775 MU
Availability	2749 MU
Shortage	1026 MU
% Shortage	27.2%

Kerala's generation is hydro based and due to delayed monsoon this year, there was steep decline in the state's hydro generation. Keeping in view the acute power shortage in the state, the Government of India increased the allocation from 30% to 50% w.e.f. 12-6-1997 and further 50% to 65% w.e.f. 1-7-1997 from the unallocated Central quota. The State has also share of 414.5 MW power from the Central sector generating stations in the Southern region.

(b) to (d) The request of Government of Kerala for enhancing the naphtha allocation is under examination.

(e) and (f) Fuel linkage for Brahmapuram diesel power plant of Kerala has been issued on 17-7-1997.

Joint Venture for Finance

3754. SHRI L. RAMANA :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether NTPC propose to enter into joint venture with Haryana Electricity Board to promote two major power projects at Faridabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this is the first projects likely to be developed by NTPC in conjugation with State;

(d) if so, the capacity of the present project and projects

likely to be taken up in future;

(e) whether more projects are likely to be entered into with States especially Andhra Pradesh by NTPC; and

(f) the extent of such joint ventures are likely to help the speedy execution of power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) Government of India have accorded investment approval to set up Faridabad Gas Power Project in a capacity range of 330 to 430 MW in Haryana by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) at an estimated cost of Rs. 1163.60 crores. The ultimate responsibility for implementing the project will be entrusted to a subsidiary company by NTPC in which Haryana/HSEB is expected to have a share holding.

(e) and (f) Investment approval has also been accorded for the setting up the Simhadri Thermal Power Project (1000 MW) in Vishakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh by NTPC. This project will also be implemented by a subsidiary company of NTPC with a share holding by Government of Andhra Pradesh/APSEB. It is expected that such collaborative efforts between NTRC and the State Governments/their SEBs will help in adding greater new generating capacity in the country.

[Translation]

Reserved Quota for Berths and Seats

3755. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any reserved quota for berths and seats from Botad and Dhola junction railway stations of Bhavnagar district for Mumbai and Delhi;

(b) if so, the reserved quota of berths and seats from the above stations;

(c) whether the reserved quota of berths and seats is very less; and

(d) if so, the time by which the quota of berths and seats is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) The reservation quotas available at Botad and Dhola for Mumbai and Delhi by various trains are as under:

Train No.	Class	Botad	Dhola
2902	Sleeper	1	-
9006	Sleeper	6	2
9108	Sleeper	3	-
9102	2nd Seat	-	4
2934	2nd Seat	2	-
9105	Sleeper	2	-
2916	Sleeper	2	-

An analysis of utilisation of the existing quota has revealed that the same is adequate to cater to the present level of traffic. As such, there is no proposal to enhance the quota. At Dhola, there is no quota in trains towards Delhi and due to meagre sale of tickets, there is no proposal to allot any outstation quota at this station in trains towards Delhi.

[English]

Suspension of Operation of Ropeway

3756. SHRI BASU DEV ACHARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the operation of ropeway between Chasnala Colony and Steel Plants of Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited has been suspended for the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-start the operation; and

(d) if so, the time by which the operation is likely to be re-started?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The operation of Ropeway between Chasnala and Burnpur was stopped from 16.1.1997 as it has become highly unsafe.

(c) and (d) The matter is under examination in the Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited.

12.01 Hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Review of the work by the Govt. of the Allahabad Museum Society for the year 1995-96, etc.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : On behalf of Shri S.R. Bommai, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) by the Government of the working of the Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad for the Year 1995-96.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. - 2346/97]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Museum, Calcutta for the year 1995-96.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. - 2347/97]

Annual Reports, Audited Accounts and Review by the Govt. of the working of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida, etc.

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Waterways Authority of India, Noida, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida, for the year 1995-96.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. - 2348/97]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act. 1963 :

(i) G.S.R. 132(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 1997 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 891 (E) dated the 24th November 1992.

(ii) G.S.R. 159(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1997 approving the Madras Port Trust (Leave) (Amendment) Regulations, 1997.

(iii) G.S.R. 222(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 1997 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 568 (E) dated the 23rd August, 1993.

(iv) G.S.R. 274(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 1997 approving the Mormugao Port Employees (Leave) (Amendment) Regulations, 1997.

(v) G.S.R. 279(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 1997 approving the Amendments to the New Mangalore Port Trust (Welfare Fund) Regulations, 1997.

- (vi) G.S.R. 319 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 1997 approving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Contributory Medical benefit after retirement) Regulations, 1997.
- (vii) G.S.R. 313 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 1997 approving the Calcutta Port Trust Employees (Haldia Dock Complex) (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1997.
- (viii) G.S.R. 320 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 1997 approving the Mormugao Port Employees (Grant of advances for purchase of conveyances) (Amendment) Regulation, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2349/97]

Notification under Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings, (Act, 1970 and 1980, etc.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : On behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act. 1970 and 1980 :

- (i) The Punjab National Bank Officer Employees (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations. 1997 published in Notification No. PNB/DAC/P/2/97 in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 1997.
- (ii) The Andhra Bank (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations. 1997 published in Notification No. 6663/AI/1318 in Gazette of India dated the 25 April, 1997.
- (iii) The Bank of Maharashtra (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations. 1996 published in Notification No. AXI/ST/OSC/14046/96 in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 1996.
- (iv) The Indian Overseas Bank (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations. 1996 published in Notification No. PAD/177 in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 1996.
- (v) The Indian Overseas Bank (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations. 1996 published in Notification No. PAD/177 in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 1996.
- (vi) The Imperial Bank of India Employee's Pension and Guarantee Fund (Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notifications No. CDO/ADM/SPL/7596 in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 1997.

- (vii) The State Bank of India Employee's' Pension Fund (Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notifications No. CDO/ADM/SPL/7597 in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 1997.
- (viii) The Union Bank of India Officer Employees (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No.3(f)/20-12-96 in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 1997.
- (ix) The Syndicate Bank (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No. 2367/0089/S/PD : IRD(O) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd November, 1996
- (x) The Allahabad Bank (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1986 published in Notification No. HO/Legal/0938 in Gazette of India dated the 25 January, 1997.
- (xi) The Allahabad Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulation, 1996 published in Notification No. HO Legal/1236 in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 1997.

[Placed Library. See No. LT - 2350/97]

Annual Report and Review by the Govt. of the working of the Birds Jute and Exports Ltd., Calcutta. for the year 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): On behalf of Shri R.L. Jalappa, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act. 1960:

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Calcutta. for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Controller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2351/97]

- (b) (i) A Review by the Government of the working of the National Jute Manufacturs Corporation Limited, Calcutta for the year 1994-95.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, Calcutta for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Controller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two statements (Hindi and English version) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed Library. See No. LT - 2352/97]

Annual Report and Review by the Govt. of the working of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies for the Year 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies (Volume I and II), for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies (Volume- I and II), for the year 1995-96.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed Library. See No. LT - 2353/97]

Annual Reports and Review by the Govt. of the working of the Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Ltd. for the year 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2354/97]

(3) (i) A statement (Hindi and English versions) correcting the reply given on the 24th July, 1997 to Unstarred Question No. 380 by Shri Suresh Prabhu, T. Subbarami Reddy, G.A. Charan Reddy, R. Sambasiva Rao and Yelliah Nandi, M.P.s regarding setting up of Power Projects with German Assistance and (ii) the reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2355/97]

Memorandum of Understanding between Education Consultants India Ltd. and Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development for 1996-97 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions)

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between Education Consultants India Ltd. and the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2356/97]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between Education Consultants India Ltd. and Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development for 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2357/97]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2358/97]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Book Trust, India, New Delhi for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English Versions) by the Government of the working of the National Book Trust, India New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2359/97]

Notifications Under Finance Act, 1994 etc.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): On behalf of Shri Satpal Maharaj, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following Notification's (Hindi and English versions) under, sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act 1994:

- (i) The Service Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 316 (E)

- in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) The Service Tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 316 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) G.S.R. 347 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt service tax leviable on an amount equivalent to forty percent of the gross amount charged from the client by the mandap keeper for the services rendered by him in case where the mandap keeper also provides catering services and the bill issued to the keeper also provides catering services and the bill issued to the client indicates that it is inclusive of charges for such service.
- (iv) G.S.R. 348 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from the levy of service tax any amount in excess of the commission received by the air travel agent from the airline for booking of passage for travel by air.
- (v) The Service Tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 358 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vi) G.S.R. 359 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt for the levy of service tax leviable service rendered by a consulting engineer to a client in respect of any project based in a foreign country provided the charges for the same are received in convertible foreign exchange.
- (vii) The Service Tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 386 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2360/97]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 88 of the Finance Act, 1997 :

- (i) G.S.R. 315 (E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to bring into force the provisions of section 88 of the Finance Act, 1997 with effect from the 15th June, 1997 subject to certain specified conditions.

- (ii) G.S.R. 345 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to bring into force with effect from the 1st July, 1997 the service tax on the taxable services, provided by an air travel agent and a mandap keeper.
- (iii) G.S.R. 357 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to bring into force with effect from the 1st July, 1997 the service tax on the taxable services, provided by the consulting engineer and a manpower recruitment agency.
- (iv) G.S.R. 385 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum appointing the 16th July, 1997, as the date on which the service tax on the taxable services, come into force

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2361/97]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:

- (i) G.S.R. 349 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 11/97 -Cus., dated the 1st March, 1997 so as to prescribe concessional rates of customs duty on various goods specified therein.
- (ii) G.S.R. 250(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 13/97 -Cus., dated the 1st March, 1997.
- (iii) G.S.R. 276 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt petroleum crude during the period 23rd July, 1996 to 25th May 1997, from so much of the additional duty of customs as is equal to the cess leviable on domestically produced petroleum crude.
- (iv) G.S.R. 322 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13 July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 11/97-Cus., dated the 1st March, 1997.
- (v) G.S.R. 373(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th July 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 11/97 -Cus., dated the 1st March, 1997
- (vi) G.S.R. 272 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to allow duty free import of gold, gold findings, mountings or

solders under Exim Policy and also to rescind the Notification No. 182/92-Cus., dated the 6th May, 1992.

- (vii) G.S.R. 302 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods mentioned in the table therein when imported into India from the whole of the basic and additional duties of Customs leviable thereon subject to certain conditions.
- (viii) G.S.R. 360 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notifications mentioned therein.
- (ix) G.S.R. 261 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th May 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to almonds from the whole of special duty of custom leviable thereon.
- (x) G.S.R. 262 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding the Notification No. 20/97 -Cus. dated the 1st March, 1997.
- (xi) G.S.R. 333 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th June, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on the specified catalysts, originating in or exported from Denmark at the rates specified therein depending upon whether the goods are imported under Project Imports.
- (xii) G.S.R. 269(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 11/97 -Cus. dated the 1st March, 1997.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 402 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 11/97 -Cus. dated the 1st March, 1997.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 260 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 42/96 -Cus. dated the 23rd July, 1996 so as to notify Urban Distribution Development projects of Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board in Hyderabad and Tirupati towns as projects of national importance so as to extend concessional project assessment rate for import of equipment, machinery etc. for the projects.

(4) A Copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:

- (i) The Central Excise (Third Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 239 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 1997, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) G.S.R. 314 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 4/97-CE, dated the 1st March, 1997.
- (iii) G.S.R. 329 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the provisions of section 4A of the Central Excise Act, 1944 to cosmetics and toiletries with effect from 1st July, 1997.
- (iv) G.S.R. 330 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide fifty percent of the retail sale price as abatement for the purposes of determining the assessable value on which excise duty in respect of cosmetics and toiletries is payable.
- (v) G.S.R. 334 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th June, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 140/83-CE, dated the 5th May, 1983.
- (vi) G.S.R. 356 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt strips of cupro-nickel and aluminium magnesium when manufactured on job work basis out of wasted and scrap cleared from an India Government Mint.
- (vii) G.S.R. 244 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing concessional rates of Excise duty on various goods specified therein.
- (viii) G.S.R. 245(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the benefit of SSI exemption scheme to uncut grey woven **welt** pile fabrics of cotton manufactured from unprocessed cotton yarn.
- (ix) G.S.R. 246 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt specify goods from the so much of duty of excise leviable thereon as is in excess of the amount of

duty calculated on the value equivalent to fifty per cent of the maximum retail price declared on the package in which such goods are sold in retail.

- (x) G.S.R. 247 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt additional duty of excise on chewing tobacco.
- (xi) G.S.R. 248 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to reduce excise duty on fruit juice based drinks.
- (xii) G.S.R. 263 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 4/97-CE, dated the 1st March, 1997
- (xiii) G.S.R. 264 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding two Notification memorandum therein.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 389 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 1997 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 145 (E) dated the 12th March, 1997.
- (xv) The Central Excise (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 376(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 394 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 1997 notifying the Central Excise (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1997 to come into force on the 16th July, 1997.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 437 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding four notifications dated the 25th July, 1997 mentioned therein.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 438 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing with effect from the 1st August, 1997, a rate of Rs. 750 per metric tonne of the annual capacity of production as the duty of excise chargeable on specified ingots and billets of non-alloy steel.
- (xix) G.S.R. 439 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing with effect from the 1st August, 1997, a rate of Rs. 400 per metric tonne of the annual capacity of production as the duty of excise chargeable on specified ingots and billets of non-alloy steel.
- (xx) G.S.R. 440 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt waste and scrap arising during the manufacture of ingots and billets in an induction furnace unit and hot re-rolled products in a hot re-rolling mill when such units pay duty of excise.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 441 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe certain specific rates of duty on manufacture of ingots and billets in an induction furnace unit and hot re-rolled products in a hot re-rolling mill.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 442 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the notification No. 38/97-CE, dated the 27th June, 1997.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 443 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 16/97-CE, dated the 1st April, 1997;
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 444 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind five notifications dated the 25th July, 1997 mentioned therein.
- (xxv) G.S.R. 445 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying with effect from the 1st August, 1997, ingots and billets of non-alloy steel so as to enable collection of excise duty on these ingots and billets on the basis of the annual capacity of the factory manufacturing.
- (xxvi) G.S.R. 446 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying with effect from the 1st August, 1997, specified hot re-rolled products of non-alloy steel so as to enable collection of excise duty on these products on the basis of the annual capacity of production of the factory manufacturing.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 449 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 5/94-CE, dated the 1st March, 1994.
- (xxviii) The Hot Re-rolling Steel Mills Annual Capacity Determination Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 447 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1997 together with explanatory memorandum.

(xxix) The Central Excise (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 448(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2363/97]

(5) A copy of the Customs Tariff (Identification and Assessment of safeguard Duty) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 428(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum, under sub-section (7) of section 8B of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2364/97]

(6) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:

- (i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) Amendment Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No. S.O. 327(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 1997.
- (ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Institutional Investors) (Second Amendment) Regulation, 1997 published in Notification No. S.O. 495(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2365/97]

(7) A copy of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Amendment) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 328(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 1997 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 405(E) dated the 25th July, 1997 under sub-section (3) of section 36 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial institutions Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 2366/97]

12.03 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Committee on Absence of Member's from the sittings of the House in their Fourth Report presented to the House on 13 August, 1997 have recommended that leave of absence from the sittings of the House be granted to the following Members for the period mentioned against each:

1. Shri S.D.N.R. Wadiyar 30.4.97 to 16.5.97
2. Shri G. Mallikarjunappa 21.4.97 and 22.4.97,
and 30.4.97 to 16.5.97
3. Shri Anant Kumar Hegde 23.7.97 to 14.8.97

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

12.03 ¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

[English]

SHRI SURAJ BHAN (Ambala) : I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Tenth and Eleventh sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current session.

1203½ hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Eighth Report

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : I beg to present the Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions, of the Estimates Committee on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Forty-Ninth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) - Customs Clearance at International Airports.

12.3 ¾ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Fifteenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Sir I beg to present the Fifteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee on Irregular expenditure on local insulation of G.I. Wire.

12.04 Hrs.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL

Report

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : I beg to present the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Select Committee on the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

12.04¼ hrs.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL

Evidence*[English]*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : I beg to lay on the Table the record of evidence tendered before the Select Committee on the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

12.04½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

Thirtieth Report*[English]*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : I beg to lay the Thirtieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism on Functioning of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air.

12.04¾ hrs.

MOTION RE : SIXTEENTH REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Sixteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 13th August, 1997".

MR. SPEAKER : The Question is:

"That this House do agree with the Sixteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 13th August, 1997."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now the question is whether we should take up Zero Hour or not.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : We must have the Zero Hour today.. *(Interruption)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : What about the statement by the Home Minister? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, let us first take up Item No. 18 and then my submission on Item No. 21... *(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER : Will the hon. Home Minister read it? Or, he can place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, let it be read.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. Yes, Mr. Home Minister.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It will be taken up after the Home Minister makes his statements

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is about abduction of Sanjay Ghosh, a social worker in Assam

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that I will allow you .

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will allow you today. Let the hon. Minister first make the Statement.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to speak. We are sitting here at least upto 6 o'clock.

12.06 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER**RE : Abduction of Sanjoy Ghosh — A Social Worker in Assam***[English]*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with our permission, I would like to

make the following statement regarding abduction of Shri Sanjoy Ghosh, a social worker in Assam.

On July 4, Shri Sanjoy Ghosh, the General Secretary AVARD-NE accompanied by Chandan Doley (member of AVARD) went to Makhлагаon at 10 a.m. as per invitation of the Jubak Sangha, Makhigaon in Majuli, a riverine Island of the Brahmaputra river under the Jorhat district in Assam. Both of them were kidnapped there by armed miscreants on that day. On getting this information, the police immediately swung into action to trace out the abducted persons. However, Chandan Doley, who managed to escape from the clutches of his kidnapers appeared at the Nematighat outpost on 6.7.1997 and reported the matter.

While efforts were on to trace out the abducted Sanjoy Ghosh, the Commander-in Chief of ULFA, Paresh Barua came out with a statement on 9.7.1997 which appeared in the newspapers dated 10.7.1997 claiming that ULFA had arrested Sanjoy Ghosh for being a member of RAW and that he is in their custody. Further, it claimed that they will try and punish him accordingly. On the night of 22.7.1997, ULFA issued a statement which appeared in various newspapers of 23.7.1997 wherein they claimed that Sanjoy Ghosh and two ULFA cadres namely (i) Rupsing Timong and (ii) Kalyan Deori who were escorting him were drowned in the river Brahmaputra when their canoes capsized because of the current of the river on the 8th July, 1997. However, again on 23.7.1997, another press release purported to have been issued by the Publicity secretary of ULFA appeared in newspapers dated 24.7.1997 wherein they stated that Sanjoy Ghosh was alive and very much in their captivity. This led to serious public misgivings and there was genuine apprehensions that Sanjoy Ghosh might have been killed by ULFA while in their custody during the first few days of his abduction and the ULFA was trying to cover the above incident by fabricating different stories for public consumption. The public misgivings and confusion were further complicated by a second press release issued and signed by Mithinga Daimary, Publicity Secretary which was in Assamese language, published in local newspapers dated 24.7.1997 indicating that Sanjoy Ghosh was safe and sound and was very much alive in the custody of ULFA. This was followed by another press statement issued by Paresh Barua, Commander-in-Chief and published in the local dailies that Sanjoy Ghosh would be released provided the following conditions are fulfilled:-

(a) AVARD-NE would wind up all its activities in Majuli and in the State of Assam and would leave Assam for good.

(b) It should seek public apology to the people of Assam for injuring their sentiments.

(c) All operations by security forces shall have to be suspended and if he dies in an encounter, then ULFA will not be responsible for that.

(d) If the above conditions are fulfilled, Sanjoy Ghosh will be released and handed over to a foreign organisation.

In compliance with this, the AVARD-NE wound up their activities and left Assam begging apology to the people of

Assam. At the specific request of the family members of Shri Sanjoy Ghosh, Government decided that the security forces or the police should not take any action in connection with the release of Shri Sanjoy Ghosh since any such action could have jeopardised his life. It was also agreed that some representatives of International Commission for Red Cross based in Delhi could get in touch with the abductors for securing the release of Sanjoy Ghosh, as desired by the family. Since there were some newspaper reports that Government had put certain conditions to ULFA for the release of Sanjoy Ghosh, a press release from the Government was issued on 5.8.1997 clarifying that there is no truth in the press reports and that responding to an appeal from Shri Ghosh's family, the Government have decided not to intervene in any manner with regard to his release, as it is being negotiated directly by the family. However, after fulfillment of all conditions and amidst expectation of his imminent release, a press release purported to have been issued by Publicity Secretary of ULFA on the night of 6.8.1997 appeared in local newspapers on 7.8.1997 stating that Sanjoy Ghosh while trying to escape from their captivity have fallen from a hill in Arunachal Pradesh and died. The press release is silent about his dead body or as to how it is being disposed of ULFA activist Tulen Baruah s/o Nityananda Baruah of Garmur Kharjan, Na-Satra, Police Station Majuli, District Jorhat, who has been arrested in this connection admitted his involvement in the abduction and stated that ULFA activist Phatik Hatomota and Siraj Bora abducted Sanjoy Ghosh Chandan Doley. Subsequently, ULFA activists (i) Bhaskar Barua, (ii) Arup Barua, (iii) Pradip Baruah, (iv) Phatik Hatimota and (v) Siraj Bora took Sanjoy Ghosh to a place called Sikarighat to shift him in a boat. During his interrogation Tulun Baruah further revealed that while Ghosh was in their custody he was killed by ULFA in Majuli itself, contrary of the claims made in the above press release.

Hon. Members would kindly note that in kidnapping cases it is very essential that no undue publicity is given and that matters are handled very cautiously since any wrong moves on the part of the Government or the security forces could jeopardise the life of the kidnapped person. In all such cases, the guiding principle is that preservation of the life of the kidnapped person is given the top most priority. Government have followed this very principle and various functionaries in the Government have been in touch with the family continuously and respected the wishes of the family in this regard.

It is unfortunate that in spite of appeals from various voluntary organisations and human rights organisations from around the world and appeals from eminent persons like Mother Teresa, ULFA not only did not release Sanjoy Ghosh as promised but definitely created great confusion about his life and death. Sanjoy Ghosh has obviously done some excellent development work in Majuli Islands as is evident from the tremendous support he has received from the local community. The actions of ULFA are a naked attack on democracy, civil society and people's rights to organise themselves for their own betterment. The Government of India strongly condemns this dastardly act of ULFA. The State Government has been advised to follow up the investigations in the case already registered diligently.

Notwithstanding what I have already said, I would like to point out that since the dead body of Shri Sanjoy Ghosh has not been recovered so far, in the strict legal sense, we cannot declare that he is dead.

[English]

SHRI KASHI RANA (Surat) : Sir, it is very important. All the non-MPs from Gujarat(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Sir, is it Bihar hour or is it Zero Hour.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Please see to it that Zero Hour is there.

SHRI A.C. JOS : We want no more of Bihar. We have had enough of Bihar.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : We want Zero Hour. Every day, we are talking only about Bihar. How long would we fight for Bihar?

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : The Home Minister is present here. He should direct the State Government that injustice being meted out to Phoolan Devi be stopped. She is Member of the Lok Sabha. All the past cases standing against were withdrawn when Mulayam Singhji was the Chief Minister. Despite that, even today she is being harassed. The people of the constituency from where she has been elected have given a clear mandate in her favour. Despite this, injustice is being meted out to her. She is sitting outside the Gate. At present the Home Minister is present here. You should ask him to give such direction so as to see that injustice is not meted out to her.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : When in distress, there is no one to come to your rescue. Phoolan Devi is sitting outside the door to express her grievances. It is our duty because on the one hand we talk of women's reservation and are celebrating fiftieth anniversary of Independence and on the other hand atrocities are being committed against women. When dacoits surrendered in 1962 and 1972, the Government stated that their cases would be settled in eight years. Cases of several dacoits who surrendered in 1962 and 1972 have been settled but her case could not be settled. Whatever she committed that time, Mayawatiiji wants to raise those crimes afresh.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have made your point.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : I want to say that we should hear her. If somebody wants to become a good citizen then he should be accepted.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North-East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Phoolan Devi is an honourable member of this House. She is sitting outside, she must come inside. When Mulayam Singhji was the Chief Minister, he had withdrawn the cases filed against Phoolan Devi. As far as I know, as per law if Chief Minister or Home Minister withdraws a case and a Court refuses to withdraw it, then, no Government can do anything in such a situation. The Court has opposed this withdrawal. B.S.P. and BJP Governments have nothing to do with it....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have made it clear.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : Pramod Mahajanji has mentioned my name in the context of Phoolan Devi. We withdrew all cases and being a woman, on humanitarian ground.....(Interruptions) We are also not weak....(Interruptions) What is this?(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us listen to the hon. Minister.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : If they do(Interruptions) What will you do?....(Interruptions) What do you think? We are not such people who.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why can you not listen?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the hon. Minister.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why you cannot listen?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You need not have to do like this.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I want to say that we released Phoolan Devi on humanitarian grounds. Before this, several notorious dacoits of India have been released. They were totally acquitted in 3-5 years. Phoolan Devi remained imprisoned for eleven years continuously, she is a poor backward and weak woman and whatever has happened to her cannot be narrated here. The day these incidents occurred,

I was present on the spot. I knew that there is nobody to recommend her case, so we released her. It is a fact that after her release and taking legal opinion from the Ministry of Home Affairs, I sent this case to the Court. It is true that the Court said that it did not agree to our proposal. But, after that it was Government's duty to plead the case. The Government did not plead the case and the Court has tried to keep her involved by declaring that it will have no mercy on Phoolan Devi. Today Government's prosecutor are fighting this case in the Supreme Court and High Court. Uttar Pradesh Government should plead her case. It has been the practice that when a Chief Minister or Government takes a decision, it is implemented. Phoolan Devi is the daughter of a 'Mallah' and many cruelties have been committed against her. The BJP people should have sympathy for her but I want to say that the Chief Minister in the Government may do any thing but BJP people, at least from humanitarian view point, should not oppose her because their share in the Government is bigger. BJP has 175 legislators and the BSP 66 legislators. If such thing happens, BJP will be responsible for it causing atrocities and injustice against Phoolan Devi. They should plead her case both in High Court and Supreme Court.

So far as we are concerned, personally I will plead her case and engage eminent lawyer but the Government is harassing her and today she cannot move in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you have made your point. It is enough.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : She cannot go to her own area. Mr. Speaker, Sir, from your side also some solution can be explored so that the Uttar Pradesh Government may plead her case. Had it pleaded her case, such misconduct or atrocities would not have been committed on her.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. It is quite right. First of all, let me make it clear that we have full sympathy with Phoolan Devi and we support the decision of Uttar Pradesh Government to withdraw the cases against her. But it would not be fair to blame Uttar Pradesh Government. I have no objection if this House enacts a law to withdraw all cases against Phoolan Devi. But the Court has its role in this regard. In 1994, the Uttar Pradesh Government withdrew all the cases(Interruptions) the then Government of Uttar Pradesh withdrew all the cases but the Kanpur Court did not uphold it(Interruptions). Thereafter, the Uttar Pradesh Government moved the High Court but the High Court rejected the appeal of the Uttar Pradesh Government. Hence, it would be unfair to blame the Uttar Pradesh Government. We have full sympathy with Phoolan Devi. We have no objection to whatever the decision this House takes in respect of Phoolan Devi(Interruptions) levelling charges in unfair....(Interruptions) For the political considerations and gains, sympathizing with Phoolan Devi....(Interruptions). Now they are sympathizing with Phoolan Devi....(Interruptions). We have all sympathy with Phoolan Devi. But it is unfair to blame Uttar Pradesh Government for the Court Case....(Interruptions) political

considerations are behind it. It is all for the political mileage. It is being done for the exploitation of the sentiments of a particular community....(Interruptions) Uttar Pradesh Government is being made a party. I am against this move. I am not against Phoolan Devi....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We have discussed this enough. The hon. Home Minister is here I am sure that he has taken note of the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members from different sections. We should close the matter now.

Let us give a chance to other hon. Members now. We will give a chance to all the hon. Members. Please wait patiently.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I said that everybody would get a chance. Unless you be patient, you would not get a chance. Everybody will speak; but please take not more than two minutes each.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (Amreli) : Sir, about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.....(Interruptions)

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA (Surat) : Sir, Government of India have decided to honour our national leaders S/Shri Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru and Subhash Chandra Bose on the occasion of Golden Jubilee Celebration of our Independence. We want that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel should also be honoured like these three leaders, but his name has been deliberately excluded from the list, which has caused great anguish among the people of Gujarat. Not only in Gujarat...(Interruptions) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down Shri Rana, I will allow you.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to express your sentiments.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : When our country got freedom Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was considered to be a potential candidate for the Prime Ministership. Most of the then Congressmen had favoured Sardar Patel to be the Prime Minister of the country. Majority of the people had favoured him but as the luck would have it, he could not become the Prime Minister. I urge the Government that keeping in view the contribution made by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for the unity and integrity of this country, he should also be honoured the way Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru and Subhash Chandra Bose are going to be honoured....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you worried? They are expressing their sentiments. They have every right to express their sentiments.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : The name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel should figure along with the names of these three leaders. While we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence, the role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel during the freedom struggle and his contribution in the post independence period should be highlighted throughout the country. I request you to direct the Government to honour Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebration. This is my submission to you and this is in the interest of this nation ... (Interruptions)

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the House is unanimous on the issue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The entire House is concerned over this issue.... (Interruptions) Those who are opposed to it may rise..... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Sir, the issue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is being discussed all over the country.... (Interruptions) Sardar Patelji, Dr. Rajender Prasad, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, all these people are being ignored (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rana, I think you have made your point.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. This is a very vast country and we are also familiar with the language and dresses of this country. The freedom fighters got this country free from the shackles of mighty British empire wherein sun never set. It is a matter of pleasure that three great leaders are being honoured. They made great sacrifice. They were great leaders, I admit it. Mahatmaji derived his strength during the freedom struggle from the common people viz. farmers, who were his followers. He laid stress on the national unity and gave directions as to now this country could be run.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : Why does so happen every time?.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : You just listen to my point (Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Why is Sardar Patel forgotten every time on such occasions?.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : That is what I am telling (Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : You are speaking now, why did you not speak earlier?.... (Interruptions) This is your Government.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Let me speak.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : We would not allow you to speak. We want a reply from the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me finish. Shri Sharad Yadav, please conclude now.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Sardar Patel was among the eminent freedom fighters. I agree with him.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) The Government is yours.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Can I say nothing as a member of this House (Interruptions). I am saying it to the Government.... I would request the Government (Interruptions) The freedom struggle..... (Interruptions)

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : Today they have forgotten Sardar Patel.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not so.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel has played a vital role in the building modern India..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is enough. You do not have to give a long speech on that.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : The 1942 movement can be considered as the last phase of the freedom struggle and a turning point. Many eminent persons did not join the Government. The role of Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, Acharya Narendra Dev cannot be forgotten. They were the three illustrious leaders besides Sardar Patel who were torch bearers during the 1942 movement. They bravely fought during the last phase of the freedom struggle.... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir. By this time, you have heard the sentiments of the House. I sincerely submit

through you to the Government that since we are taking the names, I think, the name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel—he was responsible for annexation of States, for bringing the princely States into free India and also for guiding the spirit of bringing Hyderabad into India cannot be ignored. At the same time, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was the leading torch bearer of the destiny of the nation at that hour.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, it is enough.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Just one minute, please.

MR. SPEAKER : Enough, enough,

....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The name 'Mahatma' was given to Gandhiji. The name 'Netaji' was given to Subhas Chandra Bose.....(Interruptions) Who gave the name Mahatma? Who gave the name Netaji? Who gave the National Song?.....(Interruptions) I am surprised that Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's name is missing. This is something ridiculous. He left the Knighthood....(Interruptions) You cannot ignore the names of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Gurudev Robindranath Tagore.....(Interruptions) There are many names. I appeal to the Government to consider it with great respect.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : This Government is forgetting the eminent freedom fighters. The Government should say something in this regard.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is a matter of regret that though the Government of India is celebrating 50th Year of the Independence but it is not giving the rightful recognition to Shri Sardar Patel. The Government should admit this lapse and seek apology. In future whenever there is any celebration Sardar Patel should get a place immediately after Mahatma Gandhi. Besides the first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Lok Nayak Jayprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, Asaf Ali should also get their rightful place.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : Sir, I have also to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : That is enough.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Sir the Government should respond in this regard.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Shri Rajgopalachari, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Shri Jayprakash Narayan have played a vital role in our freedom movement and(Interruptions) therefore, their names should also be included. I would request you to take the opinion of the House in this matter and then decide.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, how shamelessly you are laughing when I am going to reply. There is a limit to it.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I fully respect the sentiments expressed here. The factual position is this.

We have a National Celebration committee headed by the Prime Minister. The working President of this Committee, I think, is the Minister of Human Resource Development and the whole matter, as to how it should be celebrated, was discussed in the National Committees. I do not have the list of all the Members of the Committee but I believe, if not all, quite a few Chief Ministers are also there as Members of this Committee. Everything was discussed there.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, somebody should go and tell that the people in the Lobby should not laugh that loud.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please I am telling you the fact.

I was not present in the meeting. I was only reported that after a lot of discussion in the National Celebration Committee it was decided that while we acknowledge, we respect all those leaders who were responsible for achieving Independence we have a galaxy of patriotic leaders of the national movement, like Sardar Patel, Dr. Ambedkar, Maulana Azad, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and their names taken.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI T. NAGARATNAM (Sriperumbudur) : Sir, the name of the late C. Rajagopalachari, Subramaniam Bhartiya.(Interruptions) Kamraj and others were not mentioned(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Can you not listen to me?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It seems that you do not want an explanation.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If the Speaker of the House cannot speak in this Parliament, then where are we?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Where are we sitting? Even the Speaker in not allowed to speak then you do whatever you want.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Please listen to the Chair.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : We know how to behave in the Parliament(Interruptions) Please do not teach us ethics.....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.N. SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Sir, we do not want anything; at least their names should be taken.....(Interruptions) Nobody has mentioned the names of Subramaniam Siva, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, Subramaniam Bhartiya.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We respect all the leaders, It is not possible for me to take the names of all of them. I am just giving an illustration and that does not mean that I am not recognising them or the country is not recognising them. As an illustration, I am saying as to what has been discussed in the National Celebration Committee.

I was reported that after a lot of discussion, the decision of the National Committee was that the speeches of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru would be played for four minutes each or something like that. That was the final decision.

Then the matter was raised in this very House saying that why the speeches of only two leaders, why should the speech of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose also not be included? If you remember, the whole House welcome that suggestion. At that time nobody gave any other name.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please bear with me. So, taking the sentiments of the whole House into consideration, I very sincerely called a meeting to discuss about the decision of the National Committee. I said that this is the decision of the National Committee but then the whole House has expressed their views on this.

In the first meeting - it was not an official meeting of the National Committee, I called relevant people- they said that it would not be possible to include it as it was too late. I conveyed it to Mrs. Krishna Bose and, of course, she was upset. Then, in one of the meetings, I think it was the first of the meetings with the political parties that I had in this Session, the question was raised again. The Prime Minister himself was present in that meeting. I conveyed that the National Committee felt that it would not be feasible at that stage to include a third speech because everything had been set and programmes had been printed. Then, in that meeting, everybody said with all sincerity, including the hon. Prime Minister, that the sentiments of the whole House should be respected and, if possible, it should be done. I summoned the Minister of Human Resource Development to the meeting. I suggested that we should take up some other business and wait till the Minister of Human Resource Development came. He came to the meeting. There, it was the decision of all political parties.

This is the actual and factual position of the case. While I respect everybody's sentiments, I am afraid, at this last

moment, he may not be able to make a change and I apologise for that.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me apologise for that.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have reported as it had happened.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, We have been in those Committees and meetings which you referred just now and we agree with the decisions taken in those meetings. It is true that many eminent persons have been born in this country and it is very difficult to include all of them within a time frame. But it does not mean that we are ignoring some of them and it also does not mean that we are neglecting a particular State. These eminent persons do not belong to any State. If we say that they belong to a State, it would amount to making them pigmy. They are illustrious and eminent men of India. In spite of difference of opinion, we accept them as national leaders. They have bravely fought for the freedom of the country and sacrificed everything and if we create such a controversy today when we are celebrating our Independence it would in no way boost our prestige and would serve no purpose.

Mr Speaker, Sir, so far as the name of Sardar Patel is concerned no body can level any charge against us . I would like to remind my friends in the Congress that when there was difference of opinion within the Congress over giving recognition to the services of Sardar Patel, we were organising function in his honour on the Anniversary of Sardar Patel.....(Interruptions) Hence let us not see him as a leader confined to State of Gujarat alone. Mr. Speaker, Sir you leave already clarified the position.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have said what I had to say, I do not have anything to say beyond this.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a humble submission to my friends. I would also request the Members of my Party that we have high regard for Sardar Patel and we have repeatedly said this that if Sardar Patel would have been the Prime Minister of this country, the destiny of our nation would have been different. I do not mean to say that on this solemn occasion when we are celebrating our Independence, we should reduce the significance of Nehruji. Whose Place is first and whose is second is not of much importance.(Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. GADHVI (Banaskantha) : We are not talking about reducing their significance. They have integrated the country.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have already clarified the position.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think we should have patience to listen.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If he wants to speak, we have no objection.

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should allow me to speak on this.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sanat Mehta, you are a very senior Member.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appeal to you
.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am apologising.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think that you should prolong the discussion because even if you prolong the discussion, we will come back to the same position that I have stated.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to associate with what you have said and what the Leader of the Opposition has said. I appeal to all sections of the House that to raise names of great political leaders from particular States only does not look nice. Let us not belittle them.....(Interruptions) We highly respect them. Let us, therefore(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is final.

.....(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Sardar Patel was a national leader
.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT SEHTA : Sardar Patel was a national leader of a particular State.. (Interruptions) This shows lack of your understanding.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not. But, I think.

.....(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : You understand our feelings.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have very sincerely, very honestly placed the whole matter before the House. Let us not discuss it any more.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Subbarami Reddy on textiles.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : One by one

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Kindly do not shout.

12.51 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give chance to everybody.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, now I am bringing the bad situation of the textile industry to the notice of the entire House, entire country and the Government of India. The textile industry contributes to 20 per cent of the country's industrial production. We have 15,000 mills; 14 lakh handlooms and 17 lakh power looms. It contributes to about 7.5 per cent of GDP. Today, it is also contributing to 30 per cent of the total exports and the foreign exchange.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Today thousands of poor workers have lost their jobs because of the sickness in the textile industry. Mills are closed and a strike is going on in the textile industry I would like to bring the sufferings of these people to the notice of Shri Jalappa, the Minister for Textiles. What is the reason for this sorry state of affairs? What is the solution? The solution, according to me, is money. Working capital is not there. So modernisation is not possible. They are not able to get cotton at a less price and in the process the manufacturing cost is going up. Everybody knows as how to bell the cat and as to how to solve the problem. There is every possibility of solving this issue. Government should take personal interest in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Be brief.

MR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Today all the banks and financial institutions are having surplus funds. But they are refusing to give any finance to the textile Industry.

Secondly, surplus land is available in the textile Industry, If they sell the surplus land and if that money is used as working capital for modernisation, it would be useful. But the practical difficulty is that surplus land is misused for their own purposes. The Government can control this trend by taking away the surplus land and auction the same and give the money for the purpose of working capital and for modernisation of equipment of the textile industry.

Thirdly, the Government should set up a Coordination committee. Banks and the financial institutions should be made a part of it to see that all these sick industries get proper working capital and to see that the textile industry gets a new lease of life.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would specially like to draw attention of Home Minister towards the fact that we already have defence committees in District Doda.

There are defence committees in Doda district. These village defence committees were set up when the militants had intruded in remote villages where army, BSF, CRPF could not reach. The situation remains same even today. Some Sudanese, Afghanese and Pakistan trained militants are hiding with modern weapons in the hills of Doda. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you would be surprised to know that if a person is included in these defence committees, he is given a 303 rifle, which is an obsolete rifle today. When he exposes himself to this kind of situation, he cannot do any other work, not even farming(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not converse among yourselves.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : The Government provides a total amount of Rs. 1500 to a committee consisting of eight members. This is to meagre an amount to manage a committee of eight hon. Members who work full time. It is due to their efforts that Doda district has been free from any untoward incident. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs has said time and again that their honorarium would be enhanced, but nothing has been done so far. One can well imagine the expenditure likely to accrue on sending four constables there. The Government should pay attention towards those who endanger their lives for the sake of the unity of the country. In this connection, I would like to make three submissions. First, they have restricted the formation of Defence Committees as a result of which these committees are not being formed. The Government should allow formation of more defence committees. Secondly, each member of these defence committees must get at least Rs. 2000 p.m. as honorarium. Thirdly, they should be provided latest modern weapons. With old 303 rifles it is not possible for them to fight the terrorist in any way. These are my submissions to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give a chance to everybody.

[English]

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) Sir, the entire House and the entire country is aware that Assam and the North Eastern States are affected by violent activities(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When you will be speaking, nobody would listen to you in the same way as you are doing.

[English]

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : These sorts of activities are continuing for the last one decade and have already eaten up the developmental activities in the region. These have also affected the cultural and social life of that area. These have also brought frustration to the bright young boys and girls who aspire to compete in the All India Services, such as the UPSC.

There is a strong urge among those boy and girls and those students who are willing to compete in the All India Services that there should be some relaxation in respect of age limit. There is already an instance in relation to Jammu and Kashmir which has been affected by the insurgent activities. So the students of Assam and Northeast region should also be given age relaxation up to five years for competing the All India Service Examinations so that they can also contribute to the All India Services.

I would, therefore, request the Government to issue orders for age relaxation for those students coming from Assam and the Northeastern States for appearing in the All India Competitive Examination. I think, this would also to some extent wipe out some sort of regional imbalances prevailing in the All India Services.

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir it is with great anguish and with your permission that I would like to raise a question. Whatever happened yesterday was not proper. I was invited by the Chair. I had patiently listened to the view points of the other party. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav had already spoken and so also Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi; After them that I was invited to speak, but I was interrupted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Nitish Kumar, you are not speaking on the subject of discussion.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am coming to the same subject. Mr. Ram Kripal has expressed my view yesterday. I had given a notice in this regard yesterday and today also. I am coming to the same subject.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a high level conspiracy is going on the demoralise the CBI team which is investigating fodder scam. Through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards this. On the issue of deputing army, hon. Home Minister had given a statement in this House namely : first, whether the State Administration did not cooperate as far as the question of arrest of former Chief Minister of Bihar is concerned; secondly, what made it necessary to seek assistance from the Army; Third whether Coal India's aircraft was misused? These three points were raised, while hon. Home Minister covered only one point in his reply and that too was replied to the other way round. It gave an impression that some conspiracy is being hatched to punish the CBI team which under the guidance of the Court, is investigating the case honestly and in an impartial manner.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a nexus.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You had spoken yesterday also and today also when your turn comes, you may speak but my request to you is not to interrupt me....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ram Kripal, Please sit down, When your turn comes, you may speak. Do not interrupt him(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Home Minister had made a statement in this House as well as in the other House wherein it was stated that the CBI people approached the army. It was also pointed out that SP, CBI Patna Branch called on the High Court judge directly. But as per our information, no CBI officer of Patna Branch called on the judge. Only a counsel representing the CBI had met the judge. It has been reported on the basis of it that as per the judge's direction, CBI people had approached the army for getting its cooperation since the State Government was not cooperating. It is, however, a different issue whether it was within one's jurisdiction to approach the army or not. The situation was the result of the non-cooperative attitude of the State Administration.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the other hand the high ranking official, who despite being on extension have been appointed as Director, made the arrest all the more impossible. When the Supreme Court rejected the plea for anticipatory bail, a FAX message was sent to the Patna Branch of the CBI, to arrest him. That FAX message was leaked to the electronic media, hence the news that Director has ordered to arrest him started to pour-in on Private Channels. Didn't director break the line of control by doing this? What necessitated Director to send the orders directly to the Patna Branch? Was it not the duty of the Director, to send the message to the joint director of the eastern zone. They could have taken over decision as to what should be done in this matter. Therefore, I would like to say that such an effort has deliberately been made at the high level to give it such a turn that, the persons involved in investigation and who are being appreciated, can be counter attacked and thus removed from their job and disciplinary and administrative action could be taken against them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir as far we know, and it appeared in the news papers also that CBI officers sought assistance of the army due to non-cooperation of the State Government in regard to the arrest of former Chief Minister. All this information was available here. Even then what was the reason why a decision was not taken. All these points should have been kept in mind. By not keeping all this information and by taking action against those who were involved in investigation, an effort at high level was made to demoralise them. FAX message was not sent to the person who is posted at Calcutta and who is officer incharge of the region, rather it was sent directly to the officers of the Patna Branch of the CBI that he be arrested immediately, This message was deliberately leaked out to the electronic media, so that the people could thong there and become hindrance to the arrest. All this conspiracy was an attempt to shatter the morale of the investigating team to divert

their attention from the fodder scam or to twist it to the wrong direction. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the House. Yesterday one point was raised regarding Article 356....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : When he can putforth his point of view why can't I(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is this ?

....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am just going to conclude. We have now reached at a point that judicial activism is being raised here....(*Interruptions*) This is court. The Court has observed that Article 356 should not be misused and the same court has made a remark on the basis of the report of DSP, has made a remark as far law and order situation is concerned(*Interruptions*) there is jungle rule in Bihar(*Interruptions*) a total constitutional break down. The Court did not make observation, it has just passed a remark(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar, please sit down. Now i call Shri P.R. Dasmunsi to speak.

....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am concluding....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : His notice is on this subject only.

....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have also given, but first is his.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He raised it yesterday on the same subject.(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari) : He spoke on this subject yesterday also....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me conclude.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nitishji please sit down now. I have called Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Let me conclude.(Interruptions)
As far as the observation of Patna High Court is concerned, it clearly depicts the situation prevalent there, as regards Article 356, yesterday only, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi raise this issue. Chandra Shekhar ji is sitting here. With regard to the use of Article 356....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : With regard to the use of Article 356, if the Central Government besides the Governor's report is convinced through some other source, it can invoke Article 356....(Interruptions) The court can say so. It is in its plea.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please take your seat now.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : But yesterday an attempt was made to condemn the court by referring to judicial activism....(Interruptions) This proposal is condemnable. I condemn it(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your name is there. Please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar, Please resume your seat. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The Judgement of the court is based on facts. The Central Government should take action in view of the overall situation prevailing in Bihar.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already called Shri Dasmunsi. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order(Interruptions). There are important issues other than Bihar(Interruptions) it takes whole day when you raise the issue of Bihar(Interruptions). There are issues of Haryana as well.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

....(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : He has discussed this issue yesterday also.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : What are you talking? The Deputy Speaker has called me because I have given a notice on this subject....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, will the same person speak daily?....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It means that you are not interested in Zero Hour.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give opportunity to all.

....(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has already spoken yesterday... (Interruptions). Will he speak same things daily(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : What are you talking? This is not fair.(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to tell you that I am not defending any party or any individual. I am talking of a very principle position, what the former Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar had stated in the House....(Interruptions) Sir, a very senior thing had happened in the country. If irrespective of colour of political parties we do not respond to this matter, I think, the future of democracy is at stake. I just tell you one thing. Let Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav's case have its legal, political consequences in Bihar. We are not bothered about that, We are bothered about the system....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please wait. The word 'late' should not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I did not say "late" but I said 'let'

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is all right.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Central Bureau of Investigation is functioning at the behest of the Prime Minister and whatever the CBI does, the Prime Minister is answerable to his Cabinet and to the House.

The CBI may do right or wrong. I am not going to question. But as it has been reported in media, documented many times, the CBI, for a particular occasion to arrest a person, sought the help of the Army. The Army Commander wrote to the CBI. The letter is with me....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : How?

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Yes. I am not going to disclose the source.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar, you should listen to him also.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : What is this?....(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him conclude please.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :(Interruptions) Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had a copy of this CBI report(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Every Member can quote and you can challenge.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Let the Member authenticate it. You put it before the House.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : This is not fair.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let Shri Chandra Shekharji express his views.(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my only submission is that every member has a right to express his views. If any member is speaking, at the moment Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi was speaking and what Shri Nitish ji has said was quite objectionable....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not heard.

[English]-

That goes off the record.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : One should not use such kind of words in the House because we were listening patiently

when Shri Nitish Kumar ji was speaking. He may disagree with the views of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi but he has no right to say that they are the custodian of honesty who are opposing Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, I would like to submit that the functioning of the democratic Government, executive functioning should continue according to the law and rules of the land. While a CBI officer quoting the order of the Court or the oral instructions of the court communicated to the Army Commander Shri Indrajit Gupta may bear with me; he is in possession of the record the Army Commander wrote to the CBI that the Court has conveyed me that they have not passed such orders and he after consultation, said that the civil administration cannot use them for such purpose. It has been stated by the Army Commander and it has been documented and what he said is "The case was referred to the Army Headquarters as per the existing instruction contained in Section 1, paragraphs 1&2, Instruction on Aid to Civil Authorities '69. The aid is to be requisitioned by the civil Government. In this case, it is the Government of Bihar. The civil Government has made no such request". There was no request either from the Governor or from the Chief Minister.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : If the document is authenticated, you please put it on the Table of the House. It cannot be read. You authenticate the validity of the document. Take the permission.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I agree.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Authenticate it. Place it. Take the permission.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I agree.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have read the letter. Please do lay it on the Table after due authentication.

[English]

Carry on further.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : He can quote if he wants.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : If this is your ruling, nobody can quote any Government document without authentication.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, I have not given this ruling.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : It is all right.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Since we are all interested in taking the name, you authenticate it. You put it on the Table of the House. We all will get a copy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is what I have said.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I leave it to you, Sir.

This has proved that the CBI without consulting the appropriate authority in Delhi, without knowing the law of the land and without knowing the civil order instruction as to how to call the Army, overstepped into the system.

Having overstepped in this order, it has deliberately misled the nation in executing its rights. If the C.B.I. feels that Chief Minister's wife may not protect me. The CBI could go to the Governor and if the Governor refuses, the C.B.I could contact the Home Minister. But the CBI has no right in this matter to straightaway go to the Army and to requisition its services. This is not for any case of Bihar but for any part of India. I say with heavy heart-Shri Nitish Kumar and other Members will misunderstand me— that I am not in favour or against any political leader but I am shocked as a Member of Parliament. It is the judicial function in the country that the High Court and the Supreme Court will decide as to who will resign and who will not resign? It is the selected Legislature who, at the Report of the Governor, should resign and not the High Court, I am telling it. The High Court can interpret article 356, but it cannot direct article 356. The Supreme Court can interpret article 356, but it cannot direct article 356. The Allahabad High Court cannot ask Kumari Mayawati to go far article 356. The Supreme Court cannot ask Shri I.K. Gujral to resign. The Bihar High Court cannot ask the Government to resign or get article 356 or the Calcutta High Court cannot say so. It is the prerogative of the Governor to send the Report. If we approve these things from the House, then we are surrendering our rights. That is what I was submitting to you. I hope that the whole House would bear me in this matter. The Army should not be treated in this manner by the CBI and the High Court observations should not be encouraged in this fashion...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea)
My name is also there.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not raise your hand. I will give chance to everyone.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your name is there. I will call you also.

[English]

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (Calcutta North-West) : Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a news item which has appeared in the newspapers...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called him. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (CHITTOGARH) : Sir, quite inadvertently, perhaps even unintendedly two issues have got together and it is the reflection on the current reality of a state of the Union that both those issues referred to Bihar.

The first is a background cited by my good friend and distinguished colleague, Shri P.R. Dasmunsi. I too, have had access to this document and in fact, I have referred to this document earlier in our morning discussion as well. The issue here is not procedural. It is not a question of procedures. This is a question of substance....(Interruptions). It is not a question of propriety. The issue is of substance. If procedures are not impeccably followed by a particular section of the Executive, That should not, and must not become a ground for thwarting the total procedure, the total substance of the inquiry, that is, today at the Centre of the controversy in Bihar.

We must also not forget that in Bihar what is being done by the CBI is being done under the instructions of the High Court of Patna. The CBI is not taking instruction from the Union Government or from the State Government or from anybody else. It is the High Court of Patna that is directing then to do so.

I do appeal to the hon. Home Minister to please bear in mind that simply because a procedural mistake has been made in the matter of a proper inquiry, therefore, he wishes to push aside the substance of the issue in Bihar about *chara ghotala*. Please do not do it and if you were to do it, you would be guilty of a very great wrong.

The second issue relates to observations of the hon. High Court of Patna. This is not the first occasion when the High Court has been persuaded to say what it has said, I appeal to you, Sir, and to the entire House that this is not the forum. Let there be a discussion on the role of the Judiciary and the inter relationship of the Judiciary and the Legislature, and then that becomes a proper occasion for us to not simply talk about what the High Court of Patna has said but also other aspects. What I do say, however, is that if twice the High Court of Patna has had occasion to make an observation, this should not be used as an issue to create a confrontation between the Legislature and the judiciary. I think it is incumbent on the Government and it had become incumbent on the Government I mean the Union Government, yesterday, at 11 a.m., very substantial issue had then been raised. The Governor of Bihar had reacted. I am not going into the merits or demerits of the observation made. It had then become incumbent on this Government, of its own, to come forward with a reaction about the facts of the matter, about the actual observation made and the actual reaction of the Government. The Government has kept silent on all this. And it is this kind of silence, where it is necessary for them to say something otherwise an over activism about the inquiry, when there is a need for them to keep their hands off. This is what is bringing the troubles in Bihar to this kind of situation. I do appeal to you to please direct the Government to come forward with the statement on the observations of the hon. Patna High Court. The Government must react. If they do not react, it becomes the kind of situation that we are witnessing today Legislature vs. Judiciary. That must be avoided and it is the responsibility of the Government to react.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the directives of Patna High Court is quite contrary to its jurisdiction. It's not such an important issue on which the Home Minister of Government of India should give any statement. The need of the hour is that you should warn the judiciary on behalf of this House that they should not trespass their jurisdiction. I am telling this thing with responsibility...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt him.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Please sit down. Why are you helping me? I can help myself....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him speak.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I want to tell you that whenever the provisions of the constitution are violated and whenever dictatorship has emerged, people have went out of their jurisdiction. Criminals who commits crime dies his own death but the people who came to power on pretext of rooting out corruption are responsible for bringing dictatorship in the world. The trend which we witness today is indication of that attitudes if we have even a bit of love and attachment for the parliamentary democracy such kind of activities should be denounced unanimously by the parliament and instead of debating in this House a warning should be issued to the judiciary, executive and legislative for adhering to their respective jurisdiction. My first point was this.

My next point is related to what my friend Sh. Jaswant Singh has said. I usually agree with him but he has said that the CBI were active in regard to fodder scam and that was necessary in the interest of the country and India's prospective history depends on that. I do not want to criticise it for this but as CBI is obliged to do its duty administration of Bihar too had certain obligation to fulfill. The people belonging to Bihar administration have said, be it right or wrong, that had Sh. Laloo Prasad Yadavji been arrested that day, there would have been loss of lives due to lathi-charge and firing. Was it not the duty of administration to postpone his arrest for 12 hours? The country was not going to crumble within those 12 hours. Foreign armies were not going to attack us within those 12 hours. Why the CBI was in hurry when Shri Laloo Yadav ji had said that he is going to surrender next day? If they were in hurry yet...*(Interruptions)* let him say, it's right.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : An accused will tell when should he arrested....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : It does happen. Many a time administration has to ask from the accused. Do not say it

so loudly. Please keep in mind what is going on in Maharastra.....*(Interruptions)* Since last two years, my friend Shri Pramod Mahajan...*(Interruptions)*. Do not teach me law. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Pramod Mahajan is sitting here. IPC and Cr. P.C. are applicable there also and I know how much they are trying to apprehend him, Don't say all this of me.

I want to say that sometimes one has to ask from the accused. You have to save the life of people. Sometimes administration has to accommodate such things if it wants to save the country and some particular area from anarchy. The administration did not commit any mistake in doing so. The administration did the right task. But if the High Court has given a directive to CBI to call army, it would be the worst thing. I am happy to hear the people in High Court are saying that they have not given any such order. If it is true then High Court has done right thing. But Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now the units are being crossed. It is the duty of judiciary itself to control itself from further advancement in the name of judicial activism. I request the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, if he gets my voice to do something in this regard. Everything should not be left on parliament. It is his duty also to maintain discipline and control over judiciary. If you ask MPs all the time to protect judiciary then who is going to protect the executive? Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, You and our Hon'ble Speaker should pay attention to this. This is not proper to blame governments for everything, be it Bihar Government or central government. Our friend Shri Indrajit Gupta who very audaciously, in spite of being Home Minister, cooperate with opposition but people are not satisfied. We are not ready to be convinced by anybody's because we are nursing hatred, despite and competitiveness among ourselves. I tell this with responsibility that this is not the duty of the House to order whom to arrest or whom not to. The House can give such orders only when there is a treason or country is under attack. If somebody is being arrested then the House can say that his civil rights be protected. This House is not meant to give views on arrests. We are not police inspector and not any such machinery who should talk about the arrest of the people.

It seems it has become our National duty since the last few months to apprehend one man. All these people who are clamouring for his arrest are seem patriots. symbol of rectitude and feel that the future of the country lies in their hand. This is against the dignity. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir we have to get rid of such a thing....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me say something.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Lodha ji, you are a senior member. Let me have my say.

[Translation]

I also want to say something.

...*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : It is in the record of the House. He had said, why you are not using your gun Mr. Chauhan, why don't you arrest Mr. Advani? Today, you are speaking in the favour of Mr. Laloo Prasad. What you have said earlier, is in the records.....(Interruptions) At that time to arrest Advani ji ...(Interruptions)

13.29 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Please also say something about personal animosity....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Nitish, Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Chairman Sir, I had also given a notice yesterday, I should also be given a chance to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I am replying to the question of Mr. Lodha.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt. Please take your seat

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman Sir, I have also given a notice.....(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to reply to the question of Mr. Lodha. At the time when Mr. Advani was arrested, I was the only person who had protested and in a public statement at the residence of Mr. Advani I had said that his arrest was unlawful. As far as the question of arrest is concerned, I had asked him to use his gun in case peace of the House is threatened. Do not keep quite ...(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am ready to resign, if Mr. Chandrashekar has not asked Mr. Chauhan to use a gun in this House...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Silence Please.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Sir, I have also given a notice...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mandal, Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, I have point of order.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order during zero hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow others to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take you seat. I will call you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, Bihar is in the grip of corruption ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Chairman Sir, ...(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Satyanarayan Jatia, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats if you want to have a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Chairman Sir, I could not follow the subject of the discussion.....(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Earlier, these people use to say that the court's decision should be followed now the same people are trying to defy it.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Lodha, Please take your seat.

[English]

Please take your seats. I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

(Translation)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : The same people are saying that BJP is not following the court in the matter of Ram Janma Bhoomi.....(Interruptions) Now, they are speaking against the court.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Justice Guman Mal Lodha, What is your intention? Do you not want that the House should continue?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shri Somnath Chatterjee. You are not hearing him

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You do not know what I am going to say....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Why are you adopting two standards? Why are you adopting double standards in the matter of Janma Bhoomi and Bihar...(Interruptions) you are supporting a corrupt man...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : We can also speak. We will not let anyone speak...(Interruptions) we will not let BJP speak after this. When Mr. Jaswant Singh spoke we listened him.....(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : While the Member from their Party was speaking, we did not disturb him. Why are they disturbing now?... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Chairman, we very patiently listened to ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, I will call you also, Please be silent. Mr. Pappu Yadav, Please be silent. What happened to all of you. Can't you be just silent. Listen, what Somnath ji is saying.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We had listened very patiently to Shri Jaswant Singh. At least, let us have a mutual courtesy. I know that they do not even know what I am going to say and they are objecting to that. ...(Interruptions) Why did they not object when their leader was speaking? Why did they not object when Shri Jaswant Singh was speaking? They should not adopt double standards.

LT. GENERAL PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : There are other issues also available here for discussion. This is not the only issue. That is what we have objected to ...(Interruptions).

MR CHAIRMAN : I have allowed Shri Somnath Chatterjee only.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a matter which every part of the House should be concerned about. I think that it is a matter of serious concern for the entire House.

This is becoming very common nowadays that the constitutional provisions regarding separation of powers are obliterated day by day. The time has come when we have to very seriously think of whether the country will be run either by the Judiciary alone or by the Executive or by the Legislature. What are the respective roles? Under whom is the Army? We understand that there was supposedly an oral order or instruction. To whom was the instruction given? It was given to a CBI officer. How did he approach the court?

The Army is neither under the judiciary nor under the CBI. The very minimum knowledge is that the authority who can direct the Army to be deployed should be approached in the matter. If it was done orally, can it be said that any oral observations of the court can be treated as the last word what the learned judge did not feel it serious enough to have put it on record? Only a written order can be executed. This is the minimum norm which is known in this country. Nobody knows whether there was an oral order or there was no order at all. It was not done in a public court. Therefore, let us not try to go only on partisan considerations; let us ignore such matters and apply certain standards.

I was very shocked to hear an hon. Member like Shri Jaswant Singh. I think that he was applying his Army standards

in every behaviour; just because he belongs to a party, to which I do not know whether he belongs with his own heart or not...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) How can you say that?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That is my understanding. Why are you objecting to my understanding?

He says that the matter of rule or procedure should not stand in the way. Has the procedure got no relevance for calling the Army? He says that a mere matter of procedure should not stand in the way of tackling the situation by sending the Army there.

Sir, I congratulate the Home Minister for having taking a very serious and correct attitude.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : What was the reason? Why was the army called? Tell us about that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I have repeatedly said on the floor of the House that if Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav is guilty, upon a proper trial he should suffer whatever the law of this country provides and I had also requested Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav to please resign since serious allegations have been made a charge-sheet has been filed. I have repeatedly said that on the floor of the House. Therefore, it is not a question of exonerating Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav or anybody, for that matter. But it is a question of constitutional issues which are being discussed today. Therefore, I believe, the Government of India has taken a firm stand that if somebody crosses the border he must suffer and must face the consequences.

Sir, the other thing is also very important. There were so many occasions to discuss about the imposition of Article 356 of the Constitution. Earlier, it was known that the court had no power even to go into the legality, the Justifiability of the application of Article 356 by the Government. Then, we had also contented that the court would have jurisdiction, because there may be *malafide* application of Article 356. The court had upheld that position and we have applauded that. The court will consider, in a proper manner, whether Article 356 has been correctly applied or not according to the Constitution or according to the existing situation. But, what is happening now? The court is directing the Government to ...*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : It is not a direction.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is still worse.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : It is a verbal observation. It is not a direction or a judgement. Do not mislead the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I feel this is worse. A judicial authority is making certain observations. If he felt so strongly, then he should have recorded reasons and written orders should have been given. Do observations become enforceable in any court of law? It has no relevance at all.

Even *obiter dicta* have to be taken note of and recorded in a Judgement.

Then, why is there so much publicity for this? Is it just because it relates to Bihar? Just because it relates to Bihar, I find that even very thoughtful, discerning Member of this House are now applauding those Judicial observation. How can it be? Who will face the consequences of the imposition of Article 356? Is it the Executive or the Judiciary? Who has to face the consequences? Who will issue the order? How can they express such observations on totally political and executive matters? So, we must express our deep concern about it.

Sir, I yield to non in my respect for the Judiciary. But that cannot mean that this impression which is going round the country should be allowed to snowball, namely that every organ in this country, every authority — be it the Legislature, be it the Executive — should be under the feat of the Judiciary. It cannot be the Judiciary has to proceed according to law.

Sir, I have supported Public Interest Litigation and so far, it has provided relief to the downtrodden by loosening the rule of locus standi: from locus standi it has now become judicial activism.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I have also given a notice in this matter. I'm waiting for long.

MR CHAIRMAN : Alright please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, a former Chief Justice of India, in an article outside the court, say that because of the malfunctioning of the Member of Parliament, the Member of Parliament do not, any longer, represent the people.

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Chairman, yesterday when Mr. Nitish was in the Chair he said that he will allow me to speak tomorrow.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir I have given my notice....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The former Chief Justice of India while remaining in office, has written an article saying that the Members of Parliament have ceased to have democratic credentials. He has said and I am quoting his words that the executive can no longer be trusted because it is malfunctioning and, therefore, the court has to take an aggressive role and issue order by adopting innovative procedures in respect of issues which are beyond the subject matter of the judiciary. 'This has been said in a written article. Are we or are we not concerned? We are not approving also greatly concerned about it. Therefore, to say that all the Members of parliament ceased to be democrats and that the

executive has become irresponsible is a very serious matter. Shri Jaswant Singh said that it was incumbent on the Government to come forward with its reaction. ...*(Interruptions)* Please control your Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is concluding.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Jaswant Singh said that it was incumbent on the Government to come forward with its own reaction. According to me, it was incumbent on the Government to totally ignore these observations. I congratulate the Government for having ignored it. I want to say, with all respect to the judiciary, that please do not create a situation of confrontation. Let us not go back to that U.P. case, which has created a bad history in our country. Let us not go back to that situation and let us have our own areas of functioning. Therefore, I submit that the Government has a right to ignore it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI (Bijnor) : Mr. Chairman, I am trying to raise this issue since 22nd but I could not get the time. Safai Karmcharis of Uttar Pradesh Notified Area and Municipality are on Dharana in front of Legislative Assembly. Country is going to celebrate its 50th year of Independence, will it be fair if we neglect them? Are we going to celebrate the 50th year of Independence like this? When India got freedom, it was hoped that now they will be given a fair hearing but everyone turned a deaf ear to them. I request you to issue a direction to listen to their demands help them and their Dharana. No officer has yet gone there to listen to them. I want to know from the government the reason as to why the people who do this abhorring work of cleaning the garbage, are not given respect. Leave aside the question of their respect. From the last 40 months they have not received their salary, and in this regard is not in existence. Leaders are not ready to hear them. That's why I make a humble submission to you and to this house that the demands of Safai-karmacharis should be considered sympathetically because they are protesting in front of the Legislative Assembly from the last 4 months, How will they feed their children. How will they educate them. Today, we are going to celebrate the 50th year of our Independence and they are sitting on Dharana. The Government may resort to force against them. If it happen, it would be injustice with the Safai Kamacharis...*(Interruptions)*. It will affect the whole of India. How will this Government seen?*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Premi, Please take your seat

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Sambasiva Rao is going to say.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the summer season this year was so severe in Andhra Pradesh and especially in Guntur District, the season had taken its toll wherein so many places the fire accident took place as a result of which 600 families were rendered homeless and property worth lakhs of rupees was damaged and they are under the trees. At one place, a wife and husband got self-immolated.

Due to the untold miseries of the weaker sections in my constituency, we approached the banks to sanction soft loans to the victims of the fire accidents and accordingly the nationalised banks in all the affected places came to the rescue of the victims of these devastating fire accidents. But however, things have been altogether different in the case of the State Bank of India in their service area.

It is in this context, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the unprecedented situation which arose due to the devastating fire that broke out in a village, Chityala Tanda, Bellamkonda Mandal in Guntur Parliamentary constituency. All the houses, which were thatched roof houses, in the village were reduced to ashes and the fire caused severe damage to the property of villages, who are poor and down-trodden and belong to the Scheduled Tribe community. Around 40 families were rendered homeless and are literally on the road, without any shelter and they have no means to carry on.

With a view to help the victims of the fire, the District Coordination Committee of the nationalised banks met on 9th July, 1997 and resolved to sanction a soft loan of Rs. 5,000/- to each and every victim of the fire accident, which is inclusive of a subsidy of Rs. 1,250/- granted by the State Government under different head. The balance of the loan amount will be repaid by the beneficiaries, who are the victims of the fire accident, in monthly installments of Rs. 100/- per month. The lead bank of the District, that is, Andhra Bank, has advised banks in the District to sanction the loans accordingly to the fire affected villages in their service area.

All the banks have sanctioned the loans, but unfortunately, the State Bank of India is reluctant to adhere to the decision taken by the District Coordination Committee of the Banks and has refused to sanction loans to the fire victims. Despite repeated requests, the State Bank of India has not at all come forward to support the victims to start a new life.

If loans in cash and not in kind are sanctioned, the villagers will be able to put up thatched roof houses and settle down to carry on with the work of earning their livelihood afresh and can slowly repay the amount to the bank. But if they are sanctioned loans for purchase of buffaloes, without any roof over their heads, how can they even think of purchasing buffaloes and try to make out their livelihood? It is a thing which can be never thought of.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sambasiva Rao, you should not read. You please take your seat. If you take so much time, then other Members would not get the opportunity to speak. Please conclude now.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Sir, I will take one more minute.

It is in this background and also in view of the hardship and misery being faced by the poor villagers, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance to instruct the Chief General Manager, Hyderabad, and the Regional Manager of the State Bank of India, Vijayawada, to release the amounts, as has been done by other nationalised banks in the District and thereby help the victims of the fire accident in their hour of need.

I also request you to take action against the officers concerned for not helping the poor people in their hour of need...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri George Saheb must get a chance to complete his statement...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nitish Kumar had spoken yesterday for twenty minutes. Now what has been left to speak?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have spoken for five minutes and not for twenty minutes ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, Shri George Fernandes must get a chance. You have asked Shri Somnath Chatterjee to speak, but Shri Fernandes could not complete his statement yesterday ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Nitish Kumar, please be seated. You had spoken for 20 minutes yesterday. What has been left now after twenty minutes.

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have spoken for five minutes only and not for twenty minutes. You may please allow Shri George Fernandes to speak for at least five minutes.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not now.

[English]

I have called Shri Ajay Chakraborty.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Sir, you must call somebody from Samajwadi Party too. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Pappu Yadav. Please sit down.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I should be allowed to speak otherwise I will have to sit in the well of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why will you sit in the well? You should sit on your seat.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Bashirat) : Sir, the Golden Jubilee Celebration is being celebrated with much pomp and show. But at the same time, due importance has not been given to the martyrs who followed a different line of action to liberate our motherland from the yoke of British Imperialism. They sacrificed their lives for the liberation of our motherland ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my name is there in the list. My subject was the same. Yesterday it was decided on this subject that everybody, who had given notices, would be allowed to speak the next day. Yesterday we were informed that the persons who could not get the chance to speak in the zero hour...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not now. Now I have called Mr. Ajay Chakraborty. You will also get a chance to speak. Now please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will also get a chance Mr. Katheria Please sit down. Now I have called Mr. Ajay Chakraborty. What you are saying is not going to record. You will get a chance later on.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Shri Khudiram Bose went to the gallows at the age of 18 years with a smiling face for the liberation of our motherland. Shri Bhagat Singh, Shri Rajguru, Shri Chandra Sekhar Azad, Masterda Surya Sen, Priti Lota Vaididhar and others went to the gallows for the liberation of our motherland. Thousands of revolutionaries were imprisoned for life after fake trials and they were detained in Andaman cellular jail for some decades. The people of our country cannot forget the role of Gaddar Party of Punjab and the role of Anusheelan Samithi and Jugantar Party of Bengal for the liberation of our motherland.

But Government is reluctant to highlight their role before the country. So, through you I urge upon the Government to envisage such programmes which would highlight their role in the freedom movement. That way our country can any homage to them.

*Not Recorded.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He want to speak about 'Safai Karmacharis' for a minute.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will also get a chance. Mr. Mandal you sit down please. I have called him.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I have given a notice yesterday. The House was informed that all the notices given for Zero Hour would be allowed. I am asking you to allow me to speak now. That was the ruling which was given by the Chair. I am not saying anything wrong. I am just telling you that I have the right to speak now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is yesterday's list. Here also your name is not there.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I was told it is there. I may be allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is at S.No. 36.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : The propriety is that any other Member who has given the notice on the same matter should be allowed to speak. Shri George Fernandes has spoken. I am not allowed to speak. What is the justification?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria is raising a very important matter. I have allowed him.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I urge you that 50 years have passed since we got independence(Interruptions)

14.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why can you not wait for it?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : The issue has been raised in the House. It is concerning the same issue. How you can deprive us of our chance to speak on it? ...(Interruptions) It is not right to allow him to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are six names in one notice. Shri George Fernandes's name is the first. So, I will call him later on. I can call one member to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, My notice is also on the same subject...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am talking about entire India. It is unfortunate that there is a proposal in this regard from State Government....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your notice is on a different matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will have to adjourn the House. I want to know for you whether you want to run the House or not. If you want to run the House, then you please go to your seat and keep quite.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Bombay South) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been given notices for the last three days regularly, even then I am not being given a chance to speak and to raise the issue relating to constituency ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, you please call Special Session to discuss only Bihar affairs. We are not standing in the way.....(Interruptions) If it goes on like this when do we get the chance? Other matters are also important, We do not have enough time in this Session to discuss the other important matter. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Twenty Members have given notices on the same issue. should I allow all the twenty members to speak? What do you think about it....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Should I call all the twenty hon. Member to speak? We can go by the serial member in the list.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, whatever has been stated by Shri Mangal Ram Premi, I would like to raise the same issue with reference to entire India instead of confining it to Uttar Pradesh. On the eve of the 50th anniversary of our independence, the payment of salaries of 'Safai Karmacharis' is being withheld. Why the payment of salaries of these poor people is being withheld? Have the salaries of any IAS or I.P.S officer ever been withheld? Then why the 'Safai Karmachari' are being meted out such treatment...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will have to adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet at 3 p.m.

14.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fifteen of the Clock.

1506 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Six Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE in the Chair]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will start functioning. We take up Item No. 24 of the List of Business, that is, Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill, 1997.

I call upon Shrimati Sushma Swaraj to speak on it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Madam, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHARIMAN : Yes. What is your point of order?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Madam, there are two points. Firstly, Matters Under Rule 377 have to be taken up first. Secondly, under the rules, a notice has to be given and then the Chair has to give the permission for changing the order of the list of the Business already listed. That is upto the Member concerned and then you can give your ruling. Otherwise, it will upset the order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Thank you very much.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Madam, kindly take up Matters Under Rule 377 first.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much for your proper advice.

Now, the House will take up Matters under Rule 377. I hope after Matters Under Rule 377, this Bill will be taken up for discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I said, 'I hope.'

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot stop me 'hoping'.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) No, How can you do that? I am on a point of order.

You can change the order of the list of the Business only after seeking the opinion of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I also said that.

Now, Matters Under Rule 377.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : After that you will have to seek the permission of the House for taking up that Bill.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should be hopeful. I will seek the permission of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shall we start Matters Under Rule 377 now?

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY (Amalapuram) : Madam, I may be allowed to raise my issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Matters Under Rule 377. Those hon. Members whose names are balloted can only raise their matters now.

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : Madam, I have been trying to speak for the last three days in Zero Hour but every day I have been denied...(Interruptions) I went to raise a very important matter about the scheduled castes and freedom fighters. Please give me only two minutes and not more than that. I beg your pardon....(Interruptions).... I do not have the voice to shout in this House. It is not democracy that is prevailing. It is only the leaders who can speak. It is only those who can shout can speak. No democracy at all. All Bihar, Bihar. Please forgive me. Please permit me to speak for two minutes only to raise my issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Murthy, I have full sympathy with you but I am duty bound to take up Matters Under Rule 377 now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane) : He is talking about democracy. In democracy, member of one House of Parliament are getting gas coupons and we are not getting them. What is happening to that? He is talking about democracy. Both are Members; they are Members of the Rajya Sabha and we are Member of the Lok Sabha. They are getting gas coupons and we are not getting them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up Matter Under Rule 377.

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : Please give me two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This cannot go on. Zero Hour continued today for a very long time. Matters Under Rule 377 are a balloted thing. I cannot say scrap the balloted thing. That being the situation, kindly allow me to go according to the rules and call the hon. Members whose names have come in the ballot. All of you very well know that you have appealed about these things to the hon. Speaker and he tried his level best to accommodate as many as possible.

SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : I will take only two minutes.

15.12 hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the Chair*]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, till today we were given to understand that the Women's Reservation Bill would be taken up for discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, you will get an opportunity after submission under Rule 377.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : But unfortunately today it does not seem to be coming up. This is absolutely unjustified for the women as well as for the men. This was a commitment of the whole Parliament. Therefore, I register my strong protest against this Bill not being taken up in this Session.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us go by the List of Business. Let us follow the List of Business. After submission under Rule 377, I will give an opportunity to you to express your view. So, please take your seat. Let us first of all take up Matters Under Rule 377. After that I will give an opportunity to express yourself. Please take your seat.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : You are very kind. After Matters Under Rule 377, the time for Private Member's Business will come.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you taking the time of the Members who have given notices under Rule 377? Shri Devi Bux Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only Mr. Devi Bux's statement will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

15.14 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to check environmental pollution caused by bone and leather mills at Unnao, U.P.

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH (Unnao) : Mr. Chairman, Sir a

serious situation has arisen in my Parliamentary Constituency, district Unnao, Uttar Pradesh due to pollution. Due to the presence of several bone mills, tanneries and chemical industries, the people of the area are facing a serious threat due to the pollution. An abattoir is being shifted from Kanpur to Unnao. All these factors have posed a serious danger to the environment of this area. There is no potable water in the area and the people are suffering from numerous diseases.

I, therefore, demand that the Central Government should not allow the shifting of the abattoir from Kanpur to Unnao and shift the bone mills far off the human habitation. An enquiry should also be ordered to study the state of pollution so as to protect the health of the people of that area.

(ii) Need to take steps to make units of Cement Corporation of India at Naya Gaon, Madhya Pradesh, viable

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Cement Corporation of India is incurring continuous losses in the absence of proper management. Several units of the corporation are under consideration for revival. In the same order, two units of the CCI at Naya Gaon, district Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh are lying closed due to non availability of power for the last three weeks. The corporation is earning profit by sending raw material from this unit to other factories but it does not provide money to this unit in time as a result of which the electricity board has expressed inability to supply power to this Unit. Consequently, hundreds of workers of this unit are at the verge of unemployment. At the same time a huge amount of money is being spent on supplying electricity to the colonies by hiring generator sets. There is a national loss of lakhs of rupees as a result of the stoppage of production in the factory for not paying the electricity dues. Therefore, the proper functioning of this plant and avoidance of daily loss amounting to lakhs of rupees is necessary.

I request the hon. Minister of Industry to take necessary action in this regard so that the factory could be saved from being put in loss and interests of the workers could be protected.

(iii) Need to increase the quantity of foodgrain provided to the people living below the poverty line under Public Distribution System

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister towards the Government's announcement to provide 10 kg. of foodgrains to about 36 crore people living below the poverty line under the targetted Public Distribution System and would like to tell that instead to being beneficial this scheme is causing loss to the poor people of the country. Generally the monthly requirement of foodgrains of a family is 40 kgs. against which on one average 30 kgs. of foodgrains was being supplied them on control rates through the old Public Distribution System, but now, an announcement has been made by the Government to provide only 10Kgs. of food grains at half the rate to a poor

families. The poor families will have to purchase rest of their foodgrains requirements at higher market rates than the control price in which it will have to spend a higher amount as compared to the position earlier. In this way, this scheme is likely to prove to be a total failure. Due to this, foodgrains quota being made available to the States earlier would also be reduced to half thereby causing shortage foodgrains and as a result, middlemen would be benefited.

Through you, I urge the Hon'ble Minister either to provide the remaining requirements of the foodgrains of the poor family at control rates or to increase the present 10 kg. quantity of foodgrains being provided to 40 kgs. at half the price.

(iv) Need to supply adequate liquid natural gas to Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project, Kerala to meet the power crisis in the State

[English]

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I invite the attention of the Government to the severe power crisis prevailing in Kerala.

Though the present season is monsoon season, the power situation in the State is extremely grave. To meet the ever increasing demand and the wide gap between the demand and the supply, Kerala needs new projects and an increase in the capacity of the on-going Kayamkulam thermal power station project. It was originally planned to have an installed capacity of 2000 MW. but it has been reduced to 350 MW.

Now, I understand that the NTPC is prepared to increase the capacity of the project if liquid natural gas is made available. The Government of Kerala has already taken a decision to start a liquid natural gas terminal at Cochin.

A few of the Government of India companies, including Gas Authority of India Limited and Indian Oil Corporation, are forming a joint venture to start few liquid natural gas terminals in India. Cochin has been short-listed as one of them, but no final decision has been taken.

I request the Government of India to make available the liquid natural gas for increasing the capacity of the Kayamkulam project to have its original installed capacity of 2000 MW.

(v) Need to provide more telecommunication facilities in Erode, Tamil Nadu

SHRI V.P. SHANMUGA SUNDARAM (Gobichettipalayam) : I would like to bring to your notice the deplorable state of affairs of Erode Telecom District under which my parliamentary constituency falls. There are no developmental activities taking place in Erode for the last few years. There are several villages without even a Public Telephone. In several villages where a telephone exchange is available, the wait list is so long that it is likely to be covered up only after a few years. For instance, Kolappalur and Siruvalur villages have a waiting list dating back to 1991-92. No action has been taken to increase the exchange capacity though the commercial demand is adequate enough to justify an expansion in almost all the areas of Erode Telecom District.

Sir, in Kadambur village of Satyamangalam Taluk there are more than 200 applications for telephone connections but unfortunately, there is not even a Public Telephone. Despite repeated reminders to the Telecom authorities of Erode Telecom District, no action has been taken so far. Today, in an area where telecom facilities are at back and call, non-existence of even a village public telephone, leave alone a telephone exchange at Kadambur village is not justified.

There are several areas where telephone faults are not attended to even for weeks together. But the authorities are more concerned about release of STD, PCO leaving the basic requirements unfulfilled.

I request the hon. Minister for Communications to look into these problems of Erode Telecom District and get them resolved.

(vi) Need to look into the implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes in Balia District, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI (Salempur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, fund allocated for the works on Centrally sponsored schemes namely, a Million Wells Scheme, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and employment Guarantee Scheme in Balia District for the year 1996-97 and prior to that have not been properly utilised. All the construction works were carried out through private contractors. But in the blocks, construction work was not got done through the registered labourers apart from this, the allocated funds were mis-spent by showing single item, of work on the drainage and roads as having been performed several times over.

I would therefore urge the Central Government to conduct a free and fair enquiry in this regard in order to ensure proper implementation of the Central Schemes in that district.

(vii) Need to ensure payment of statutory price to sugarcane growers in Maharashtra

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : In the State of Maharashtra the factories operating in sugar cooperative sector have been consistently paying sugarcane price for gate delivery below the statutory minimum cane price fixed by the Government of India for the past two years, i.e. 1995-96 and 1996-97, as reported in the Economic Times (Mumbai Edition) 30th July, 1997. This is a very serious matter directly affecting the interests of the farmers. It is not known whether the Central Government has taken note of the violation of its sugarcane price Notification issued under the Essential Commodities Act and also whether any action has been initiated to prosecute the defaulting factories.

I further request the Central Government to indicate the statutory cane price for various regions fixed for sugar mills in Maharashtra State and actually paid by them so far during the crushing seasons of 1995-96, 1996-97. Also whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure the full payment of statutory price to the farmers for the sugarcane already delivered to factories.

(viii) Need for early commissioning of sugar mills issued licences particularly in Meerut, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr. Chairman, Sir only 33 per cent of the total sugarcane produced in our country is being crushed by sugar mills due to which the farmers are suffering on two counts viz.; their per hectare productivity is not increasing and secondly, they are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. Every sugar mill in the country has a capacity to generate 25 M.W. electricity per day.

The setting up of new Sugar Mills through the better of intents or licence issued by the Government of India is getting delayed due to non-disbursement of loans for this purpose. In my Meerut Constituency, only 25 percent of the total production of sugarcane is crushed by the sugar mills. Difficulties are being faced to obtain loans for the setting up of new sugar mills namely Seal Sugar Limited in Mau Khas in my constituency i.e. Meerut (U.P.) This is adversely affecting production of sugarcane, the economic condition of the farmers as well as the power generation.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Finance Minister to intervene personally in the matter his order to ensure disbursement of loans for the setting up of new sugar mills.

(ix) Need to connect Kodagu district in Karnataka by Rail

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Railway link between different parts of the country would ensure overall economic development and it is the lifeline of a nation, Kodagu district in Karnataka State is the only district in the State not having a railway link. Survey was conducted to establish a railway link to this part some twenty years ago. But the project has not come through. Recently, a new survey is ordered for establishing a link between Chennarayapatna and Kushalnagar on the one hand and Chennarayapatna and Madikeri on the other.

A practical and useful railway link will have to be established between Mangalore and Mysore through Madikeri and Kushalnagar. The new railway line may be drawn to Madikeri from Subramanya Road junction of the existing Mangalore-Hassan Railway line and the new line may connect Madikeri with Mysore through Kushalnagar. This new line would help transit of coffee and spices produced in large quantities in Kodagu and which is being exported, earning huge foreign exchange for the country. I urge upon the Railway Minister to positively take up this project immediately.

(x) Need to look into the alleged irregularities in disbursement of loan to the farmers by Bihar State Land and Development Bank

[Translation]

SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir Gross irregularities have been committed in

the disbursement of loans to farmers for agricultural purposes under the refinancing scheme during 1995 - 96 and 1996-97 out of the funds provided by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to Bihar State Land Development Bank. Signatures of the Loanee farmers have been taken in token of having received the loan amounts but loans have not been actually disbursed to them for months together. Due to non-disbursement of loans in time, not only the agriculture has suffered, which is a national loss, but the farmers would also have to pay more interest unnecessarily.

I, would therefore, urge the Government to conduct an enquiry into the circumstances under which the NABARD forwarded funds to Bihar State Land Development Bank for advancement of loans the amount of loans so disbursed and whether distribution thereof was made timely and properly or not?

(xi) Need to declare Chandigarh-Bhatinda, Chandigarh Ludhiana Roads as National Highways

[English]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : It is a well-known fact that Punjab is a border State and it also supplies foodgrains to the whole country. It means the roads to the State bear heavy burden. Roads from Chandigarh to Bhatinda which goes to Pakistan border through Ganganagar and Chandigarh to Ambala which touches National Highway No.1 at Ambala, bear much burden. Similarly, road from Chandigarh to Ludhiana which goes to Pakistan border through Amritsar and touches National highway No. 1 at Ludhiana. Such roads may be declared National Highways and also may be included in four lane scheme. Hon. Prime Minister during his recent visit to Punjab has also agreed to the above proposal

I request the Union Government to look into the matter.

15.30 hrs.

STEPS FOR ERADICATION OF CORRUPTION — Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : As it is 3.30 P.M. now, we will take up Private Members' Business. The House will continue the discussion on the resolution moved by Shri Sriram Chauhan on the 1st August, 1997.

•... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, my sister would like to say something. Kindly allow them to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now it is the time for Private Members' Business. I can do nothing.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat may continue his speech.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I have said earlier that corruption has deepened its roots in all walls of life in our country and it has so much pervaded from toe to head in every field of the society that India was placed at this eighth position as per the survey conducted recently to assess the prevailing corruption in various countries of the world. We are celebrating 50th Anniversary of India's Independence. Function will be organised and celebration made into gaiety, in the evening. On the that hand billions and billions of rupees have been spent on the five year plans during these fifty years. The people of the country could not get the required benefit therefrom. The corruption is the main reason therefor. Former Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had himself said that out of one rupee sanctioned by the Union Government only 15 paise reach the people and the last 85 paise are misappropriated in the way. He himself had admitted this fact. 1996 was the year of scams. Are we and you prepared to resolve that 1997 being the Golden Jubilee of Independence would be the year to victory over the evil like corruption.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are two types of forces in the country. One who are opposing corruption, fighting against corruption, wiping out corruption, bringing decency in public life and the other forces are those which encourage corruption, oppose judiciary which are exposing corruption and are advocating forces or protecting corruption....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to speak send your name in writing.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to remind the house that in 1994 when corruption was rampant, Jai Parakash Narayan fought against corruption. He tried to bring a revolution as a whole...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You keep on speaking. Your voice is loud.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as a result a change in power took place in 1977. In 1989 Bofors scam came to light I was against corruption was fought under the leadership of V.P. Singh. The forces fighting against corruption got united and consequently the government was changed. Change came in the country. Following five years period was the period of scams. I need not to say that when policy of liberalisation was introduced in this country. Congress was in power at that time. During this period Harshad Mehta Brief case scam, Bank scam, Disinvestment scam, Urea scam, Sugar scam, Gur scam, Telephone scam, Fodder scam and MPs bribe scam took place. Now time has come to fight against these forces responsible for corruption.

I understand that it has happened earlier also. Public of this country, in future, will report to those who are responsible for corruption, encouraging and the public will elect them, those who are fighting to eradicate corruption. There is no doubt about it.

Honourable Chairman, Sir, I am recollecting lines of a Urdu poet :

Gulistan barbad hone ko bas ik ulloo kafi hai,
Anjame Gulistaan kya hoga har shakh pe ulloo baitha hai"

(Only one owl is enough to ruin a garden, what will be the fate of a garden when there is an owl on every tree). Today, there is a corruption in every corner in the country and only reason of this is that... "Jaisi hogi drishti, vaisi karenge srishti our jaisi milegi shiksha, vaisi prapt hogi deeksha"
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You recite the lines correctly. You have recited just opposite. It is like this:

"Barbade Gulistan Karne ko bas ek hi ulloo kafi hai".

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Yes.

"Barbade gulistan karne ko bas ek hi ulloo kafi hai.
Har shakh pe ulloo baitha hai, Anjame Gulistan kya hoga."

Corruption is going on in every nook and corner of the country. If anybody is affected due to corruption it is common man of the country. Today, after 50 years of independence.
.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ (Jamshedpur) : Are these words told by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a couplet. I am not asking anybody else.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Today, our country is burdened under the foreign debt of million of rupees. We spent millions of rupees in the name of development but desirable results have not been achieved. Each village should be linked with Head quarter, light in each house of the village, drinking water in each house, bumper crop in each field and primary education should be essential for new generation. School buildings are not there and there is dearth of every thing in the villages. Millions of rupees which was generated in the country, paid by the public as tax to the Government or loans which we took from foreign country, was not utilised properly in the country is demanding. Food, clothes and shelter. Such situation has risen even after fifty years of independence. I would like to say that due to corruption there is change in the thinking of the people. The education which is provided to him teaches him that:

"Taka hi dhaarmah taka hi karma,
Yasye take Nasti, sah tak takayati,"

Due to this attitude, the man has become devotee materialistic culture. Money has become everything for him. God has become secondary to money for the man and that why he is earning money through unfair means. His downfall has started. Therefore, through you, on one hand I support the proposal moved by Shri Chauhan, on the other hand I would like to vow to wipe out the corruption. We shall have to make

sacrifice to fight against corruption. Today unfortunately everybody is blaming to politicians.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You keep on speaking.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, he is asking me to speak slowly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You speak slowly or fluently or loudly, it is your wish. But speak on subject.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The subject is that this House express concern over corruption and that corruption is eating into the vitals of our country and therefore, we will have to fight against corruption and for this, first of all we have to improve our education.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is much noise from the Treasury Benches.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : We will have to provide moral education, character building and inculcate noble virtues. We should have tendency of sacrifice. Our philosophy should be that of live and let live and we should have feelings of patriotism. If all these things are not included in our education, we shall remain cut off from the society.

There are three causes responsible for corruption which are - Lokeshna Putreshna and Vitteshna. Vitteshna means that one should get fame and respect in the world and he should have a lot of wealth and his children for seven generation may enjoy good things in life.

In the society -

“Sarveguna Kanchnam Asharyanti,”

I mean to say that the society finds all the good qualities, in a rich person. One who has enough money is superior in the society.

Yasyasti vitahsah narah kulin,
Sah yorakta satyadarshaniya eiv varta
sachdarshaniya.”

This is the tendency in the society that a rich person is the most superior one. he is the most respectable in society:

Apujya Yatra Pujyantay,
Pujyanamte vyatikaramah,
Trinitatra Vartantay,
Durbhiksham marnam, bhayam.

I mean to say that those who are not worthy of respect are given it and those who actually deserve it are generally deserted by the society. In such a society three things will exist. There will be either starvation or deaths will be reported or there will be a fearful atmosphere, Today unfortunately all these

things exist in our country also. Corruption is the only cause of all these evils. It would not be fair if we say that only politicians are corrupt and other section of society are honest.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are many other members who want to speak on this issue.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding my speech. The person who takes bribe or who gives it, both of them are guilty. I want to know from the government through you about the Chief Ministers Conference held in May, 1997. It was decided in the said conference which was presided over by the Prime Minister that a detailed bill will be introduced to make the administration corruption-free and a nine point programme will be prepared. I want to know the progress made so far in this regard.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, we used to hear a lot about Lok Pal Bill. It was stated that a Lok Pal Bill will be introduced to root out the corruption at higher level. This session is also going to conclude shortly but we have heard nothing about it. The Bill on women is there with 81st amendment. But the Lok Pal Bill which is meant to root out the corruptor, which will make an honest society, which will build the national character and will build a strong country, is not being introduced. Therefore, I want to know as to when the government will come out with the Lok Pal Bill. The corruption is wide spread today. Therefore we will have to train our people to struggle against it and we will have to start a drive against it. I would like to congratulate the people of Bihar who have started a drive against the corrupt leaders. This drive will certainly achieve success. But a strong leadership and public training is essential for it. This can be done by some groups or saints who have certain thinking about the development of the society. I think that our honourable President Shri Advani had come out for a Rathayatra by bearing cold and hot weather, and scorching heat of June to save the country from corruption and starvation, to create awareness among the public, to teach a lesson of patriotism and to convey the message of freedom.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken 15 minutes.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end, I would like to say that you and all of us should make a resolution today that the 1997 should be the year free from corruption.....(*Interruptions*) Mr. Chairman, Sir I do not mean to disgrace any of the honourable members but it has rightly been said that empty vessel makes much noise. The person who has a corrupt conduct and who protects the corruption makes much noise. I would also like to ask the media through you to be cautious to root out corruption. There is a need for uniting the public against corruption. The public should not have a lackaidisical approach towards corruption, but it should be committed to fight a battle against corruption, We will have to create such a thinking among them. We will have to bring transparency in the administration and only then we can root out the corruption.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is time for private members' business. If you want to speak here, you will have to give slips in writing.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : We are staging a walk out in protest of it. We have other sisters also to follow us.

[English]

We walk out in protest of the Eighty-first Constitution (Amendment) Bill not being taken up.

15.46 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in support of them I am also walking out for half an hour.

15.46½ hrs.

At this stage, Shri P.R. Dasmunsi left the House.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is the time for Private Members' Business. You should read the rule book. You can learn the rulings from the Hon'ble Minister Shri Varma who is sitting beside you.

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh) : Mr. Chairman Sir, about the bomb blast that took place.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat, I have called Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : I want to ask the Railway Minister about the accident that took place in the morning. More than six people have been killed in that accident, It happened in the morning today but till now the Railway Minister has not informed the House. He should come to the House and make a *suo motu* statement. It happened at 10 o'clock in the morning at North Lakhimpur. It is reported that more than six people have been killed and many people have been injured. The Railway Minister should come to the House with a statement. It is a very serious matter.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : It is a very serious matter. These kinds of accidents are taking place in one region.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only what Rameshji speak will go on record.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Our friend has just expressed the situation in detail which we are facing at present.

There is a need to fight against the corruption. We are celebrating the 50th year of our independence. But you can see the misery in our country as well as in the other countries. This situation does not prevail only in India. No country of the world is free from corruption. We have seen in the newspaper that the IMF has withhold the loan due to corruption. This has become a major issue in the country as well as in other countries of the world. There would be some strictness and unity in the society to fight against the corruption. Our country has progressed a lot during these 50 years. Our country has achieved a lot in the real sense. We have succeeded in strengthening our country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have succeeded in showing a new path to the new generation, but when we see the corruption in the country, we should prevent in and raise our voice against it. We feel ourselves helpless to prevent the corruption prevailing in the country and in the society. All the political parties should also think over it. Each and everybody intends to fight against corruption but corruption is not only in the political sphere. Today, the situation we can see is that corruption prevails in social, Political, industrial and economic spheres. This should be the major issue of concern for us and our country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we see in the newspapers and the media that a common man now-a-days thinks that corruption is prevailing only in the political sphere. But it is not true. Today the corruption has spread its tentacles all the spheres. This is a universal phenomena. May it be Pakistan Japan, Philippines or Korea, corruption is rampant everywhere. All the countries of the world are facing many difficulties as a result of corruptions.

Today what we see in the world is that somewhere some Prime Minister is being sent to Jail, somewhere being hanged, somewhere some Minister sued in the Court of Law and somewhere there are cases against big industrialists, and against the medical practitioners. Today the situation has come to such a pass that corruption is rampant in every part of the society of the world. May it be democratic system or military rule or autocratic system in any country, corruption is prevailing in each and every system and it has taken shapes of an epidemic.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we ought to ponder over corruption in a scientific manner and have to see in what form it is prevailing. Today, corruption does not mean merely transaction of money, it is rampant in many other ways and forms. Nepotism and discrimination are also various forms of corruption. Therefore we must think over it from every point of view. We must come forward to stop corruption in our country in every way. Today what is happening, is that everybody is worried only about money. Today money is everything. People are running after money. But besides money, we must keep in view the ideals and values of our country. Today, whereas our country is heading towards globalisation and liberalisation, we should also not forget the high traditions of our country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I take this opportunity to say that our country has set high traditions, but we always look upon and think over the things from an economic angle.

We must, no doubt, think over our economic situation, but besides it we must adhere to the basic principles that we are setting aside today. We have to take our country ahead on the same path that was shown to us by Gandhiji, by the great leaders of this country. We must keep in mind the path we have to move on and see that we are taking the posterity on a right path. If our posterity is not following that path, we have to make them understand to not to forget the old and great culture, high traditions and values of our country. Mr. Chairman, Sir, our existing electoral system has got many loopholes and it is the system that gives way to corruption.

No political party is up and above the country. The existing electoral system is the basic reason of corruption in the country. Any person stepping in the field of election needs money. He tries to collect money and spends it during the election. He is funded by the big industrialists, black marketeers and others. Those who spends maximum amount, win the election(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister is not present

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are sitting just adjacent to and on the bench of the Minister can't you see him.

15.56 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Those who spend the maximum amount, win the election, be it of the Parliament or of the Assembly...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balua) (Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, his two remarks are objectionable. Firstly, he has said that people belonging to all political parties resort to corrupt means during the election. At least you should leave out the left parties ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : We know what left parties have done.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Secondly, he has said that those who spend maximum amount, wins the election...(Interruptions) I have spent very little amount during the election and the people had elected me to this House.....(Interruptions) I am the proof. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : The left parties in this country have taken money from Russia...(Interruptions) we have got proof in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Please expunge the words all political parties from the proceedings. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not levelling charges against any or all political parties. ...(Interruptions) I am talking about corruption in general. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : You please expunge in from the proceedings.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not appropriate to speak the words 'all political parties'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I am talking in general. I know left parties very well. Our fight is only with the Left Parties. We know what their programmes are and how they work. We all know about it. It is not a new thing. We know everything. ...(Interruptions) Kerala has got more communists than Bihar. ...(Interruptions) you don't make me understand what communism is?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramesh Chennithala, Please you address the Chair.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am talking in general. I am not levelling charges on any political party or on any individual. I am talking about the situation prevailing in the country today. I am not levelling charges on any person. All political parties should think over the corruption scenario prevailing in the country. Corruption is rampant not only in politics but in other fields also. We have to think over its causes and arrive at some conclusion. Therefore, whatever resolution our friends have brought in this House, I mean to say that the country is facing a great danger due to the existing electoral system. A common man cannot fight the election in the present circumstances. Common man like you and me win the election by dint of hard labour. Now-a-days an industrialist can join any political party to become a member of Rajya Sabha and he or she becomes a Member of Parliament' an official spokesman of the party, a general secretary or even a Minister.....(Interruptions) Today, this can be seen in every sphere of the politics. I am not levelling charges upon any individual but I am levelling charges upon this very system.....(Interruptions) It is not appropriate to level charges upon the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. Today every organ of the society, every political party must ponder over it otherwise our system, our set up will collapse.

16.00 hrs.

I have said this because there is corruption not only in politics but in every field. We should fight together to root out the corruption. A healthy discussion took place in the House on Lok Pal Bill. A number of rules were framed in State Assemblies. M.L.A.s and Ministers discuss to declare their assets. My suggestion is that we should perfectly follow the rules of our election system and we should try to mitigate the loopholes. M.P.s. and M.L.A.s should declare their assets before elections.

My friend has said that we are not like that. Now a days you will find a character posing as a political leader in any film or play. He comes in the guise of a buffoon. We should come forward to fight such an evil. We should pass the Lok Pal Bill or any other Bill so that we could overcome this evil by taking help of law. We can not overcome this evil merely by passing the law. We can control this evil by bringing awareness in the society. There is need to bring awareness in the people that they should neither give bribe nor take bribe.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

Therefore, I would like to appeal to the House that we must pass this resolution so that an awareness is created in the society and we could fight this evil.

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Amla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I have a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under which rule you are raising it.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : A debate was to be taken up on Uttar Pradesh under rule 1993. It is an important issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : At the moment Private Members' Business is being taken up. The time from 3.30 to 6.00 P.M. is allotted for Private Members' business.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an important issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We cannot take up other business at this moment. How you can raise it in Private Members' Business?

....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I may be allowed to raise this issue....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not included in today's list of business.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : It is in the list....(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Only one Member should speak.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Private Members' Business is being taken up at the moment. You did not raise this issue when you were supposed to.

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : I had raised it. But at that time discussion on Women's Reservation Bill was going on.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No time has been fixed for rule 193. How can we take it up?

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : Please give me an opportunity, thereafter you may introduce it in the next session.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then please give the notice.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : You please continue the Private Members' Business, but give me just one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How it is possible ? It is the rule. Let the House continue till six o'clock, later on we will decide.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : You please give your ruling on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will run according to the rules.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : You please give your ruling under the rules as to when discussion under rule 193 will begin.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will take it up at 6 O'clock after Private Members' Business.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : I do not think it will be taken up. Please give your clear ruling in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot say anything at the moment. At Six p.m. only I will see as to what is to be done.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : The situation in Uttar Pradesh is quite serious.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I also know that situation is serious, therefore it has been included in today's list of business.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Your's was a point of order.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Pappu Yadav Ji, Sukdeo Ji, please take your seats. When the Chairman is on his leg, you should take your seat. Your issue is most important therefore it has been included in the agenda. But the time has not been fixed.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please take your seat and listen. Time has not been fixed. It is time for Private Members' Business. It is not good to disturb. Let it conclude.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : First you listen to me. Let me conclude. Raise it when it is 6 o'clock, Only then it would be considered.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : You announce that we would be given time after 6 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN : For the time being we cannot take this decision.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : You adjourn the House at 6 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You raise it at that time.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : But it should be covered under rule.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Pappu Ji, sit down, please ...

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What you are speaking will not go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sit down, please.

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : Please allow me to speak for a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not allow you to speak even for a second. The proceedings of the House will be conducted according to the rule, and not in this way. If someone says something simply according to his wishes and he further says that it is his subject and he will raise it, such things would not be allowed. Now, the private members' business is going on in the House. There have never been such occasions in the House when during this period another subject was taken up? It was never like that.

DR. SHAFIQUK RAHMAN BARQ : It may be taken up later on(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already said so. You are not listening to me. You may take it up when the clock strikes 6. We shall seek opinion of the House that every member's speech is over O.K. you can give. It will be over in a minute.

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE (Raiganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today is 14th August, 1997. We are going to celebrate the golden Jubilee of our country's Independence and on this occasion a Private Members' Resolution has been moved. Today, Corruption has emerged as one of the most drastic catastrophes in our country. Nothing can be as much shameful

as it is. This Resolution has been brought before the House when we are celebrating the golden jubilee of our Independence. While in agreement with the Resolution, I would like to say that we have presented a specimen in our country where corruption has become almost a part of our daily life in the country. The highest institution of the country is also involved in it. We have created such a condition in the country today.

We are remembering the persons who have sacrificed their lives for our country. There would be a special debate in this Lok Sabha on the subject wherein five points would be criticised but the persons who have laid their lives for the sake of the country and the persons who had sacrificed their lives with pleasure for the sake of the country, has a sole motive to free the country? Did they lay their lives for this very purpose for the sake of the country? Therefore, we will have to adopt and exercise their thoughts and ideas today. Out of these points, one point was essential common among them and that was respect towards the country because they were imbued with a sense of respect towards the country. They had a tremendous sense of discipline. Today, we will have to recollect their points and we will have to reflect upon all those points concerning the prevailing stink of rampant corruption in our society-and a dirty sense of thoughts which has entered our hearts and therein highly placed people are also involved. This is the situation of our country and it has also become clear from some points. So we will have to ponder over all these points.

I have got tremendous regard for Shri Ramesh Chennithala. He has not spoken at length about the country as yet. He has drawn the attention of the House towards the prevailing corruption in Japan and Germany etc. It is more important to express our concern towards the prevailing corruption in Japan and Germany etc. It is more important to express our concern towards the prevailing situation in the country. But he did not pay any heed towards it. He merely made a remark but he did not mention about any political party. While speaking he did say a very important point that there is no such political party which is not involved in corruption.

We would like to speak clearly in this matter. While citing the example of his party, he has said a lot of points. He has said that he hails from Kerala and there was a leftist Government there. We are aware of the situation prevailing there. I would like to inform you the way the leftist parties function. Every member of a leftist party has to pay a portion to the party as a levy from his month long earning. May I know whether you can quote the example of any such party?(Interruptions). This is not only meant for members of Lok Sabha but all the members at branch level have to contribute money to the party fund. At the time of election and whenever there is election, at least all the money collected for the day has to be paid for the party fund. It is true that some Members pay more for the fund. This money has to be paid even by the labourers because this is rule of our party and this is the way to retain the membership of the party. Thus, we collect money and contest election by collecting money in this way. We have submitted an expenditure report even to the Election Commission and even it did not say about leftist party that it did not produce its expenditure report on election. If you have got any such point you may quote. I challenge that you

[Shri Subrata Mukherjee]

do not have courage to say any such thing. The Election Commission has made such type of comments about other parties.

So far as Income Tax is concerned, can you tell about any party which has honestly submitted its income and expenditure account to the Election Commission? I can say that my party has submitted a report of its income and expenditure even up to the branch level. The people belonging to the leftist party have got a clear-cut account of their income tax till date. I can say this point with authority and so far as it has been possible, we have tried to keep a clear cut account of income and expenditure of our party. This disease has broken out in our society. Corruption has spread from statemen to govt. officers. It is not that our party will remain untouched. Our party has worked to improve upon it with strictness. During last two months our party has expelled 800 party workers from the party on account of corruption. Is there any such party which has expelled its workers on account of corruption? You can not cite any such example(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : The activities of other parties are not corrupt but the activists of the leftist party are corrupt.

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : We don't want to allege any party. We do not want to pass comment on any party....(Interruptions)

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : You should project your view how to curb the prevailing corruption(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are speaking time and again. Please, speak when it is your turn.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Hon'ble member should not speak about corruption. He is a veteran in the field of corruption....(Interruptions)

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Nothing is going to happen by levelling allegations and counter allegations. Corruption is not going to eradicate from society.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may sit down.

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Sir, I have not made any comment against anyone. I have not pointed out any particular party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is making his submission. You may also make your submissions.

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : I am replying to the points raised by Shri Ramesh Chennithala....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may kindly listen to him. He is speaking in good Hindi.

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : The people holding high offices in the tenth Lok Sabha have been charged so much so with this or that accusation that no one in earlier governments faced the issue of corruption has been raised repeatedly in

this House during the present Lok Sabha. We are on the verge of entering 50th year of you Independence. Earlier to this no Lok Sabha ever discussed the issue of corruption. We have to keep it in our mind. A Joint Select Committee was set up to check the growth of corruption. It has submitted it's report. It was consisted of members from BJP, Congress and our party also. Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha also submitted a report in this regard. The report of that committee was laid on the table of the House which was discussed by us. The Government also accepted the recommendations made by the committee but unfortunately no action was taken thereon by the then government. That committee held our system and any particular individual responsible for the growing corruption.

So far as I remember that report was running into 110 pages. Certain people and some institutions were indicted by the committee in particular. I do not know as to what were the compulsions of the then Government due to which they said that they could not hold anyone responsible for corruption cases, therefore, there was no question of taking action against any particular person. They said that it was our system responsible for corruption which required to be corrected. Neither at that time we were agreed with their views nor we are at the moment. If at all we want to eradicate corruption, we will have to set some examples. Some days ago an hon'ble member was correct when he said that if some one is found indulging in corrupt practices, he should be nabbed and shot down. But there is no such provision in our constitution....(Interruptions) I am speaking about corrupt people in our country.(Interruptions)

I do extend my support to the Motion moved by our colleague. This way neither any country can run nor any institutions. India is a great country which is compared with the biggest power of the world. The geographical condition, our population and different weathers makes this country great. India can lead the entire Asia in the coming days. Through SAARC we have taken certain very good steps. And if we want to be the leader then we have to eradicate corruption completely from our society as it is undermining the prosperity of our country. The Government, should allow no corrupt person to go scot free.

With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, whether you spoke on that day?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : No, not at all,

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he spoke on behalf of BJP.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Private Members' Business is not taken up party-wise. Only those Members will speak whose names are there in the list.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Whether we will also be allowed to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sure, you will.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : You are saying as if entire House belongs only to you and not to us and therefore we should leave it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill introduced by hon'ble Member Shri Shriram Chauhan. Fortunately, this day is the most appropriate to discuss this issue as tonight India is entering the 50th year of our Independence. On this occasion, we are discussing our achievements and failures during the last fifty years. Only tonight we will be listening the recorded speeches of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and a couple of other great leaders. My submission is that whether the sacrifices made by Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh and others for freedom of this country would go in vain and whether freedom struggle fought by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Patel and other freedom fighters was aimed only to see such bad days? Their great souls resting in peach in heaven must be crying at the worsening condition of our society. The statue of Mahatma Gandhi is just outside the Parliament House from where he holding his forehead with his one hand, is watching everything that is happening here inside the Parliament. During the last fifty years we have found that there is deep neck corruption in our country. And, therefore, it would not be out of context to say that corruption in our country has been humanised. There cannot be any divided opinion on this score. Therefore it requires our great concern and immediate attention.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on 14th August, Pakistan was formed and the next day i.e. on 15th August India became independent. Tonight at 12 o'clock, leaders of our country would assemble in the Central Hall of Parliament to mark the 50th anniversary of our independence. Today our society is crying as it is in deep trouble and people are suffering with several ills. Today, if we switch on our T.V. sets, we find no melodious songs on screen rather we hear such and such scam has taken place and such and such people involved therein. This or that employees has been found guilty of having involved himself in this or that theft case or a scam involving this much or that much amount has been unearthed. 27 scams have taken place in the country till today and the first one was jaggery scam. Jaggery is sweet in taste. Now it is fodder scam which tastes bitter. What will happen of this country? People's attitude has changed, they have begin to detest politics. People visit in my house too and ask for passes of Lok Sabha Session. I tell them that if one would see us quarrelling in Lok Sabha even for an hour one would not come here at all. If a quarrel takes place at a Chaupal or in a house people ask as why they are making noise like Lok Sabha. It means that people have begin to look at Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies with detest.

Mr. Chairman Sir, today the definition of the term 'Leader' had changed. Shri Subhash Chandra Bose who sacrificed his life, was Leader. If someone by wearing white cap would have sacrificed his life for the sake of motherland they were called leaders. If someone is greeted with the term "please come in Netaji" today it tantamounts to an abuse. He is not thought to be a leader. Today the definition of the term 'leader' has changed since the last fifty years. We should think over it today. Corruption has become the greatest stumbling block in the

development of the nation today. You too, believe in Hinduism. I am telling about the incarnation of Lord Vishnu as 'Narsimha'. Hirankashyapa had asked Prahlad where does the God exist. He had said the God is omnipotent and he exists in human beings, pillars and swords etc. Likewise, today, corruption exists everywhere. Some engineer would have misappropriated money even in the construction of this building. I mean to say that corruption is every where. If elections are held according to the provisions of the Constitution in India corruption is there too. It is unfortunate that when we take oath in Parliament, whether we do in Hindi or Urdu or in English then I think that we use it as a shield. It is believed that this shield may neutralise the effect of the oath. I may be a thief, dishonest person but this oath will protect me. It will come to my rescue and I will be safe. All M.L.A.s. and M.P.s. are taking oath on this line and not according to the spirit of the constitution. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HUSSAIN (Murshidabad) : You don't say it for all. You may be so. I am not like that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I have not said it for all. Why are you agitating?

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : You take the oath to use it as a shield. Please do not include us in the same ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : If you take the oath honestly then it does not include you. But it is for almost 99.9 per cent of the Members. After all, we the members of the Bharatiya Janata Party, have been elected on the basis of our honesty. If anyone from our side is dishonest he won't be elected next time. Therefore, Bharatiya Janata Party candidates have been elected to serve the motherland honestly. If anything wrong happens, they won't be elected in such number. Therefore, you please do not get angry. ...*(Interruptions)*. Corruption starts from the birth of child itself. Corruption starts when one has to get the expecting lady admitted in the hospital or if one needs a comfortable bed, milk etc. When the child is admitted in private school one has to pay huge amount as donation. It is also there in securing a Government job. But ultimately the job goes in the hands of the people belonging to the schedule castes and the Schedule Tribes. People belonging to the Upper Castes will not get it. Thus corruption is everywhere, it goes on until one attains death. One has to pay tax while earning and his ashes will be immersed only when all his income tax dues are cleared. It is very necessary to put to an end to it. Likewise, I had mentioned about the Prime Minister, I am not talking about the present or the former ones. It has been repeatedly stressed in the Lok Sabha that Lok Pal Bill would be introduced, it is being said so by all the successive Governments. I would like to ask the ruling party as to what Lok Pal Bill is all about. The Government wants to convince others about its honesty. It wants to impress that the United Front Government is coalition of 15 parties yet all are honest, whereas we have been branded as dishonest, untouchable and anti-Muslims. They accuse us and say that the Bharatiya Janata Party is on the one side while all the so called honest ones are on the other side. Therefore, I would like to ask them if they are honest then why they do not introduce the Lok Pal

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

Bill... ..(Interruptions). You should have introduced it when the Standing Committee has recommended for the same and if you do not do it than the people will do the Justice next time. I think that you should introduce the Bill. I want to say that apart from all these things we listen a lot about the Hawala scam on Radio. Shri Madan Lal Khurana's and Advaniji's names have again mention in it, while they have been acquitted by the Hon. High Court. I think that few leaders belonging to the Congress party are also involved in it. Today, we hear a lot about numerous scams on television. I want to say that the court too is busy in all these things and the Lok Sabha too has not remained an exception to it. We hear only about Bihar since the 23rd in Lok Sabha as if the Parliament constitutes of the Members of Parliament from Bihar alone. It would be probably right if we constitute a Parliament belonging to the Members of Bihar alone. I understand that Shri Laloo Prasad ji worked with the intention of eliminating corruption and Bihar is becoming a 'Vihar' for the sake of honesty. ... (Interruptions). You please sit down, gentleman. ... (Interruptions). You have done a lot for Shri Laloo Prasad ji but even then he did not make you a Minister. Ram Kripal ji, please take it from me that you would not be elected again. ... (Interruptions). You would be wiped out next time... ..(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : I have been elected twice after defeating your party candidate. Your security money will be forfeited this time and your party will do badly. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Therefore, I want to say that it would not be proper to mention Bihar alone in the Lok Sabha.

Mr. Chairman Sir, apart from this, I want to say about the Essential Commodities Regulation Bill which was to be introduced. The Essential Commodities Regulation Bill too is one of the major reasons for corruption. Shri Drona ji, Shri Ramesh Ji and I met the Prime Minister... (Interruptions) I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister who has extended its term for another six months.

I too do not wish to punish the people. I want to work in a proper manner but only if the followers allow me to do so. Time and again they blame Gujral Saheb. He has to hoist the flag on 15th of August. No you cannot stop him from doing so. Shriman Gujral Saheb would unfurl the flag on the 15th. Thereafter you can pull him down on 16th. The Prime Minister whom you do not want to unfurl the flag, is finally fulfilling his desire. Now you can not help crying over your fate, and we are on the way to unfurl the flag. We would not bother if the Lok Sabha gets dissolved on the 16th.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Bhargava ji please conclude.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am concluding my speech. But I would also like to say that the Government is swallowing five hundred crore rupees every year from the traders in the name of Essential Commodities Act and despite the assurance given by Prime Minister in lieu of the amount being collected no amendment is being made. I

understand that the Minister of Food Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh who is a member of Rastriya Janata Dal, is not supporting the Prime Minister. That is why the traders are unhappy. They are being entangled in different cases and they are sentenced however, our protests against all such black laws were not heard at all. Still you want more money. Out of five hundred crore you may have a hundred or two hundred crore rupees in two-four days or 6-7 days. But this would not continue. Indians are aware that they cannot be trapped. Mr. Chairman Sir, my submission is that the corruption should be checked and this is our issue. Today people are frustrated and they want to do away with corruption. A bill on elimination of corruption should be introduced in this House and we should start a campaign in this respect. Today corruption is everywhere in the country.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I do not have much to say. My submission is only this that you analyse the situation and see as to what we are going to do, what actually we do, how much we serve the people, what we get from the people and what we give them. On behalf of Bharatiya Janta Party, I would congratulate and thank the member who has presented the proposal here and today on the eve of fifteenth of August we are discussing this issue, I would thank the Chairman and all the members for this. Today we will have to consider the issue as to how corruption could be eliminated from the country. Unless we eliminate corruption from this country we cannot progress. I have only to request yourself for it. Thank you very much.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for this Resolution was two hours. We may have to extend the time. Is it the sense of the House to extend the time by two hours?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : To begin with, we should extend the time by one hour only because we do not have two hours now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is a long list of speakers. It will go to the next Session. So, the time is extended by two hours.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (Cuttack) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the din and bustle of this House when I stand up to speak on corruption in all walks of life, I make an introspection. The introspection is : Am I competent enough to say as to whether there is corruption in all walks of life or not? That is particularly pertinent because of my feers, inside the Parliament or outside. The accusing finger is being pointed towards them of taking money in different type whether it is gas coupon, whether it is telephone, connection, whether it is sub-letting the house or any other matter.

When I speak on this, I may be called a hypocrite. Gone are the days when this society had proclaimed to the world :

"Nyen tayakten bhunjeethan Ma grudhan kasyachitdhanan".

Discard things and you enjoy it. Do not take it to yourself. That is an upanishadic hymn. Look at us today? Acquisitive tendencies have come to us and it is the foremost aspect in

our life. I would request you to go to the Mahabharat where the Dharmavak asked Yudhistar :

Kimascharyan

And the apt reply of Yudistar was:

"Ahani Ahani bhutani Gochhant; yama mandiram sheshan sthavaram ichhanti kimascharyam atoh puram".

What is more surprising for these mortals is that they nurture acquisitive tendencies, keep money, build houses and try to build up an empire but at the last, they go to the cremation ground empty handed what could be more surprising than that? That is what is happening nowadays.

Before I dilate on these things, I would like to tell the types of corruption that are prevailing in this society by quoting from a satire which I had written some twenty years back. The satire is on public servants. What are the types of corruption that we have? I had categorised corruption into four types. Since it is a satire, it is in a lighter vein.

The first one is the front inciser type of corruption. Who are those persons? They are the persons who show the front inciser teeth with a slight smile, lips going here and there. They extend the right palm. They take the left hand to the rear. With their left index finger make a furrow on the head at the back of the head and say, "kindly give me some money." Rupees ten, twenty, thirty or fifty are being given to them. That is an inciser type of corruption. The people who are involved are peons, constables, sepoy or lower rung people in the customs or airports or such type of public servants. They are the front inciser type of people.

The second is the 'hissing viper'. Who are the hissing vipers? The officer incharge of a police station, inspector of customs and the like of them. There are many — head clerks, superintendents of the offices. When we go to them for some work, immediately they say "No, no. This cannot be done, the rules do not permit doing such things." Then you take out money and give it to them it works as a touch stone. The hissing viper puts down the fang and does the work immediately. So, it is the hissing viper type corruption.

The third is 'white crane'. You must have seen cranes in water. They are absolutely white. Not a speck of mud is there on their feathers. But they take fish. They do not chase fish. They wait for fish to come. They create atmosphere for the fish to come near. They try to put their legs in such a manner so that the water is disturbed and fish slowly come towards them. And they eat the fish. But not a speck of mud is there on their feathers. They are as white as before.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : What was the second type?

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU : The second one is the 'hissing viper' :

The third one is 'white crane'. Who are those white cranes? Superintendents of police of the districts, district magistrates, commissioners of income-tax, commissioners of customs and such type of persons. They do not chase money. Money comes to them. They eat it and then show that they are good people. The district judges and the like are also in this category.

The fourth one is 'vast expense'. What is that vast expense? The sky, if he takes breakfast, it will take an earth. If he takes lunch, it will take a solar system. It will take crores of rupees. It is not satisfied with a lakh or two. At that time, I did not think of the judges of the Supreme Court. I went upto the High Courts only. These are Ministers, judges and the likes of that. They are the vast expense type of corrupt people, we have in this country called India. There are the lots of corruption in India because of the regulatory legislations and social legislations. There is a plethora of legislation which have come after Independence. The Fiftieth year of Independence has seen a plathora of legislations. Whenever you have legislation, you open up avenues for corruption.

When I joined the Indian Police Service, I was in district training. At that time or just before that the Arms Act had come into force. I was very happy because there were stringent provisions in the Arms Act. I told an Inspector of Police who was teaching me that this is a very good provision which was come and I think, we will be able to curb the activities of the persons who manufacture or possess arms. The apt reply of the Inspector, some 31 years back, is still ringing in my ears. He said, "Look, Sir, you are a young man. You do not know. If there is any legislation, it means, police will get more money." Any legislation means, police will get more money. And, any legislation of the social order will give money to any type of people who are in the enforcing agencies.

Let us not sidetrack these matters things. Let us not think that people are good here. That is why I say that in all walks of life, there are corrupt people whether they are politicians, whether they are bureaucrats or whether they are judges of courts. Take the case of the Judges. There is a saying in the Old Testament. The Eritrean is Abyssania, Eithiopia — will not change the colour of his skin, nor leopard its spots. Who are the persons who are becoming judges? They are the lawyers of today who are likely to become judges tomorrow. And, I think, there are lawyers who take money from both sides and they have become judges at a later period of life. They go for bench with-hunting. They give speed money to see that the cases come up immediately in the court or are delayed depending upon the circumstances that prevail. Today, the leopard has become a judge. Do you mean to say that he will change his spots? He cannot. It is not possible.

I am not going to deal with all the details about corruption among lawyers and the judges. You know better because it would be impertinent to tell all these things in the House.

Take the case of Lok Adalat. Think of Lok Adalat. What is happening there? It is a farce. Whenever you have Lok Adalat

[Shri Anadi Charan Sahu]

either the Tahsildar, the officer in charge of the police station or the Excise Inspector is burdened because he has to arrange things. It is a sham show. We say that justice is being dispensed in a very quick manner. It is not so.

I had the good fortune of arresting a person of the rank of a District Judge when I was AIG of Police about 17-18 years back. I have got an insight into the types of corruption that are prevailing in the judiciary. I do not have the insight into the corruption among the High Court or the Supreme Court judges because I did not get an opportunity to get a hand on the problems. But, from the persons of District Judges' rank I know what is happening. Go to any Magistrate First Class Court or Sub-divisional Magistrate's Court. Who is arranging the Magistrate's lunch? The Bench Clerk. Vegetables go to his house. Who sends it? The Bench Clerk. Who meets his sundry expenses? The Bench Clerk. Who gives the money to the Bench Clerk. The Lawyer.

We try to live in a better position. In the society that we live in, we try to be in a better position to show off our comforts and wealth. Go to any district. There is a District Magistrate. There is a Superintendent of Police. There is a Chief District Medical Officer who was called the Civil Surgeon earlier. These are the three important district functionaries. The next is the Executive Engineer. Now they are called Roads and Buildings Engineer in the PWD. There was nobody else. But when I was a young boy staying in a district headquarters I had seen that the Excise Superintendent was the much sought after person. Why? Because he had money. This proves what Shri Rawat had said :

"Yasyasti Vittam

Sah Narah Kuleenah

Sah Eva Vakta

Serve Gunah Kanchhanam

Asryante"

He was reciting this *sholka*. Whosoever has money, he wields power. By power he is able to bring people to him and people would not raise the Index finger against him, will not raise an accusing finger against him.

I am not talking only about public servants or about politicians for that matter.

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV (Khagaria) : Please speak in Hindi.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU : I can speak in Hindi. This is the right suggestion. But I will speak afterwards. My thought process will get disturbed. That is why I am not speaking.

[English]

Let us not say that only politicians or public servants are

bad. There are some good people among them. When I was asked to get into politics I thought I would be able to do something for the society. But I am quite disenchanted because in the entire society you cannot find an avenue where you can do something good.

Take the case of people who are of the trading class. What is happening there? For monopolistic grip they try to manipulate things in such a manner that they only prevail, others go out of circulation in trade. Long back we had the Forward Contracts Act. It was of no avail at all because you have an Act, you pass it in such a manner that you do not even read it between the lines. The legislators and the Parliamentarians do not read it between the lines. There are many lacunae left there and corrupt people can give money to the persons who are supposed to enforce the law and go scot-free. This is happening in trade and commerce.

Take the case of Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Huge money is being given by traders and we cannot do anything. I was talking about the traders. What are the traders doing? They have a grip of monopoly. Whenever legislation puts have some control they know how to circumvent that control mechanism. In the process they get rich day by day.

In this 50th year of Independence let us not have dismal picture of life itself. Let us not think that we are disintegrating. Tell me not in mournful numbers life is but an empty dream. I do not say in mournful numbers that life is an empty dream; we cannot that within fifty years we have had a dismal failure. No there is still hope. We can go up with lots of ideas and if not fully eradicate, at least control corruption in all walks of life.

Chairman, Sir, I know, you would not give me more time. I would only say that I second this Resolution. I would only say one quotation from Shakespeare.

If you want to eradicate corruption from all walks of life, do not only raise the accusing finger against the poor that front incisor type. Do not touch him because he is a person who wants a little bit of money. As I said, you are catching only the first category man, who is extending the palm and asking for small amount. You are catching only that person and sometimes the hissing viper and occasionally a white crane. But you have no power, no courage to catch those persons who are at the vast expense level. Now, one or two persons have been caught. That is only a drop in the ocean.

What I want to tell my friends here is, when we think of eradicating corruption, we must think of Shakespeare's poem. Shakespeare had very succinctly said : 'Through tattered clothes small vices do appear, robes and fur'd gowns hide all'. Rich people do not show their greed or vice only through poor people, it is seen. 'Plant sin with gold and the strong lance of justice hurtless breaks, arm it in rags, a pygmy's straw does pierce it'.

You are catching only people who are at the lowest rung. You say that only these people are corrupt; you are not going to the people who put on furred coats, the people who have plate of gold on their chest. If we do not catch the furred coat

variety, this society of India will not last longer and there will be many dismal failures in another fifty years to come. That is all I have to say.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN (Sheohar) : Mr. Chairman Sir, we are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our Independence. My colleague Shri Ram Chauhan has brought up a motion for eradication of corruption and we support it. I admit that corruption has become the order of the day. Corruption has its tenacles everywhere be it executive or legislative or judiciary or educational, Institutional or Medical profession etc. we find corruption in Railway reservation system and it seems that corruption is everywhere.

Today we have assembled in this august House to express our concern over corruption. So it is but natural that we should make some honest efforts to wipe out corruption. Corruption has become a cancer. The entire system is rotten with corruption. Today this corruption has disgraced us before the world. Today India is one among ten most corrupt countries of the world. It is a matter of shame for us. Our country belongs to Maryada Purshottam Ram, Gautam Buddha Bhagwan Mahavir, Krishna, Gandhi, Jawahar Lal, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan, and it is indeed a matter of grave concern that India has become synonyms with corruption in the eyes of the world.

17.00 hrs.

Earlier when B.B.C. announcers visited India, they addressed it as Gandhi and Buddha's country, but today they call it a country of corruption, hawala's and scams. Today India has become a country of scams and hawalas. What can be more shameful for us than this! This is so because our country had never ever come under the grip of corruption as it has come now. Now the people have started taking its case seriously. Earlier also there used to be cases of corruption, you see. There was Munda case, licencer scam during Indira Gandhi's Regime, Tulmohan Ram and Lalit Narayan Mishra, whom Atal ji used to address as 'Nagad Narayan Mishra'. Then there were cases which remained unsolved. There was Bofors scam during Rajeev's regime when his Government was there V.P. Singh Government had claimed that within three months the culprits in the Bofors Scam would be put behind the bars. V.P. Singh Government was in power over eleven months but nobody was traced out. Then came Narasimha Rao ji's Government; what can we say about his Government?

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : There was Chandra Shekhar Ji's Government too.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : But there was no corruption case during Shri Chandra Shekhar's regime. During Narsimha Rao ji's regime St. Kitts, Harshad, Urea, Sugar and J.M.M. bribery etc. scams came into light. Wherein the tribal leaders were sent to Jail but the real culprits are scot free, and moreover both the bribe givers and takers are jointly responsible. The persons who have taken bribe are behind bars but the persons responsible for giving bribe are not traceable yet. This way it

has become an issue of investigation. If someone is behind the bars on the charges of receiving bribe then there should be somebody responsible for giving the same. But the investigating agency could not find it out. This has become an issue of investigation land scam in Karnataka and Land, medicine, forest, uniform, scams in Bihar and the fodder scam in the form of a greater scam have come up before us....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him speak.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Why are you disturbing now? Due to the corruption prevalent everywhere even after fifty years of our Independence, it has lost its meaning and the development is unequal and imbalanced. Janaki Ballabh Shastri has said that :

Upar-Upar pi Jate hai jo Peene Wale Hain,
Kahate Hai, Jeeta Hai Jo Jeene Wale Hain.

The manner in which corruption has come up is very shameful for us. It is really a shame on our country. I would like to say that there should be a ban on such things. Today, after fifty years, when somehow we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee function of our Independence we should also think about eliminating corruption.

From the biggest Panchayat of the nation common man should get the guidance as to how corruption can be eliminated. Shri Sri Ram Chauhanjee has allowed the members in the House to speak on corruption. This motion should be shaped in a way that it is instrumental in eliminating corruption. This is what we want.

Sir, regarding corruption, we have two criteria. There are laws for petty thieves who are caught. Jails and handcuffs are meant for them. There are people who because of hunger and due to poverty commit theft. Laws are also against them. For them, sentence, police and custody are there. But it seems that there is no law or jail for big corrupt people. The whole record of the past shows that not a single person has been convicted in cases of corruption of big magnitude. Once Nehruji had said that when India would be independent, action would be taken against corruption and black marketeers and they would be electrocuted to death by tying them to the nearest electric pole. During his regime, one or two cases of corruption were unearthed but today it is rampant in the country. We want to say that we should see that irrespective of big or small leaders, they should not escape from anti-corruption laws. I want that stringent laws should be enacted in this regard and it should be implemented strictly. I contend that in order to eliminate the corruption and to bring law and order under control, the will power is needed. There is no need to spend one penny out of budget. I contend that we should start from ourselves and not from bottom because the beginning of corruption is at the top in Delhi wherefrom rule of Centre is being run. It is related with big chairs. The chair of Prime Minister and Delhi is the beginning of corruption. The Chief Minister and the capital of the State is supreme in States. By cleaning at the bottom we cannot clean the Ganges of corruption. If we want to clean the Ganges of corruption than first we will have to first clear the origin of the Ganges.

[Shri Anand Mohan]

Sir, by saying one thing more I would sum up my speech. Action for corruption should be taken against from Prime Minister to constable....(*Interruptions*) Ministers are not left, that is why I am telling from constable to Prime Minister. No body should be left in the matter of corruption whether he is small or a very big person. This House should resolve this. Lokpal Bill is pending for years. This bill should be passed as early as possible. Alongwith it 'Bhrashtachar Mitao' bill should be brought. I am not talking about removing corruption, because it can not be removed, it will again come up. From Delhi to Patna, Patna to Calcutta, it will again come up through various routes. Therefore, I am saying that 'Bhrashtachar Mitao' bill should be brought and with full determination we should think about its solution.

With these words, thanking Shri Sri Ram Chauhan and you, I end my speech.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, You have given me the time for which I am grateful to you. Today the subject on which we are discussing, is very serious issue indeed. Today, I want to congratulate and thank Chauhan Sahen because he has brought this subject through Private Members' Business. We are celebrating 50th year of independence as golden jubilee. The spurt in corruption is really an unfortunate thing. I remember, even though no since very early but since Mundada case we know about corruption. Meanwhile, Bofors, Bank scam, Harshad Mehta, Hawala case, fodder scam, horse trading. Took place. Whatever scam took place, it is really an unfortunate thing....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Paswanji, don't divert your attention.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Hon'ble member who spoke before me, told that the corruption really originates from the Centre. If we give serious thought over it, it can be curbed to a great extent. No organisation or institution of India is free from corruption. Not to speak of politics, in courts and temple too corrupt practices take place. Until our senior leaders, thinkers and intellectuals give serious thoughts to curb it, corruption is not likely to go. No secretariat has remained untouched of it. From Central Secretariat to State Secretariats from State Secretariats to District Secretariats and from District Secretariat to Block Secretariats, maximum people are involved in corruption. I would not say cent-percent. There is no mechanism to prevent it.

We are going to celebrate fiftieth year of Independence. We have not been able to take concrete steps to prevent corruption. No solution has been found to stop it.

What would have been their views on present situation? We are going to celebrate 50th anniversary of independence of our country. Whether it may be Gandhi or Jai Prakash Narain or Lohiaji or Maulana Azad or Sardar Patel or Subhash Chandra Bose, all have sacrificed for the independence of this country. This is very unfortunate that corruption has not been controlled even after 50 years.

Mr. Chairman Sir, you might be aware that lakhs and crores of rupees of this poor country are deposited in the foreign

banks; what is happening to that. We deliver speeches here. In fact, no senior leader of any party, no one from within us considers it seriously. It is not a ordinary matter that lakhs and crores of rupees of this country are deposited in foreign banks and the people of this country are under liability of lakhs and lakhs of rupees as a foreign debt. This may be checked to a certain extent. Some concrete measure must be evolved for its solution. Election Commission determines the limit of poll expenses for Lok Sabha Legislative Assemblies and Panchayat. I would like to ask as to whether there is any Member of Lok Saha or Legislative Assembly or Panchayat who spends the money in elections within the limit. Is there anyone who may say so. The number of such people will not be more than one or two percent. Which Member files his returns today under the fixed limit of election Commission ...(*Interruptions*).. Mr. Chairman Sir, discussions have been held many times in the Lok Sabha in this regard. So far as the salary of Members of Parliament is concerned wherefrom corruption creeps in that? No Member can claim that he can maintain his family properly with the salary he gets. Few Members might be so. I am elected to Lok Sabha and Mr. Chairman Sir, you have also come here after being elected. There are so many Members' who will have to provide atleast 200 cups of teas to visitors every monring. They have to provide food to poors and have to give money also for treatment of such persons and they have to pay ticket expenses also to those visitors who come here from 1500-2000 kms away. A member has to pay house rent, electricity, water and furniture charges from his salary of 52 to 53 hundred rupees. This should be considered seriously.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Mr. Chairman Sir, he started talking on corruption but now he is saying about his own problems.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am submitting the facts about the origin of corruption.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am living at 407 V.P. House. He may go to my house and can see that there is no T.V., no fridge and even there is no L.P.G. I have been living there for 18 years.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : I am telling you the fact.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: While talking on corruption he started his own demands.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : I am submitting the origin point of corruption. I am not talking about myself.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please conclude. Time given to you is over.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :If I say the fact hon'ble Member does not like it. I want to explain as to where from corruption originates. Why no concrete law is framed to control the situation prevailing in the country, let us see who is responsible for it. Some points were also made here regarding the Lokpal Bill, In fact Lokpal Bill should be introduced here. Why that Bill has not been passed in the Lok Sabha till now? From a common man to the Prime Minister all will be covered under it. How it

been passed in the Lok Sabha then corruption might have been controlled in a big way.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to congratulate United Front's Government. Earlier Devegowdaji was the Prime Minister and Shri Inder Kumar Gujral is Prime Minister at present. No Minister of their Cabinet is found involved in the corruption. It is a matter of pleasure and pride that no Minister of United Front is involved in corruption for the last 11 months under the leadership of Devegowdaji and now under the leadership of Gujralji for three-four months. They should be congratulated for this. All the previous governments have been definitely involved in the corruption.....(*Interruptions*). There is allegation on Chandradeo Prasad Verma while he was in Bihar Government but not for the period while being Minister in Centre. Therefore, I would like to submit that the Government of United Front is an honest Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ram Kripal ji please take your seat...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Today I am the first man to give my name. But my name is not included in the list for today. All those who spoke were next to me. My name was not called...(*Interruptions*).

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : No name has come from Shiv Sena also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Every one will be called.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : My name is not there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Everyone's name is there.
Shri Nitish Kumar.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by Shri Shriram Chauhan. His resolution says that "This House expresses its concern over widespread corruption in every walk of life and requests the government to take stringent measures for eradication of this evil", I whole heartedly support this resolution.

There can be no two opinion in the country about this fact that corruption is rampant in every sphere of life and it should be checked. I am not saying about the persons involved in corrupt practices but the common man cannot deny the fact that corruption should be checked. How can we control corruption? For controlling corruption we have to find out the reasons behind its origin. I do not want to repeat where corruption is rampant. Now-a-days, corruption is prevailing in every sphere of society.

17.23 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Today corruption has permeated not only in polity and politicians but it has permeated in trade, private sector, public sector, in the field of education and in every sphere of life. Shri Brahmanand Mandal has rightly stated that corruption prevails

in temples also. You can get VIP treatment and get "darshan" easily in temples if you offer more money, but the common man has to wait in queues for long time. Everywhere the system has become corrupt. We go to temples to offer prayers out of devotion and faith, but the people in management involve in corruption... (*Interruptions*) corruptions is rampant in very sphere. I do not want to repeat these facts but what causes corruption? Corruption is prevailing in this world and in this country because it is not possible to restrict expenditure. Everyone is free in this country to spend as much money as one wants. A section of the society faces problem about where to spend the money. There is so much economic imbalance in the society that two percent people of India are in a position to compete with their American counter parts. They face the problem to find out ways to spend their money. So, one section of the society spends money easily and the other sections of the society also try to get more money to compete with them. I am not condemning this tendency which arises from competition. At present, two types of corruption are prevailing in the country. Corruption has become a habit for some people and they have a tendency to get everything. I have heard about persons who inspite of having cars, want to get all the models available in the country and abroad. In the same way, they prefer centrally airconditioned cars after acquiring the ordinary airconditioned cars. Their desire and tendency to get all the available luxury equipments keeps on increasing. So, one section of our society is habitually corrupt but the other section is compelled to become corrupt. Is the minimum wages paid to this section sufficient for fulfilling their basic needs. How the unemployed persons will survive. Several kinds of corruption are prevalent in the society. Some people are involved in corruption deliberately but others are compelled by circumstances to do so...(*Interruptions*) The situation today is that corruption cannot be checked unless restriction is imposed on arbitrary expenditure. Therefore, through this House I would like to make submission that the Government should take action to control the individual expenditure. It will be helpful in containing the tendency of earning more and more money. The second point is that at present rich people are getting more respect in the society. Ours is a feudalistic and inequitable society. Our society only respects the kings and treats them as God. So, whoever has wealth is respected, but nobody is concerned how that wealth has been accumulated. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a situation arises when we say that the individual if earning money through smuggling. But after sometime, people forget this fact and seek his assistance. As a result he gets recognition and credibility in the society. So, the source of income should be checked. Only then some meaningful results can be achieved. During discussions here, it is accepted that corruption moves upwards down. It is also true that if the Gangotri is kept clean, the Ganges will also remain clean. If the source of river itself is polluted, then it will be difficult to maintain the cleanliness of the river. In the same way, if the highly placed persons in the society indulge in corrupt practices, the people at lower level will follow suit. Therefore, corruption at high level must be curbed at all costs. Sometimes I feel very sorry about all these things. Now-a-days various big scams are being investigated and highly placed persons are going to jails. But we find that corruption is still prevailing at lower levels. They are not at all affected. Just take the example of MPs Local Area Development Scheme. This scheme has

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the patronage of the Parliament. Do you think corruption is not taking place there? I am not talking about the Members of Parliament. They themselves do not implement the Scheme and the agencies engaged in implementation of this scheme are receiving commissions. Corruption at high levels is being debated and criticised, but the situation is same at every level. Take the example of block level. One has to grease the palms of officials for getting income certificate, caste certificate or obtaining land records. So, corruption is rampant in every sphere of work. One cannot get his work done at block, zonal, district level or at collector or secretariat office without giving some bribe.

[English]

SHRI B.R. PATIL (Bijapur) : Please, suggest measures as to how to eradicate corruption.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Yes, I have suggested right in the beginning. You listen to the speech.

(Translation)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, corruption cannot be curbed unless there is restriction on expenditure. Further till people are allowed to keep 10 vehicles it is not possible to eradicate corruption. Some Member of Parliament own expensive cars. I do not want to criticise anyone. Sometimes, we also get lift in these cars. Photographers and journalists click different poses of MPs sitting in these expensive vehicles and video recording of such shots are also shown on television. We talk of public life outside but I would like to submit that the people leading a public life are least corrupt. Even today, some MPs are found travelling in Matador. Sometimes, such MPs are also shown alighting from the matador. Earlier, these MPs used to travel on two rupees ticket, which today costs Rs. 5, I would like to mention here that even today, the number of such MPs is very high. Corruption cannot be curbed till the MPs continue to keep expensive and luxury cars. Shorts of these MPs sitting in their vehicles are clicked and shown on television repeatedly. It seems that Parliament has been converted into a studio. I can say with confidence that even today, most of the legislators use matadors. I am of the opinion that nobody should be allowed to keep private vehicles. If you want to control corruption, you should take appropriate measures in this regard. When MPs can travel by matadors the senior Government officials of secretary level can travel by bus or by cycles. Since the Ministers have to travel frequently to perform duties, they should be allowed to keep one official vehicle.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now-a-days, if you happen to visit any Minister, you will find a fleet of vehicles stationed in his courtyard. These may belong to various departments/corporations. I do not know how does he put them into use.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : When you were Minister, did you not do the same thing? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : First find out what we did or did not do when I was Minister. It is an open secret. You can bring

a substantive motion against me if you find something wrong.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was submitting that even a Minister should not be allowed to have more than one vehicle. A secretary of the Central Government can also be allowed to have one vehicle in view of his responsible position. But what actually happen is that telephone facility to officers is provided even at their residences and that too with STD facility. Their place of work is office. Hence, telephone should be provided there only. Government officials without exceptions refuse to give time to the people who wish to see them their residences. Then what is the rationale of providing them with residential STD telephone facility? This is unnecessary expenditure. One can always see in the market place a number of government vehicles parked. Official vehicles are used for private purpose. They are used for dropping the children of the officials at the schools, for bringing vegetables for their domestic consumption from the market place and to enable their wives to do shopping. How can you go about checking corruption unless a ceiling is put on expenditure and austerity is practiced.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are worried about our environment which is getting polluted today. Delhi is one of the most polluted cities of the world. Experts have opined that a person will become deaf if he stands for 45 minutes at ITO bridge. How did this situation arise? In order to overcome this problem people should travel by buses or by trains. Why there are different classes in railways? There should be only one class i.e. third class, but all coaches should be fully air-conditioned. There is no need of AC 1st class or AC 2nd Class coach. Only AC 3rd class should be introduced and general public as well as officers and Ministers and VIP while no attention is paid to the security of the common man. It give rise to corruption.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I was an MLA in Bihar Assembly, I alongwith some friends and Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh who is a Minister now, was travelling in AC 2nd tier. We were talking about the facilities provided in a small railway coach. It immediately occurred to our mind why could we not build small house within same space with all those facilities. Raghuvansh Prasad ji is a witness to this incident. We cannot check corruption till we allow a person to keep 10 vehicles. So long as there is no equality in the society and no austerity measures are taken, the corruption cannot be wiped out from the society. These things give rise to corruption. The people occupying high offices are free to collect money by any means. They are enjoying all sorts of liberty to amass wealth. There should be some law for checking illegal collection of money. There are many countries in the world where even the Ministers do not have STD telephone facility at their residences at Government's cost. Here, in our country, even an Under Secretary is availing such facilities.... (Interruptions) MPs also avail these facilities but they are accountable for that. The Members who have their offices in Delhi can make 50 thousand free calls in a year. They can keep two telephones in Delhi office and one in their state office. It is not an unlimited liberty. This kind of restriction could also be imposed on government officials and the amount of telephone bill for the calls made for official work be reimbursed. There is no need to provide them STD facility.

On one hand relaxations are being given and on the other hand, there is publicity of Cielo cars through various media. There are other attractive cars which are given publicity. Many advertisement for their publicity are being shown on television. In an advertisement, birthday is celebrated inside a beautiful car. On one hand, we are developing consumerism and on the other hand, we are trying to curb corruption. Is it possible? We level allegations against each other to get political mileage only. We discuss this issue time and again but corruption prevails in all walks of life. For that, there is a need that we should put restrictions on it, otherwise corruption cannot be curbed.

The politicians have greater responsibility towards the society because they are the leaders of the people. Now take the example of our election system. You can honestly tell us as to how returns are filed by the candidates. There is a limit of expenditure in the elections but sometimes elections are postponed and the campaign period is extended by one month but the limit of expenditure remains the same. Is it not a manipulation of accounts. It is a matter of honesty and there should be a discussion on this point but if anyone speaks honesty then that will be considered as his confession. Everybody should tell honestly as everyone has the responsibility of enacting laws. Government has to enact laws and this House has to pass it. Is it possible to fight a Lok Sabha election with Rs. 4.5 lakhs would be increased to Rs. 15 lakh only? But this is how everything is going on. After sometime this limit of Rs. 4.5 lakhs would be increased to Rs. 15 lakhs. I would like to ask wherefrom this money will come? Tomorrow somebody will ask from where you have brought this much money? There is no legal restriction. When a candidate contests an election someone provides him with vehicles and other provide him posters and someone with other things. Is it true or not? When he will be asked from where did he manage a sum of Rs. 4.5 lakhs, what would he say as the person who has spend rupees five thousand for him, has he taken certificate as to where from he has earned that money. Do you ask if he is reflecting that amount in his account or not. We all are engaged in pretentious discussion. In this country people are involved in one or the other pretentious debate. It is possible that we may score the debating point but the fact is that we cannot solve the actual problem. Under these circumstances, if we really wish to wipe out the corruption we have to start from the Parliament itself. The Parliament is constituted through elections and the corruption in the elections have to be wiped out first. What is the necessity to spend so much money on the elections? Marxist party is an organised party. They do not have to face this kind of problems because party has to do everything for them...*(Interruptions)* I know that your party is an organised party. Your party does everything for you but here there is mass party*(Interruptions)* I am talking something different. I am saying that workers of mass party has to everything for themselves....*(Interruptions)* They have to make up resources and also have to campaign for themselves...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nitishji, I forgot to press bell while listening to your speech.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Lot of thanks to you. I will conclude the speech myself.

If such is the situation of mass parties, what will be the fate of their workers. In such a situation if a poor man happens to contest election he does not know many things. Rich people who are involved in corruption, they are past master in keeping their accounts upright. But if an ordinary worker get a chance to contest election he happens to commit mistakes as he is not aware of all these things and thus he is subjected to punishment. I suggest the Government that this mistake should be corrected. Why such a situation should arise? Our country is based on democracy, therefore, the expenditure of democratic institution on election should be borne by Government. Government means public funding. The government should bear all expenditure. No candidate should spend even a single paisa from his own pocket. The Government have to formulate a comprehensive policy and law as to who would be candidate and who will have the right to contest the election. There should be a comprehensive debate on the issue that who should be a candidate and what kind of help we can give him. But state funding should be there.

Secondly, the State funding of elections can be there but the political parties may say that ours is a party based on democracy. We have adopted party system and that is why parties should also bear the expenditure. Is the membership fees is sufficient to run the party affairs? If you say honestly you will say that it is not true. The political parties need to receive donations. It is a separate thing whether that donation is given by the people or by the anti-social elements. The political parties have to think as to what kind of system they desire to have in the country. They have to decide whether the politics of the country would be run by the donation given by the people or by the anti-social elements. We can make allegations against each other, it is a different thing. But unless we come to the actual problem of expenditure of political parties we cannot solve the problem.

Membership is a different issue. Country has to think about that also. I would like to appeal the people regarding what steps the Government should take? But the people of this country should also think on this issue. One trade union is functioning. To run this trade union its member give contributions and this contribution, the establishment of trade union functions. One association is there which functions with the contribution of its members. Temples, mosques, monastery, church and gurudwara manage their affairs with donations provided to them. But how the political parties will function? If political parties would become inactive then we cannot save our country. The political parties are must for national reconstruction and national unity. They are not only to fight election but they owe greater responsibility towards the country also. To provide leadership to the nation, provide a direction to the country, formulate policies, create public awareness and launch public movements, these are the responsibilities of political parties. Today political parties are not discharging their duties and everyone is talking about judicial activism without pondering over it but we have to think as to why such a situation has arisen. Situation has arisen because judiciary, legislature and executive are the three pillars of democracy. If the people would

{Shri Nitish Kumar}

not get the solution to their problems they would naturally approach judiciary...*(Interruptions)* we are talking in another context. Wherever corruption is rampant, campaign should be launched against it, what was done in this House during the Tenth Lok Sabha. The then judge of the Supreme Court was impeached and the enquiry was conducted by his fellow judges. He was impeached only after completion of all enquiries. What happened? Which party has played the role of the ruling party? That one incident is the turning point of this country's politics. Sahuji was speaking very well...*(Interruptions)* I will conclude shortly. But do not forget that incident. That incident has changed the country's scenario. Today, members are raising the issue of Bihar.

I would like to know whether lobbying on the basis of regional sentiments was not resorted, to during the impeachment motion? Have the Members of Tenth Lok Sabha been able to forget this? Now, you are saying so. Do not forget this thing? Who had committed the mistake? When Legislatuer and Executive become unsuccessful, then people approach judiciary. Political parties will have to maintain its activity so that such situation may not arise in future. When political parties will not become active and assume silence on the issues in which they have to act or react, then under these circumstances, we cannot prevent anyone from approaching the court. Then whatever result may come we cannot shirk from our responsibility just by saying it a judicial activism. Therefore, today there is a need that political parties should do their work then they would need money. It is not hidden from anyone that even when media persons work then require money. When someone does reporting, even he needs money. Similarly, for producing programme of two minutes, money is required for reel etc. Is it possible that without money and full-time workers any political party can function? Even Congress party which participated in country's freedom struggle used to take donations at that time. Pandit Nehru used to take donations. All people took donations because of any political party employs full time worker then it has to bear its expenditure. For this purpose it has to make arrangement from somewhere else. So long as the Government and people do nothing about the funds of political parties so that it can bear its expenditure, till then no measures can give good results.

Today, some people have developed the tendency that today they are in power, so they should earn so much money that they may not face any difficulty throughout their life. This tendency is growing. If provision of State funding is made or if provision of public fund is there for the political parties as the activities of trade union is run by the contribution of the workers, in the same manner, if political parties are run by the public fund then some change is possible. It depends upon the people as which political party they sympathize with or to which party's principles they are in agreement with. They should contribute liberally one part of their earning to that political party. The Government should also provide funds to the political party according to the contribution made by the public to that particular party. The proper account of that money should be maintained and if there is any bungling in the funds, a provision of punishment should also be there for them. I am not advocating that person who is involved in bungling should be hanged but a provision of stringent punishment should be

there for them just like punishment of life term. But first of all you should enact strict laws because we have to start from somewhere. Otherwise today anything could happen. People are to aware of rules and regulations. They can be engrossed at any level and public debate can be made on such issues but it cannot solve the actual problem.

Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I conclude. I thank the hon. Member Mr. Chauhan and would like to request the Government that to prevent this, strict steps should be taken. It is possible that it will take sometime. There should be economy in social life, there should be provision of State funding for political parties, such laws should be made according to which expenses are borne equally by both people and the Government. If this happens, then we can make some efforts in the direction of curbing corruption. I do not say that corruption can be curbed completely but in democracy people believe in experiments. Therefore, we should do experiment and go ahead. In future, whatever lacunae comes, we will try again to remove those lacuane.

(English)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Before calling the next hon. Member, I have to make a small announcement. Dinner is arranged for the staff on duty at Room No. 73 from 8.30 P.M. onwards today.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, who is the Minister of Corruption here?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is yet to be appointed.

There is one more announcement.

A background publication entitled "Fifty Years of Indian Parliamentary Democracy" prepared for use in the special sitting of the House from the 26th to 29th of August, 1997 is available at the Publications Counter, Parliament House. Members are requested to collect copies of the same.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : Sir, corruption is all around. Some hon. Members have very effectively explained and recorded how deep our society has reached on the issue of corruption. I do not want to repeat all those things. I want to confine myself to the most dangerous development which threatens to derail our whole system, that is, the corruption in the higher ups — the corruption by the politician, bureaucrat and mafia nexus. That is the most threatening development during the past few years. *(Interruptions)*

As a Member of this august House, it hurts me very much that whenever we talk about corruption, the reaction is in a partisan manner. If that goes on, then we cannot check corruption..... *(Interruptions)*

(Translation)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman, who was in the Chair earlier had stated that discussion under Rule 193 had to be taken up for discussion before 6 O' clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let the House function upto 6 O' clock.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPUYADAV : He stated that house should be adjourned at 6 minutes to 6 O' clock.

[English]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : He is misleading the House.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Sir, I was saying that all the political parties have to decide that they will not shield anyone charged with corruption among themselves. If the political parties do not decide so and they try to shield the corrupt how can we eradicate corruption among the higher-ups?

So, the need of the hour is we must decide that whoever may be black sheep, he has to go to jail; he has to face the court; and whatever be the consequences not a single person be shielded by any political party. Unfortunately, out of political compulsions when corruption is pointed out, there are attempts to protect the corrupt people. That is the main weakness in fighting corruption in this land at present.

I do agree with our hon. Prime Minister that mass movement is essential. But only with mass movement, we cannot curb corruption in high places. The politicians, bureaucrats and the Mafia nexus is armed to the teeth. They have every convenience and means to protect themselves. Unless our investigating agencies take timely action against the corrupt people, we cannot check corruption in the higher places only with mass movement.

So much has been said here about judicial activism. I fully agree with Shri Nitish Kumar that the only ray of hope nowadays against corruption is the Judiciary. When the Executive fails in its duty in our democratic set up, our Judiciary is one of the important pillars, it is the active vigilance of the Judiciary in recent years that the people have a ray of hope in it. If the Judiciary does not perform the duties enshrined to it in our statutes, corruption will go on unchecked. I do not understand why when some big people are caught and they are brought before the court, so much enthusiasm and uproar we hear here. That gives very bad signal to the investigating agencies.

The other day I read in the papers that Dr. Manmohan Singh was saying that the scams and corruption are not the result of economic liberalisation. That is not correct. But if you take the events of the last seven years into consideration, with the liberalisation, everybody thinks that he can loot anything and loot from anywhere. Everywhere there is a tendency to become rich, to amass wealth. Nobody questions them. After the scam, we have seen that some high officials of the State Bank of India, the Housing Development Corporation and so many other institutions were assisting the corrupt people and after retirement they got higher posts with the corrupt institutions. Liberalisation has opened the door in every institution to amass wealth by any means. There is no check on them.

18.00 hrs.

The Executive, the Enforcement Directorate, the Reserve Bank of India, the S.E.B.I. and so many agencies are shutting their eyes. They are shielding the corrupt people. Otherwise those who were involved in the scam the corrupt people would have been in the jails by now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Raghavan, you can continue it next time. Please wait.

(Translation)

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Whether the powers entrusted to Mr. Speaker have been utilised or not?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is on record. It has been shown to me.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Have you utilised the powers?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Papers have been shown to me.

[English]

Shri Ramakant D. Khalap to introduce the Bill Now.

18.01 hrs.

[English]

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of Legislative Councils for the States of Punjab and Tamil Nadu and for matters supplemental, incidental and consequential thereto.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of Legislative Councils for the States of Punjab and Tamil Nadu and for matters supplemental, incidental and consequential thereto".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 14.5.1997.

18.01 hrs.

ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSIONS BILL*

(English)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, rationalization of Electricity tariff and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Central Electricity

Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, rationalization of electricity tariff and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 26, 1997 / Bhadra 4, 1919 (Saka).

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 14.8.1997

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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